

PSYC*2360, Course Outline: Winter 2017

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: W17

Class Schedule and Location: Mondays and Wednesdays: 10:30AM – 11:20AM; ROZH 103

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Ian Newby-Clark

Instructor Email: inewby@uoguelph.ca

Office location and office hours: MacKinnon Extension 3006, Mondays 3:00-4:00pm

GTA Information

Ms. Denisa Luta:
dluta@uoguelph.ca

Coordinating TA
Office Hour: W 2:30 to 3:30; BWH 118

Ms. Claudia Barned
cbarned@uoguelph.ca

Lab 01 (M 12:30 to 1:20; ALEX 309)
Office Hour: M 9:30 to 10:30; BWH 219

Ms. Katherine McAuley
mcauleyk@uoguelph.ca

Lab 02 (M 1:30 to 2:20; ALEX 309)
Office Hour: M 12:00 to 1:00; BWH 211

Ms. Kathleen Slemon
kslemon@uoguelph.ca

Lab 03 (Tu 9:30 to 10:20; ROZH 109)
Lab 04 (Tu 10:30 to 11:20; ROZH 109)
Office Hour: M 2:30 to 3:30; BWH 223

Ms. Jessie Heaman
jheaman@uoguelph.ca

Lab 05 (Th 8:30 to 9:20; ROZH 108)
Lab 06 (Th 9:30 to 10:20; ROZH 108)
Office Hour: Tu 9:00 to 10:00 AM; MCKN 118A

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 sixth week of classes (Feb 13th week). During the seminars, you will work on 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 proposal
- Discuss and critique research proposals
- Learn how to write a methods section and a discussion section for a research proposal

Course Assignments and Tests:

Assignment or Test	Due Date	Contribution to Final Mark (%)	Learning Outcomes Assessed
Proposal Topic	Week of Jan 15 th 16th (9pm the day before your scheduled lab in CourseLink Dropbox)	1%	Information Literacy
Annotated Bibliography Worksheet	Week of Jan 22 nd 23rd (9pm the day before your scheduled lab in CourseLink Dropbox)	1.5%	Reading Comprehension, Information Literacy
Sample Proposal Grade/Review	Week of Jan 29 th 30th (9pm the day before your scheduled lab in CourseLink Dropbox)	1.5%	Reading Comprehension
Self-Reflection on Reviews	Week of Feb 5 th 6th (Due in your scheduled lab)	1%	Written Communication, Reading Comprehension
Research Proposal	Week of Feb 26 th 27th (9pm the day AFTER your scheduled lab in CourseLink Dropbox)	15%	Problem Solving, Information Literacy, Methodological Literacy, Quantitative Literacy, Written Communication, and Reading Comprehension
Mid-term	Wed. Feb 15 th	25%	Methodological Literacy, Quantitative Literacy, Reading Comprehension, Ethical Issues in Research
Final Research Report	Fri. April 7 th (11:59pm in CourseLink Dropbox)	25%	Problem Solving, Information Literacy, Methodological Literacy, Quantitative Literacy, Written Communication, and Reading Comprehension
Final Exam	Tues April 11 th (8:30 to 10:30 AM)	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: Tuesday April 11th 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM

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). The text is available on library reserve.

Other Resources:

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

Access to CourseLink

[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 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 will consider email requests for a grace period of two days. You MUST cc the instructor in any such email. 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 will consider email requests for a grace period of two days (you MUST cc the instructor). If the request is granted, the final research project should be submitted to the CourseLink Dropbox, on the extended due date (Sunday, April 9th 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 [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 March 10th, 2017**. 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 (Mon. 3:00-4:00pm). 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, 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 our best to answer your emails within 48 hours 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 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."

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.