

## **PSYC71: Social Psychology Methods Laboratory Winter 2020**

### **Section 1: Course**

PSYC71H3: Social Psychology Methods Laboratory  
Class Time and Location: Wednesdays 11-1pm, SW316  
Quercus Website: [q.utoronto.ca](http://q.utoronto.ca)

### **Section 2: Instructor**

SiSi Tran, Ph.D.  
E-mail: [sisi.tran@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:sisi.tran@utsc.utoronto.ca)  
Office: Science Wing, SW531  
Office Hours: Wednesdays 10-11am

### **Section 3: Teaching Assistant**

Nina Wang, M.S.  
E-mail: [szeyuhnina.wang@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:szeyuhnina.wang@mail.utoronto.ca)  
Office Hours: by appointment only

### **Section 4: Course Description**

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.

### **Section 5: Course Objectives**

By the end of this course, students should be able to

- (1) Understand
  - Identify major scientific principles in social psychological research methods
  - Demonstrate comprehension of scientific principles
- (2) Apply
  - Apply scientific literacy in reading empirical articles
  - Apply scientific principles in conducting hands-on research
  - Apply science to social issues in everyday life
- (3) Analyze
  - Critically evaluate the scientific precision of previously conducted research
  - Identify gaps and/or limitations with empirical research
  - Plan and execute research projects using scientific literacy
  - Analyze collected data and draw inferences from the results
- (4) Communicate
  - Practice scientific precision with communicating in written and oral form
  - Disseminate and distill complex empirical research to a lay audience
  - Plan and execute a formal research symposium presentation
  - Participate in scientific discussions with professionalism and diplomacy
- (5) Create
  - Articulate their own perspective with arguments/evidence to support their position
  - Collaborate with fellow students to design novel research ideas/methods

**Section 6: Course Readings**

Crano, W. D., & Brewer, M. D. (2005). *Principles and methods of social research* (2<sup>nd</sup> 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.)

**Section 7: 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. Class participation throughout the term will be worth 30 points in total.

**Section 8: Research Paper 1 – Summary**

Throughout the course, the class will conduct five mini-research projects using the social psych methods listed in the course description. 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.

**Section 9: 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.

**Section 10: Research Paper 2 – Proposal**

The final paper will be an extension of the research 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 or group 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.

**Section 11: Missed Term Work due to Medical Illness or Other Emergency****Missed Term Work due to Medical Illness or Other Emergency:**

All students citing a documented reason for missed term work must submit their request for accommodations **within three (3) business days** of the deadline for the missed work.

Students must submit **BOTH** of the following:

- (1.) A completed **Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations 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 the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), along with an **original** copy of the official UTSC Verification of Illness Form ([uoft.me/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.
- Note: If an end date of "ongoing" is specified, the medical note will be assumed to cover a period of two weeks. If no end date / an "unknown" end date is specified, the note will be assumed to cover a period of three business days (starting from illness start date.)

For missed **TERM TESTS** due to **ACCESSABILITY REASONS**:

- Meet with your **AccessAbility consultant** and have them email Keely ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)) detailing the accommodations required.

For missed **ASSIGNMENTS** due to **ILLNESS**:

- Submit the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), along with a **hardcopy** of the Self-Declaration of Student Illness Form ([uoft.me/PSY-self-declare-form](http://uoft.me/PSY-self-declare-form)).

For missed **ASSIGNMENTS** due to **ACCESSABILITY REASONS**:

- If your desired accommodation is **within the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (ex. your letter includes "extensions of up to 7 days" and you need 3 days), submit the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>) and attach a copy of your letter. **Specify how many days extension you are requesting** on the request form.
- If your desired accommodation is **outside the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (ex. your letter includes "extensions of up to 7 days" but you need more time than that) you will need to meet with your **AccessAbility consultant** and have them email Keely ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)) detailing the accommodations required.

For missed term tests or assignments in **OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES**:

Submit the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), along with:

- In the case of a **death of a family member or friend**, please provide a copy of a death certificate.
- For U of T varsity-level or professional **athletic commitments**, an email from your coach or varsity administrator should be sent directly to Keely Hicks ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)) **well in advance** of the missed work, detailing the dates and nature of the commitment.
- For **religious accommodations**, please email ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)) **well in advance** of the missed work.
- For circumstances **outside of these guidelines**, please email Keely ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)) on or before the date of the test / assignment deadline to describe your circumstances and ask what documentation would be appropriate

Documents covering the following situations are NOT acceptable: medical prescriptions, personal travel, weddings/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:** Keely Hicks, Room SW420B, Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 4 PM. (Slide forms under door if out of office.)

After submitting your documentation, within approximately one to five business days, you will receive a response from your instructor 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.**

You should continue to work on your assignments to the best of your ability, as extension accommodations may be as short as one business day, depending on the nature of the illness/emergency.

If an accommodation has been granted but you are unable to meet the conditions of the accommodation (ex. you need a longer extension, or you missed a make-up test), you will need to repeat the missed term work procedure and submit additional forms to request further accommodation. Note that in the case of a missed make-up test, an opportunity to write a second make-up test may not be provided.

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.

**Missed Accommodations**

If an accommodation is granted but a continued illness/emergency prevents you from meeting the requirements of your accommodation, you must repeat the missed term work procedure to request additional accommodations.

(E.g.) If you miss a make-up midterm, you would need to submit another Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form. If your original medical note / documentation included the date of the make-up midterm, then only the Request form is required. If the date of the make-up midterm fell outside of the dates indicated on your original medical note/other documentation, then a new medical note/other appropriate documentation must also be submitted.

**Importance of Three Business Day window:**

If you are unable to submit your documents in-person within the three business day window, **you must email Keely** ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)) **within the three business day window** to explain when you will be able to bring your documents in person. Exceptions to the documentation deadline will only be made under **exceptional circumstances**. Attach scans of your documentation, and be prepared to bring your documents to Keely in-person as soon as you are well. Late documents may not be accepted.

**NOTE: Assignments due at end of term**

Instructors cannot accept term work any later than five business days after the last day of class. Beyond this date, you would need to file a petition with the Registrar's Office (<https://www.utoronto.ca/registrar/term-work>).

**NOTE: Final Exams**

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

**Section 12: 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. AccessAbility Services are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations – 416-287-7560 or email [ability@utoronto.ca](mailto:ability@utoronto.ca). Students in need of disability accommodations should schedule an appointment with me and/or AccessAbility services early in the semester to discuss appropriate accommodations for the course.

**Section 13: 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:* 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.

In this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, please don't hesitate to ask me.

**Section 14: 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 website.

**Section 15: Grading System**

Research Summary	100 points
Research Proposal	100 points
Research Presentation	50 points
Class Participation	30 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>280 points</b>

Grade	Point Value	%	Definition
A+	251 to 280	90-100	Excellent
A	237 to 250	85-89	
A-	223 to 236	80-84	
B+	215 to 222	77-79	Good
B	203 to 214	73-76	
B-	195 to 202	70-72	
C+	187 to 194	67-69	Adequate
C	175 to 186	63-66	
C-	167 to 174	60-62	
D+	159 to 166	57-59	Marginal
D	147 to 158	53-56	
D-	137 to 146	50-52	
F	0 to 136	0-49	Inadequate

**Section 16: Course Calendar**

C71 Social Methods		
Date	Topic	Deadlines
8-Jan	Scientific Literacy	Summary Due: Sun, Feb 23rd 11:59pm
15-Jan	Scientific Literacy	
22-Jan	Questionnaires	
29-Jan	Lab Experiments	
5-Feb	Field Experiments	
12-Feb	Behavioral Observations	
19-Feb	Reading Week - No Class	
26-Feb	Priming and Reaction Time	
4-Mar	Review and Prep for Proposals	
11-Mar	Group Consultations w/ Professor Tran	
18-Mar	Professor is Away - No Class	Proposal Due: Sun, April 5th 11:59pm
25-Mar	Student Presentations	
1-Apr	Student Presentations	

**Section 17: Deadlines**

Research Paper 1 (Summary) – Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> 11:59pm (submitted via Quercus)  
 Research Paper 2 (Proposal) – Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> 11:59pm (submitted via Quercus)