

PSYC11: Social Psychology Methods Laboratory Winter 2017

Course

PSYC11H3: Social Psychology Methods Laboratory

Class Times and Location: Tuesdays Noon-2pm (L01) and 2-4pm (L02), SW316

Blackboard Website: <https://portal.utoronto.ca/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>

Instructor

SiSi Tran, Ph.D.

E-mail: sisi.tran@utsc.utoronto.ca

Office: Science Wing, SW531

Office Hours: Tuesdays 11am-Noon

Teaching Assistant

Hause Lin (L01)

E-mail: hause.lin@mail.utoronto.ca

Office Hours: by appointment only

Carolyn Watters (L02)

E-mail: carolyn.watters@mail.utoronto.ca

Office Hours: by appointment only

Course Description, Goals, and Objectives

The course provides an introduction to conceptual and practical issues concerning research in social psychology. It provides hands-on experience with several different types of research methods including (1) survey and questionnaire development, (2) behavioral observation and coding methods, (3) laboratory and field experimental methods, (4) social cognitive priming methods, and (5) reaction time methods. The course will cover research design, data collection, analysis, validity, written reports, and formal presentation of findings.

The **general goals and objectives** of the course are

- Learn how to frame a research question and design studies to test predictions
- Explore various methods of conducting social psychological research
- Practice and develop critical thinking skills and scientific analysis.
- Learn written and oral communication skills that emphasize scientific precision.
- Find ways to apply science to social issues in everyday life.

Course Readings

Crano, W. D., & Brewer, M. D. (2005). *Principles and methods of social research (2nd ed.)*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Assoc. (The text is available to download in electronic form from the UofT library. It is also on reserve in hardback form at the UTSC library.)

Class Participation

As a C-level laboratory course, this class is structured primarily around research activities, class discussion, and general engagement. With an emphasis on research design, data collection, and critical analysis, it is imperative that students actively participate in class exercises and discussions. This will greatly enhance the classroom experience. It will make learning more interactive, more fun, more personally relevant, and more enduring.

Research Paper 1 – Summary

Throughout the course, the class will conduct five mini-research projects using the social psych methods listed above. Students will write a research summary about one of the five projects from the course; the project can be of the students' own choosing. Detailed instructions for the

research paper will be provided in class. The paper is worth 100 points; it must be submitted by 11:59pm on the due date in order to receive full credit. Late papers will be accepted up to one week late; however, 10 points will be deducted from the score for every day that it is late.

Research Presentation

The research presentation will involve pairing up with one or two other students to present your collaborative research proposal to the class. In the presentation, each group of students will (a) present a specific model, theory or phenomenon, (b) review the literature pertaining to this topic, (c) present a set of hypotheses to fill a gap that has yet to be tested in the literature, and (d) propose a methodological procedure to test their predictions. Visual aids are recommended (e.g., powerpoint presentation). The presentation should last approximately 10-12 minutes with a few minutes for questions. Detailed instructions for the presentation will be provided in class. Each group of students will receive the same mark for the final presentation, worth 50 points.

Research Paper 2 – Proposal

The final paper will be an extension of the final presentation from above. Although the presentation will be conducted in collaboration with other students, the research paper will be written separately and each student will receive their own mark for the final written proposal. It is expected that the overarching topic and many details of the methods and expected results will be similar for each pair of students. Detailed instructions for the research proposal will be provided in class. The research proposal is worth 100 points, and it must be submitted by 11:59pm on the due date in order to receive full credit. Late papers will be accepted up to one week late however 10 points will be deducted from the score for every day that it is late.

Missed Term Work due to Medical Illness or Emergency

All students citing a documented reason for missed term work must bring their documentation to the Undergraduate Course Coordinator, Ainsley Lawson, within three (3) business days of the term test / assignment due date. All documentation must be accompanied by the departmental [Request for Missed Term Work form](http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW) (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>).

In the case of missed term work due to illness, only an original copy of the [official UTSC Verification of Illness Form](http://uoft.me/PSY-MED) (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MED>) 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. In the case of other 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 9am – 4pm, Monday through Friday. Upon receipt of the documentation, you will receive an email response from the Course Instructor within three business days. The Course Instructor reserves the right to decide what accommodations (if any) will be made for the missed work. Failure to adhere to any aspect of this policy may result in a denial of your request for accommodation.

Disabilities

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities who are registered with AccessAbility Services (<http://www.utoronto.ca/~ability/>). Students who register and utilize the AccessAbility services will not be identified on their transcript as receiving accommodations. Information disclosed to the service is confidential and is disclosed only with the student's permission. Students in need of disability accommodations should schedule an appointment with me early in the semester to discuss appropriate accommodations for the course. There is little to nothing that I can do for you *after* an assignment is due.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else’s work as your own can result in disciplinary action. The University of Toronto’s *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences.

Grading System

Research Paper	100 points
Research Proposal	100 points
Research Presentation	50 points
Total	250 points

Grade	Point Value	%	Definition
A+	224 to 250	90-100	Excellent
A	211 to 223	85-89	
A-	199 to 210	80-84	
B+	191 to 198	77-79	Good
B	181 to 190	73-76	
B-	174 to 180	70-72	
C+	166 to 173	67-69	Adequate
C	156 to 165	63-66	
C-	149 to 155	60-62	
D+	141 to 148	57-59	Marginal
D	131 to 140	53-56	
D-	124 to 130	50-52	
F	0 to 123	0-49	Inadequate

Course Calendar

C11 Social Methods		
Tuesdays	Topic	Deadlines
3-Jan	Scientific Literacy	Autobiography Due
10-Jan	Scientific Literacy	
17-Jan	Questionnaires	Paper 1 Due, Fri Feb17th 11:59pm
24-Jan	Lab Experiments	
31-Jan	Field Experiments	
7-Feb	Behavioral Observations	
14-Feb	Priming	
21-Feb	Reading Week - No Class	
28-Feb	Review and Shift to Research Proposals	Paper 2 Due, Fri Mar 31st 11:59pm
7-Mar	Individual Consultations w/ Prof Tran	
14-Mar	Professor is Away - No Class	
21-Mar	Student Presentations	
28-Mar	Student Presentations	