

## PSYB01: Psychology Research Laboratory Fall 2018

### **Course**

PSYB01H3: Psychology Research Laboratory (for Specialists)

Lecture Time and Location: Mondays 9:00-11:00am, SY110

Tutorial Times/Location: see table below

Quercus Website: [q.utoronto.ca](http://q.utoronto.ca)

### **Instructor**

Professor SiSi Tran, Ph.D.

E-mail: [sisi.tran@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:sisi.tran@utsc.utoronto.ca)

Office: Science Wing, SW531

Office Hours: Mondays 11:00am-Noon

### **Teaching Assistants (TAs)**

<b>Tutorial Section</b>	<b>Teaching Assistant</b>	<b>TA E-mail</b>	<b>Tutorial Time (Tuesdays)</b>	<b>Tutorial Location</b>
0001	Nayani Ramakrishnan	<a href="mailto:nayani.ramakrishnan@mail.utoronto.ca">nayani.ramakrishnan@mail.utoronto.ca</a>	7-8pm	PO101
0002	Arasteh Gatchpazian	<a href="mailto:arasteh.gatchpazian@mail.utoronto.ca">arasteh.gatchpazian@mail.utoronto.ca</a>	8-9pm	AA208
0003	David Nguyen	<a href="mailto:davi.nguyen@mail.utoronto.ca">davi.nguyen@mail.utoronto.ca</a>	7-8pm	SW316
0004	Michael Carnovale	<a href="mailto:michael.carnovale@mail.utoronto.ca">michael.carnovale@mail.utoronto.ca</a>	6-7pm	SW128
0005	Amanda Ferguson	<a href="mailto:am.ferguson@mail.utoronto.ca">am.ferguson@mail.utoronto.ca</a>	5-6pm	MW110
0006	Matt Quitasol	<a href="mailto:matthew.quitasol@gmail.com">matthew.quitasol@gmail.com</a>	5-6pm	SW316
0007	Trenton C-Johanis	<a href="mailto:colemantrenton42@gmail.com">colemantrenton42@gmail.com</a>	6-7pm	SW316

Office Hours: By appointment only

### **Course Description, Goals, and Objectives**

The discipline of psychology occupies a peculiar niche. Modern psychologists are concerned with basic humanistic issues (e.g., the nature of emotions, the mind, relationships, free will, consciousness) that have traditionally been studied by philosophers, poets, and historians. However, unlike scholars in other disciplines, modern psychologists employ methods of the natural sciences (e.g., measurement, experimentation) in order to understand these phenomena. The objective of this course is to introduce you to scientific methods, and how they can be used to better understand psychological phenomena.

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

- Learn fundamentals of scientific methods in conducting psychological research
- Practice and develop critical thinking skills and scientific analysis
- Independently read, write, design, and conduct empirical research
- Become more informed consumers of science
- Find ways to apply science to issues in everyday life

The lectures (on Mondays) will provide a basic overview of conceptual and practical issues concerning research in psychology; and the tutorials (on Tuesdays) will provide opportunities for hands-on applications, demonstrations, and in-depth discussion of these issues. The first half of the course will provide a broad overview of scientific methods to develop students' core understanding of methods and basic scientific literacy; and the second half of the course will provide application and analysis of this newly developed literacy.

### **Required Course Readings**

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

### **In-Class Participation**

As a laboratory course, this class is structured primarily around research activities and class discussion. With an emphasis on scientific reading, writing, design, data collection, and critical analysis, it is imperative that students direct their undivided attention to the class, actively engage in activities/demonstrations, and contribute to class discussions by expressing their own ideas and perspectives. This will greatly enhance the classroom experience – it will make learning more interactive, more fun, more personally relevant, and more enduring. In-class participation, particularly with tutorials, will be worth 5% of the course mark.

### **Exams**

There will be 2 exams in the course. The first exam will cover the first half of the class, and the second exam (during finals) will cover the second half. The exams will cover material from the textbook, as well as class lectures, activities, and discussions. Consistent with the structure of the class, the first exam will require comprehension of conceptual and practical issues concerning scientific research and design; the second exam will require application of these issues to real-life examples and case studies. At the end of the course, the two exams will be weighted with a 30% and 35% distribution, together worth 65% of the final course mark. The heavier (35%) weight will go to the exam with the higher mark.

### **Annotated Bibliography**

The first major writing assignment is the annotated bibliography. This assignment will entail finding a topic of interest within psychology, reviewing the literature in that domain, assembling a bibliography that summarizes key empirical articles from that literature, and synthesizing the major findings from the articles into a single, coherent description. Detailed instructions for this assignment will be provided in tutorials and online. The annotated bibliography is worth 10% of the final course mark. The assignment should be submitted electronically through Quercus by 11.59pm on Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. Late submissions will be accepted up to one week late with a 10% deduction from the mark for every day that it is late.

### **Research Proposal**

The second major writing assignment is the final research proposal. This assignment will entail closely examining the TA's feedback from the annotated bibliography (see above), revising the summary accordingly, and subsequently designing a methods proposal to fill a gap in the reviewed literature. Detailed instructions for this assignment will be provided in tutorials and online. The final research proposal is worth 20% of the final course mark. The assignment should be submitted electronically through Quercus by 11.59pm on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Late submissions will be accepted up to one week late with a 10% deduction from the mark 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 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>), and
- (2.) Appropriate documentation to verify your illness or emergency, as described below.

Appropriate Documentation:

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** (1.) a **hardcopy** of the Self-Declaration of Student Illness Form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-self-declare-form>), and (2.) 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 (1.) [request form](#) and (2.) [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](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 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>).

**Disabilities**

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities who are registered with AccessAbility Services. 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. Talking with me well in advance is always better. 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.

"Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis."

**Grading System**

5% - In-Class Attendance/Participation  
30% - Exam with Lower Mark  
35% - Exam with Higher Mark  
10% - Annotated Bibliography  
20% - Final Research Proposal

**Major Dates/Deadlines**

Sunday October 14 (11:59pm) – annotated bibliography electronic submission due  
Monday October 29 (in-class, same place, same time) – exam 1  
Sunday December 2 (11:59pm) – research proposal electronic submission due  
Finals (TBD) – exam 2

Monday October 8 – Thanksgiving Day (No Class)  
Tuesday October 9 – Reading Week (No Tutorials)  
Tuesday October 30 – Post-Exam Break (No Tutorials)  
Monday November 5 – Professor is Away (No Class)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Monday Lecture</b>	<b>Text Readings</b>
Sept 3	No Class - Labour Day	
Sept 10	Introduction to Science - Why Do Research At All?	
Sept 17	Scientific Literacy - Ethics and Standards for Scientific Inquiry	Chapter 3
Sept 24	Scientific Literacy - Empirical Process and Research Design	Chapters 1 and 2
Oct 1	Scientific Literacy - Hypotheses, Variables, Operational Definitions	Chap 5 (pgs. 117-124), Chap 9 (pgs. 273-283)
Oct 8	Thanksgiving Day/Reading Week – No Class	
Oct 15	Scientific Literacy - Measurement, Reliability and Validity	Chapter 4 (pgs. 79-101)
Oct 22	Scientific Literacy - Overview of Statistics, Sampling and Power	Chap 4 (pgs 101-107), Appendix A
Oct 29	In-Class Exam (same place, same time)	
Nov 5	No Class - Professor is Away	
Nov 12	Scientific Application - Observational Research	Chapter 6
Nov 19	Scientific Application - Survey Design and Scale Construction	Chapter 7
Nov 26	Scientific Application - Two-Group and Multi-Group Design	Chapter 8, Chap 9 (pgs. 283-300)
Dec 3	Scientific Application - Within-Group, Factorial and Mixed Design	Chapters 10, 11, and 12
Finals	Final Exam (Date, Time, and Location TBD)	

<b>Date</b>	<b>Tuesday Tutorial</b>	<b>Deadlines</b>
Sept 11	Introduction to Science – Why Do Research At All?	
Sept 18	Scientific Literacy - How to Find Research	
Sept 25	Scientific Literacy - How to Read Research	
Oct 2	Scientific Literacy - How to Write Research	
Oct 9	Reading Week – No Class	Annotated Bibliography Due (11:59pm, Sunday Oct 14th)
Oct 16	Scientific Design - How to Do Research	
Oct 23	Scientific Design - Review for Exam (optional)	
Oct 30	No Tutorials - Post-Exam Break!	
Nov 6	Scientific Design - Prepping for Proposal Assignment	
Nov 13	Experiential Methods - Observational Research	
Nov 20	Experiential Methods - Survey Design & Scale Construction	
Nov 27	Experiential Methods - Two-Group and Mutli-Group Design	Research Proposal Due (11:59pm, Sunday Dec 2nd)