*This outline must be used and it serves as your contract. Be sure that you and your student sign the last page and provide an electronic copy to our Academic Manager and Advisor, Sharon Helder (*[*shelder@uoguelph.ca)*](mailto:shelder@uoguelph.ca))*. She will sign it and forward a copy (retain this file for your records). Once she has signed the contract, she will provide a waiver form for the student.*

*To use this outline please note that red italicised font provide instructions for you. It should be removed before providing the course outline to the student. To customize this outline for your course, alter the bold gray font as directed. Black font should not be altered.*

**Student Name:**

**Student ID:**

**Student Email:**

**Course Title: Independent Research Project (PSYC\*3240)**

**Course Description:**

This course provides individual students with hands-on experience conducting a research project. Students are supervised directly by a faculty member as they conduct an in-depth investigation of a specific topic within psychology. Typically, the course involves both the practice and reporting of research. Through this experience students will develop a broader appreciation of the relations between knowledge, theory and research while acquiring basic skills in research methodologies and modes of inquiry. In addition, students will develop their writing and oral communication skills (e.g., integration of relevant literature, reporting of research).

**Credit Weight:** 0.50

**Academic Department (or campus):** Psychology (Main Campus)

**Semester Offering: [Fall, Winter, or Spring/Summer]**

**Class Schedule and Location: [TBD]**

Students are expected to spend 10-12 hours per week on this course.

*Specify how often and where the student will meet with the course instructor. The student and course instructor are required to meet at least every two weeks (e.g., through one-on-one meetings, lab meetings, joint meetings with a graduate student, etc.).*

## Instructor Information

Instructor Name: **[TBD]**

Instructor Email: **[TBD]**

Office location and office hours: **[TBD]**

## Course Content

Under the direct supervision of a faculty member, the student will learn to design, perform and/or report research in a specific area of psychology. *More details should be added here about the project or the specifics of the work involved.*

**Specific Learning Outcomes**

**In this 3000-level course, it is expected that students have developed research, critical thinking, literacy, communication and professional/ethics abilities to a degree that will support their training and continued development at a Reinforce level.**

*The following are the 5 intended learning outcome facets that this course MUST meet. Each course must have at least one course-level learning outcome that corresponds to each facet. More than one course learning outcome can target each facet. The 5 facets that must be met are: written communication, oral communication, integrative communication, methodological literacy, and personal organization and time management.*

Following completion of this course, the successful student will be able to:

*You should replace each statement with a course-level learning outcome that indicates how your course offering will meet this learning outcome facet at the reinforce level. A possible example is given in brackets that you can choose to use or replace. For reference, this is followed by the definition of that facet (from the 2014 Psychology undergraduate learning outcome dimensions glossary) and the details of what the facet looks like at the reinforce level. You can add additional learning outcomes.*

1. **[Demonstrated ability to execute research activities with attention to the integrity of the research process and the quality of the resulting information (e.g., as indicated in the log assignment).]**

*Methodological literacy: The ability to understand, evaluate, and design appropriate methodologies for rigorous psychological science. Reinforce: - Recognize and describe complex research methodologies (e.g., multivariate, 2x2 ANOVA); - Evaluates the appropriateness (e.g., strengths, weaknesses) of different methodologies for different questions.*

1. **[Demonstrated ability during [lab meetings/meetings with the supervisor] to verbally express research ideas and findings in a clear, organized, and engaged manner using appropriate visual aids.]**

*Oral communication: Includes interpersonal skills, oral speaking and active listening as they apply to psychology. Reinforce: - Speaks clearly and accurately in presentations; - Demonstrates oral communication skills that are organized and presented in a creative and interesting manner (e.g., with visual aids).*

1. **[In the final written assignment, demonstrated ability to summarize information and past research in a clear and organized manner using appropriate form and style, and correct grammar and spelling.]**

*Written communication: The ability to express one’s ideas and summarize theory and research through a variety of writing styles (e.g., American Psychological Association [APA] style, term papers, posters). Reinforce: - Writes with appropriate vocabulary, APA style adherence, proper referencing, and little grammatical, spelling or functional errors.*

1. **[Through regular meetings with the course instructor, demonstrated ability to reflect on experiences and knowledge acquired while conducting research, to relate them to broader psychological theories, findings, and practices, and to identify personal strengths and areas for improvement.]**

*Integrative communication: A mental process that integrates existing psychological knowledge to develop and communicate new knowledge across the curriculum. Reinforce: - Adapts previous psychological knowledge and experience gained in past situations to new situations in order to solve problems or explore psychological issues; - Generates connections between psychological research and/or theory from more than one discipline or perspective.*

1. **[Demonstrated effective: time management for the duration of the project (including but not limited to meeting goals and deadlines established with the supervisor), teamwork through respectful interactions with the research team, and ethical reasoning and practice while conducting research activities.]**

*Personal organization/Time management: An ability to manage several tasks at once and prioritize. Reinforce: - Prioritizes and completes important or urgent tasks.*

**Lecture Content**

The course does not involve lectures; rather, the student designs, performs and/or reports research under the direct supervision of a faculty member. The one-to-one student-to-faculty ratio, along with a learning-by-doing approach to the development of research skills, results in a rich learning experience.

*Edit the section below to explain when and how the student will meet with the instructor and other members of research team. Keep in mind that the student and course instructor are required to meet at least every two weeks (e.g., through one-on-one meetings, lab meetings, joint meetings with a graduate student, etc.). Another person, such as a graduate student, may also be involved with supervision and support of the student, but the expectation is that the course instructor will also be directly involved with the student.*

**[Meetings with the supervisor every two weeks that focus on scaffolding student progress toward attainment of the specified learning outcomes. If applicable, the student will also learn through interactions with other members of the research team, as well as laboratory meetings/group supervision context.]**

**Course Assignments and Tests**

*The following table is a template: The standard assignments are mandatory, but the specific assignment descriptions, due dates, and weighting can vary depending on the individualized research experience. You can add to these assignments (e.g., an additional draft of written assignment; a second written assignment). If you add learning outcomes above, they should be reflected in this table. The student must receive substantive feedback before the 40th day of class.*

| **Assignment or Test** | **Due Date** | **Contribution to Final Mark (%)** | **Learning Outcomes Assessed** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Research execution, and professionalism (initial) | **[Mid-semester]** | **[20%]** | **[1,4,5]** |
| Research execution, and professionalism (final) | **[End of semester]** | **[20%]** | **[1,4,5]** |
| Preliminary assignment | **[Mid-semester]** | **[20%]** | **[2/3,5]** |
| Final written assignment | **[End of semester]** | **[30%]** | **[3,5]** |
| Oral communication | **[End of semester]** | **[10%]** | **[2]** |

*The standard assignments below are mandatory, but the specific assignment descriptions can change to meet the unique focus of each course. If assignments are added, they should also be reflected here. Note: the amount of time students devote to research activities must be adjusted to accommodate hours spent fulfilling other course requirements; in total, student hours must not exceed the maximum required for a 0.50 credit course (i.e., 12 hours per week).*

1. Execution of Research, Professionalism
   * + **[The student will devote a designated amount of time per week toward the execution of the research project (e.g., recruiting participants, running the experiment, coding data, and entering data). Careful attention to the integrity of the research process and quality of the resulting information is essential. During meetings every two weeks, progress will be reviewed through student self-assessment and instructor feedback, focusing on both research contributions and professional conduct (e.g., teamwork, initiative, and personal organization/time management).]**
2. Preliminary Assignment
   * + **[By the mid-point of the semester, the student will provide an oral/written [choose one] report that can serve as a first draft of the final written assignment, based on a topic pertaining to their research project. Substantive feedback from the supervisor will enable the development of the final assignment.]**
3. Final Written Assignment
   * + **[By the end of the semester, the student will produce a final report summarizing the project and incorporating feedback from the preliminary assignment.]**
4. Oral communication
   * + **[Through [presentations in lab meetings/meetings with the course instructor/an oral presentation of the final report], the student will be required to verbally present and discuss their research. Substantive feedback will be provided by the supervisor on the effectiveness of the student’s oral communication, including their ability to respond to questions and feedback.]**

**Course Policies**

**Grading Policies**

***Please indicate all course policies regarding in-semester tests and assignment submissions, including time and place for submission of assignments and explicit penalties for late submissions.***

[Undergraduate Grading Procedures](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-grds-proc.shtml)

[Graduate Grade interpretation](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-as-gradeint.shtml)

***Please note that these policies are binding unless academic consideration is given to an individual student.***

**Course Policy on Group Work:**

***If appropriate please provide polices for group work, including individual responsibilities for submitted assignments.***

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

***Default text: 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**

***The following default text regarding University policies is required:***

**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](http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml)

**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](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml)

**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](https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/accessibility/) as soon as possible.

For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 54335 or email sasexams@uoguelph.ca or the <https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/accessibility/>

**Course Evaluation Information**

Please refer to the [Course and Instructor Evaluation Website](https://courseeval.uoguelph.ca/ceval_CEC.php) **.**

**Drop date**

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is the last day of the semester. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the [Schedule of Dates in the Academic Calendar](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c03/index.shtml).

[Current Undergraduate Calendar](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/)

**Additional Course Information**

***Please include any additional course information as required.***

***Please add the following message to Courselink, or to your course outline, if you intend to use Turnitin in your course:***

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 [Undergraduate Calendar](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/pdffiles/c08.pdf) 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"

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.

**Independent Research Project (PSYC\*3240) Contract**

Advisor’s Name (please type or print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Advisor’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Name (please type or print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Verified by Academic Manager and Advisor, Sharon Helder

Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_