

PSYC*2360, Course Outline: Fall 2016

General Information

Course Title: Introductory Research Methods

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide students with a general introduction to scientific methods in the field of psychology. The course will cover important concepts, principles, and issues with both experimental and non-experimental research designs.

By the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

- Identify, apply, and evaluate different research methods.
- Critically evaluate scientific research
- Conduct a literature search and identify and summarize the relevant literature.
- Develop research hypotheses and design a study to test their research hypotheses
- Write a research proposal

Credit Weight: 0.50

Academic Department (or campus): Department of Psychology

Semester Offering: F16

Class Schedule and Location: Mondays and Wednesdays: 3:30pm – 4:20pm, MACN 105

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Harjinder Gill

Instructor Email: gillh@uoguelph.ca

Office location and office hours: MacKinnon Extension 3007, Tuesdays 2:00-3:00pm

GTA Information

Grace Ewles: Co-ordinating TA (gewles@uoguelph.ca)

Amanda Amaral: Lab 01 (Mon 12:30) ROZH, Room 107

Denisa Luta: Lab 02 (Mon 1:30) ROZH, Room 109

Kelsey Ervin: Lab 03 (Wed 9:30) MCKN, Room 304

Kathleen Slemon: Lab 04 (Wed 9:30) MCKN, Room 315

Veesta Mavandadi: Lab 05 (Wed 10:30) MCKN, Room 306

Vishi Gnanakumaran: Labs 06 (Wed 10:30) MCKN, Room 305

Patricia Baratta: Lab 07 (Fri 10:30) ROZH, Room 108

Claudia Barsed: Lab 08 (Fri 10:30) ROZH, Room 109

Kathleen Slemon: Lab 09 (Fri 9:30) ROZH, Room 107

Elyse Redden: Lab 10 (Fri 9:30) ROZH, Room 109

Course Content

Specific Learning Outcomes:

LO 1.3 – Problem Solving,
LO 2.1 – information literacy,
LO 2.2 – Methodological Literacy,
LO 2.3 – Quantitative Literacy,
LO 2.5 – Visual Literacy
LO 4.2 – Written Communication
LO 4.3 – Reading Comprehension
LO 5.3 – Ethical Issues in Research

Lecture Content:

Lecture content will be based on the textbook and it will be structured according to this sequence:

- Introduction to Research / Research Hypotheses
- Ethics in Research
- Measures
- Reliability and Validity
- Hypothesis Testing and Inferential Statistics
- Surveys and Sampling
- Correlational Research Designs
- Experimental Research: One-Way Designs
- Experimental Research: Factorial
- Experimental Control and Internal Validity
- External Validity
- Quasi-Experimental Research Designs
- Naturalistic Methods

Seminars:

You will attend and participate in 10 seminars, seminar sessions are cancelled on the first week of classes and the 5th week of classes (October 9th week). During the seminars you will work in the following collaborative learning activities.

- Learn how to conduct a library search for journal articles
- Find out the structure of psychology journal articles
- Create research questions and hypotheses
- Participate in a self-reflection exercise about giving and receiving peer feedback
- Learn how to write an introduction for a research
- Discuss and critique of research proposals
- Learn how to write a method and discussion section

Course Assignments and Tests:

Assignment or Test	Due Date	Contribution to Final Mark (%)	Learning Outcomes Assessed
Proposal Topic	Week of Sept. 18 (9pm day before lab)	1%	Information Literacy
Annotated Bibliography Worksheet	Week of Sept. 25 (9pm day before lab)	1.5%	Reading Comprehension, Information Literacy
Sample Proposal Grade/Review	Week of Oct. 2 (9pm day before lab)	1.5%	Reading Comprehension
Self-Reflection on Reviews	Week of Oct. 16 (Due in lab)	1%	Written Communication, Reading Comprehension
Research Proposal	Week of Oct. 23 (9pm day before lab)	15%	Problem Solving, Information Literacy, Methodological Literacy, Quantitative Literacy, Written Communication, and Reading Comprehension
Mid-term	Oct. 17	25%	Methodological Literacy, Quantitative Literacy, Reading Comprehension, Ethical Issues in Research
Final Research Report	Fri. Dec. 2nd (11:59pm)	25%	Problem Solving, Information Literacy, Methodological Literacy, Quantitative Literacy, Written Communication, and Reading Comprehension
Final Exam	Fri. Dec. 16th (7:00pm - 8:50pm)	30%	Methodological Literacy, Quantitative Literacy, Visual Literacy, Reading Comprehension, Ethical Issues in Research

Additional Notes (if required):

The midterm and final exam will be exclusively multiple-choice questions. The final exam will NOT be cumulative.

Final examination date and time: Friday December 16, 2016 from 7:00pm – 8:50pm

Final exam weighting: 30%

Course Resources***Required Texts:***

Stangor, C. (2014). Research Methods for the Behavioral Sciences (4th ed.). Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company (CUSTOM text). This will be available on library reserve.

Other Resources:

Assignments will be submitted using the course Dropbox. Additional readings will be accessible through D2L/Courselink. The results of assignments and examinations will also be posted on D2L/Courselink.

Access to D2L

Your Account ID and your Login Account Password are the same ones used to access your University of Guelph email account and WebMail. New students can find their ID and password on a letter included with their registration package. [For more information](https://www.uoguelph.ca/ccs/my-accounts/central-login-account/undergraduate-students) see:

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/ccs/my-accounts/central-login-account/undergraduate-students>

Course Policies***Grading Policies***

For the Proposal Topic, Bibliography Worksheet, Sample Proposal Grade/Review, and the Self-Reflection, late assignments will NOT be accepted. Assignments must be submitted to Courselink Dropbox at the day and time indicated on the schedule. The self-reflection exercise will be submitted during the seminar.

For the research proposal the TAs (please cc the instructor) will consider email requests for a grace period of two days. If the request is granted, the research proposal should be submitted to the Courselink Dropbox, on the extended due date (48 hours after the original assignment due date). After this period, 5% of the value of the report will be deducted for each additional day of delay. After 3 calendar days, the grade received will be 0%.

For the major research report the TAs (please cc the instructor) will consider written requests for a grace period of two days. If the request is granted, the final research project should be submitted to the Courselink dropbox, on the extended due date (Sunday, December 4th at

11:59pm). After this period, 10% of the value of the report will be deducted for each additional day of delay. After 3 calendar days, the grade received will be 0%.

Marks will be docked for exceeding the page limit (5% per half page).

Course Policy regarding use of electronic devices and recording of lectures:

Electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without consent of the instructor. When recordings are permitted they are solely for the use of the authorized student and may not be reproduced, or transmitted to others, without the express written consent of the instructor.

University Policies

Academic Consideration

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for

Academic Consideration:

[Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions](#)

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community, faculty, staff, and students to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.

University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

[Academic Misconduct Policy](#)

Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact the [Student Accessibility Services](#) as soon as possible.

For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 54335 or email csdexams@uoguelph.ca or the [Student Accessibility Services Website](#)

Course Evaluation Information

Please refer to the [Course and Instructor Evaluation Website](#) .

Drop date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is **Friday November 4, 2016** . For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the [Schedule of Dates in the Academic Calendar](#).
[Current Undergraduate Calendar](#)

Additional Course Information

Expectations about e-mail communication

I really enjoy meeting students during my office hours (Tues. 2:00-3:00pm). Please come by if you have any questions, concerns, or just for a friendly chat.

Important: Please include "Psych2360" in the subject header of any emails that you send regarding the course. Also, please include your TA on any emails you send regarding assignments or material covered in the seminars.

Also note that the TAs and I will do my best to answer your emails within 48hours of receipt, but that we are not available on weekends.

Policy regarding Turnitin:

Course instructors are allowed to use software to help in detecting plagiarism or unauthorized copying of student assignments. Plagiarism is one of the most common types of academic misconduct on our campus. Plagiarism involves students using the work, ideas and/or the exact wording of other people or sources without giving proper credit to others for the work, ideas and/or words in their papers. Students can unintentionally commit misconduct because they do not know how to reference outside sources properly or because they don't check their work carefully enough before handing it in. As the 2014/15 Undergraduate Calendar states:

"Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a

finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it" (p. 31).

In this course, your instructor will be using Turnitin.com to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to prevent plagiarism in the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences.

A major benefit of using Turnitin is that students will be able to educate and empower themselves in preventing misconduct. In this course, you may screen your own assignments through Turnitin as many times as you wish before the due date. You will be able to see and print reports that show you exactly where you have properly and improperly referenced the outside sources and materials in your assignment.