

**University of Toronto, Scarborough**  
**PSYB04 Lectures 30, 60**  
**Winter, 2016**

**Instructor:** Connie Boudens (connie.boudens@utoronto.ca)  
Office: PO103, room 123  
Office hour: Mondays, 17:00 – 18:00 or by appointment

**Teaching Assistants:**

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**Course description:** This course offers a practical introduction to research methods in psychology for students who need to be able to evaluate and critique research, rather than conduct novel research themselves. Students will learn research designs commonly used in psychological research, how to assess whether a design has been applied correctly or incorrectly, and whether the conclusions drawn from the data are warranted.

**Prerequisites:** PSYA01H & PSYA02H

**Exclusion:** PSYB01H

**Textbooks:** Morling, B. (2015) *Research Methods in Psychology: Evaluating a World of Information* (2nd ed.). New York: Norton

**Grading Summary:**

**Midterm exam 35% (Date TBA)**

The midterm will consist of 80 multiple-choice questions. The midterm will cover the material presented in the first 6 lectures of the course. See the schedule for details.

**Assignment: Evaluation of research findings (25%)**

For this assignment, you will locate two separate news reports about two research findings or two sets of research findings and locate the research articles to which these reports refer. You will summarize both the news report and the research articles and comment on where, if anywhere, the news reports fell short. Further details related to this assignment will be posted on BlackBoard at a later date.

**Final exam: 40% (during the exam period)**

The final exam will consist of 80 multiple-choice questions and 5 short-answer questions. The multiple-choice questions will cover the material presented in lecture 7 and thereafter. The short-answer questions will touch on over-arching themes and issues related to the entire course.

### *Tentative Schedule and Readings*

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
<b>Jan 4</b>	Introduction to the course, Sources of information	Ch 1,2
<b>Jan 11</b>	Interrogation tools	Ch 3
<b>Jan 18</b>	Research Ethics	Ch 4
<b>Jan 25</b>	Measurement	Ch 5
<b>Feb 1</b>	Evaluating frequency claims	Ch 6.7
<b>Feb 8</b>	Correlational Research	Ch 8, 9
<b>Feb 15</b>	<b>Reading Week: No Class</b>	
<b>Feb 22</b>	Introduction to experimental research	Ch 10
<b>Feb 29</b>	TBA	
<b>Mar 7</b>	More on experimental research	Ch 11
<b>Mar 14</b>	Still more on experimental research	Ch 12, 13
<b>Mar 21</b>	Replicability and Generalizability	Ch 14
<b>Mar 28</b>	Statistics	Statistics Review Sections

## Rules and Policies Pertinent to This Class:

1. Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the AccessAbility Services Office as soon as possible. I will work with you and AccessAbility Services to ensure you can achieve your learning goals in this course. Enquiries are confidential. The UTSC AccessAbility Services staff (located in S302) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations (416) 287-7560 or [ability@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:ability@utsc.utoronto.ca).
2. In accordance with the Provost's guidelines on appropriate use of information and communicative technology, and for reasons of privacy and copyright protection, you may not record class session in either audio or video format without the explicit consent of the instructor.
3. **Laptops and other electronic devices should only be used in class for course-related purposes. If you are using them for another purpose, you will be asked to stop.**
4. Email policy: Whenever possible, please talk to me in person if you have a question or problem. Typing an email requires a great deal more time than a verbal response, and talking in person makes it easier for me to understand what you are asking and give an appropriate response. If you must send email, *please include the class you are in and the topic of your email in the subject line.*
5. **Respect for all class participants is essential, and it is something that I insist on as an instructor.** When another member of the class is speaking, everyone else is expected to give that person their full attention.
6. **Distracting behaviour will not be tolerated.** This includes chatting with fellow classmates, playing video games, texting, surfing the internet, arriving late or leaving early, and attempting to redirect the discussion to a topic that is not relevant to the class.
7. Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Work that is handed in late will be penalized 10% for each working day or weekend that it is late.
8. Academic integrity is one of the cornerstones of the University of Toronto. It is critically important both to maintain our community which honours the values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness and responsibility and to protect you, the students within this community, and the value of the degree towards which you are all working so diligently. Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:
  - **IN PAPERS AND ASSIGNMENTS:** Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement. Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor. Making up sources or facts. Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.
  - **ON TESTS AND EXAMS:** Using or possessing unauthorized aids. Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test. Misrepresenting your identity.
  - **IN ACADEMIC WORK:** Falsifying institutional documents or grades. Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources (see <http://www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/resourcesforstudents.html>).