

# Psychological Research Laboratory PSYB01H3F (Lec 01)

## Course Outline—

*Class Meets: Mondays from 0900-1100hrs (Classroom SY110)*

**Instructor: Anna Nagy ([a.nagy@utoronto.ca](mailto:a.nagy@utoronto.ca))**

**T.A.: To be announced**

**Office:** Portable 3, room 123

**Home page:** Blackboard

**Office Hours:** Mondays from 1100-1200hrs (other hours by appointment)

**\*\*\*\*\*Please check the Psy B01 Blackboard page on a regular basis for both additional readings and important announcements\*\*\*\*\***

**Text:** Lewandowski, G., Ciarocco, N, & Strohmetz, D. (2016). *Discovering the scientist within: Research methods in Psychology*. New York: Worth Publishers.

**Course Description:** This course surveys the basic techniques and designs used in both experimental and non-experimental areas of psychological research. The topics range from the general principles of scientific research and writing to concrete design issues, and from sampling techniques to the typical problems faced when interpreting data.

**Learning Objectives:** Upon completion of this course (includes class attendance, readings, and assignments), students will be competent in the interpretation and application of basic and applied research, both experimental and non-experimental. In addition to learning how to 'find' relevant and important material, critical interpretation of research is demonstrated and encouraged through class examples and discussion. Application of concepts is also supported through the completion of the major writing assignment (an opportunity to learn how to write a research paper with all the help you might need!).

### **Grading:**

Your final grade will be based on three written assignments, two multiple choice exams, and tutorial participation. Assignments are as follows (more detail instructions and rubrics to be posted, and presented in tutorial):

1. Two page critical writing assignment evaluating a media claim--10%;
2. Outline for research proposal--5%;
3. Research proposal—15%

There will also be a midterm examination (30%); a final examination (35%); and, tutorial participation grade (5%).

Exams will be comprised of multiple choice questions only (details to be announced). The midterm will be held in class on Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. The date for the final examination will be arranged by the Registrar and announced during the term (please note that the final examination will be comprehensive, but not cumulative). All exams will be based on both the lecture and tutorial material, and assigned chapters from the book.

Although we will talk about study techniques in class, for additional help, you might want to have a look at the Great Big Book on How to Study (see link below):

<http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/98797>

You might also want to consult with Teaching and Learning Services at UTSC for information on their facilitated study groups. See:

<http://ctl.utsc.utoronto.ca/home/fsg>

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### ***Assignments:***

There will be **three mandatory assignments** due at various times across the term (see course schedule below for due dates).

**Assignment 1** will involve finding a news, internet, or magazine article making a claim of some sort; your task will be to evaluate the claim critically (two pages max).

**Assignment 2** will ask you to complete a detailed outline for the research proposal that is the final paper for the course (1-2 pages).

**Assignment 3** will be a 5 page research proposal. The proposal includes an introduction, methods section, abstract, references and title page (only intro and methods are included in the page limit). The introduction and methods will have to include at least 6 references, of which a minimum of five must be peer reviewed empirical journal articles. The format of the paper should conform to APA style. For assignment 2 above, you will be asked to submit a detailed outline to your tutorial leader, so that he/she may give you feedback.

A detailed overview of the marking schemes and requirements for each paper will be available from your tutorial leader. It is expected that assignments will be handed in on

the due date in tutorial (no email assignments will be accepted), unless there are exigent circumstances, and prior appropriate arrangements have been made with an instructor or T.A..

Late assignments will result in a loss of 4% of the total score for the paper per day.

In other words, please hand them in on time!

Please submit an electronic copy of your papers to turnitin, and a hard copy to your tutorial leaders. Instructions on how to submit electronically to the turnitin website will be posted on Blackboard. Your paper will NOT be marked if a hard copy is not received. E-mail assignments will NOT be accepted.

**Lecture Notes:** Many (but not all) of the Powerpoint slides used in class lectures will be available on the intranet by Monday evening. You should be aware that these slides do not constitute complete class notes nor do they cover everything discussed in class. The best way to use them is as a reference and structure; print them (use the black and white option to save ink) so that you can make additional notes during the lecture. Much of the material will be presented in the form of interactive class lectures and discussions, so attendance is important to do well in this course. Please read the corresponding textbook chapters and assigned readings prior to class each week.

**Office Hours:** If you are having difficulty with the course material, please come and see me during office hours.

## **Please note that the following are Psychology Department policies, and must be adhered to:**

### **Missed Term Work due to Medical Illness or Other Emergency:**

All students citing a documented reason for missed term work must bring their documentation to the Psychology Course Coordinator in SW427C **within three (3) business days** of the assignment due date. You must bring the following:

- (1.) A completed [Request for Missed Term Work form](http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW) (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), and
- (2.) Appropriate documentation to verify your illness or emergency, as described below.

### Appropriate Documentation:

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/UTSC-Verification-Of-Illness-Form) will be accepted (<http://uoft.me/UTSC-Verification-Of-Illness-Form>). 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 **medical emergency**, an original copy of the record of visitation to a hospital emergency room should be provided.

In the case of a **death of a family member**, a copy of a death certificate should be provided.

In the case of a **disability-related** concern, an email communication should be sent directly to the Course Coordinator ([psychology-undergraduate@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:psychology-undergraduate@utsc.utoronto.ca)) from your Disability Consultant at AccessAbility Services, detailing the accommodations required. The Course Instructor should also be copied on this email. For U of T **Varsity athletic commitments**, an email communication should be sent directly to the Course Coordinator ([psychology-undergraduate@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:psychology-undergraduate@utsc.utoronto.ca)) from a coach or varsity administrator, detailing the dates and nature of the commitment. The email should be sent **well in advance** of the missed work.

Documents covering the following situations are **NOT acceptable**: medical prescriptions, anything related to personal travel, weddings/personal/work commitments.

### Procedure:

Submit your (1.) [request form](#) and (2.) [medical](#)/other documents in person **within 3 business days** of the missed test or assignment. Forms should be submitted to **SW427C between 9 AM - 4 PM**, Monday through Friday. If you are unable to meet this deadline for some reason, you must contact the Course Coordinator via email ([psychology-undergraduate@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:psychology-undergraduate@utsc.utoronto.ca)) within the three business day window. Exceptions to the documentation deadline will only be made under exceptional circumstances.

Within approximately one week, you will receive an email response from the Course Instructor / Course Coordinator detailing the accommodations to be made (if any). You are responsible for checking your official U of T email and Blackboard course announcements daily, as accommodations may be time-critical. 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.**

Note that this policy applies only to missed term work (assignments and midterms). Missed final exams are handled by the Registrar's Office (<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/registrar/missing-examination>)

### **AccessAbility:**

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 as soon as possible.

AccessAbility Services staff (located in Rm SW302, Science Wing) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations [416-287-7560](tel:416-287-7560) or email [ability@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:ability@utsc.utoronto.ca). The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

## Academic Integrity:

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/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/ppjun011995.pdf>) 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; and
- When you knew or ought to have known you were doing it.

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; and
- When you knew or ought to have known you were doing so.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If students have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, they are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from their instructors or from other institutional resources.

Note:

You may see advertisements for services offering grammar help, essay editing and proof-reading. Be very careful. If these services take a draft of your work and significantly change the content and/or language, you may be committing an academic offence (unauthorized assistance) under the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*.

It is much better and safer to take your draft to the Writing Centre as early as you can. They will give you guidance you can trust. Students for whom English is not their first language should go to the English Language Development Centre.

If you decide to use these services in spite of this caution, you must keep a draft of your work and any notes you made before you got help and be prepared to give it to your instructor on request.

## TurnItIn

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

**Good luck and welcome to Psy B01!**

## **COURSE OUTLINE** (Tentative—Subject to Change)

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Textbook chapter</b>
Sept 11	Introduction; the Scientific Approach	1
Sept 18	The Scientific Approach (con't) Ethics	2
Sept 25	Ethics	3; Tri-Council Policy
Oct 2	Experimental Manipulations/Measurement	4
Oct 9	<b>Thanksgiving—no class!</b>	
Oct 16	Qualitative Research	5
<b>Assignment 1 due Oct 17 in tutorial</b>		
Oct 23	Observational Research	6
Oct 30	<b>Midterm</b>	<b>(chapters 1-5; Tri-Council Policy Summary)</b>
Nov 6	Surveys Program Evaluation	7 13
<b>Assignment 2 (term paper outline) due November 7 in tutorial</b>		
Nov 13	Experimental Design Conducting Experiments	8;9
Nov 20	Factorial Designs	11
Nov 27	Quasi-experiments	10; 12

and Single-Subject Designs; Generalization

Dec 4          Statistics Theory

App A

Correlation; Understanding Research Results

Statistical Inference

**Assignment 3 (Research proposal ) due Dec 5**

(Final exam period: Dec 7-Dec 20<sup>th</sup> )