

University of Toronto, Scarborough
PSYB04
Summer 2018

Instructor: Connie Boudens (psyb04@utsc.utoronto.ca)
Office: PO103, room 123
Office hour: TBA

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* (3rd 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 40% (Date TBA)

The midterm will consist of 80 multiple-choice questions. The midterm will cover the material presented in the first 5 lectures of the course (Chapters 1-7).

Assignment: Interpreting research findings (15%) (Due July 31 at 11:59pm)

For this assignment, you will be given a research article to read. You will answer a series of questions about the article, and you will produce a 400-500-word summary of the article in a “press release” format.

Further details related to this assignment will be posted on BlackBoard

Final exam: 45% (during the exam period)

The final exam will consist of 100 multiple-choice questions. Eighty of the multiple-choice questions will cover the material presented in lecture 6 and thereafter (Chapters 8 – 14 + statistics review sections). The remaining questions will touch on over-arching themes and issues related to the entire course.

Tentative Schedule and Readings

Lecture #	Topic	Readings
1	Introduction to the course, Sources of information	Ch 1,2
2	Interrogation tools	Ch 3
3	Research Ethics	Ch 4
4	Measurement	Ch 5
5	Evaluating frequency claims	Ch 6,7
6	Correlational Research	Ch 8, 9
7	Introduction to experimental research	Ch 10
8	More on experimental research	Ch 11
9	Statistics	Statistics Review Sections
10	Still more on experimental research	Ch 12, 13
11	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. When sending email, please include the class you are in and the topic of your email in the subject line.
4. Work that is handed in late will be penalized 10% for each working day or weekend that it is late.
5. I will not give extra-credit assignments or other opportunities to improve on your course grade.
6. 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 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:

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

For missed **TERM TESTS** due to ILLNESS:

Submit an **original** copy of the official UTSC Verification of Illness Form (<http://uoft.me/UTSC-Verification-Of-Illness-Form>) or an **original** copy of the record of visitation to a hospital emergency room. 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.

For missed **ASSIGNMENTS** due to ILLNESS:

Submit **both** a **hardcopy** of the Self-Declaration of Student Illness Form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-self-declare-form>), **and** the **web-based** departmental declaration form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-self-declare-web>).

For missed term tests or assignments in OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES:

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 from your Disability Consultant at AccessAbility Services should be sent directly to both the Course Coordinator (psychology-undergraduate@utsc.utoronto.ca) and your instructor, detailing the accommodations required.

For U of T Varsity **athletic commitments**, an email from your coach or varsity administrator should be sent directly to the Course Coordinator (psychology-undergraduate@utsc.utoronto.ca), 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, personal travel, weddings, or personal/work commitments.

Procedure:

Submit your [request form](#) and [medical/self-declaration](#)/other documents in person **WITHIN 3 BUSINESS DAYS** of the missed term test or assignment.

Submit to: Course Coordinator, Room SW427C, Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 4 PM

If you are unable to meet this deadline for some reason, you must contact the Course Coordinator via email (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/Quercus course announcements daily, as accommodations may be time-critical.

Completion of this form does NOT guarantee that accommodations will be made. The course instructor reserves the right to decide what accommodations (if any) will be made. **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 assignments and term tests. Missed final exams are handled by the Registrar's Office (<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/registrar/missing-examination>).

