

University of Toronto, Scarborough
PSYB04 Lecture 01
Summer, 2016

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

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

Recommended: American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

Grading Summary:

Midterm exam 35% (June 20)

The midterm will consist of 100 multiple-choice questions. The midterm will cover the material presented in the first 5 lectures of the course (Chapters 1-7). See the schedule for details.

Assignment: Evaluation of research findings (25%) (Due August 1 at 3:00pm)

For this assignment, you will locate two separate news reports about two 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 100 multiple-choice questions and 5 short-answer questions. The multiple-choice questions will cover the material presented in lecture 8 and thereafter. The short-answer questions will touch on over-arching themes and issues related to the entire course.

Tentative Schedule and Readings

Date:	Topic	Readings
May 2	Introduction to the course, Sources of information	Ch 1,2
May 9	Interrogation tools	Ch 3
May 16	Research Ethics	Ch 4
May 23	Victoria Day: No Class	
May 30	Measurement	Ch 5
June 6	Evaluating frequency claims	Ch 6,7
June 13	Correlational Research	Ch 8, 9
June 20	Midterm Exam	
June 27	Introduction to experimental research	Ch 10
July 4	More on experimental research	Ch 11
July 11	Statistics	Statistics Review Sections
July 18	Still more on experimental research	Ch 12, 13
July 25	Replicability and Generalizability	Ch 14

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.
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. I will not give extra-credit assignments or other opportunities to improve on your course grade, so make sure you work hard during the term.
9. I will attempt to upload my slides before lecture, but occasionally that's not possible, so please come prepared to take your own notes.
10. 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/resourcesfor_students.html).

Missed Term Work due to Medical Illness or Emergency: All students citing a documented reason for missed term work must bring their documentation to Course Coordinator, Ainsley Lawson as soon as possible upon return to campus (and within 3 business days from the date of term test or assignment due date). All documentation must be accompanied by the department Request for Missed Term Work form. In the case of missed term work due to illness, only an original copy of the official UTSC Verification of Illness Form will be accepted. Forms are to be completed in full, clearly indicating the start date, anticipated end date, and severity of illness. The physician's registration number and business stamp are required as is the course information. In the case of emergency, a record of visitation to a hospital emergency room or copy of a death certificate may be considered. Forms should be dropped off in SW427C between 9 AM - 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. Upon receipt of the documentation, both you and your instructor will receive email notification within 2 business days, containing a stamped departmental document detailing the affected date(s), along with a copy of the original document(s). The stamped departmental form should be brought to the make-up exam or submitted with late assignments. The course instructor reserves the right to decide what accommodations (if any) will be made for the missed work.