

## **PSYC\*2360, Course Outline: Winter 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
- Provide constructive feedback to peers
- Write a research proposal

**Credit Weight:** 0.50

**Academic Department (or campus):** Department of Psychology

**Semester Offering:** W16

**Class Schedule and Location:** Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:30am – 11:20am, Roz 103

### **Instructor Information**

Instructor Name:

Professor Harjinder Gill Instructor Email: gillh@uoguelph.ca

Office location and office hours:

MacKinnon Extension 3007, Thursdays 1:00-2:00pm

### **GTA Information**

GTA Name: Denisa Luta

GTA Email: dluta@uoguelph.ca

GTA office location and office hours: TBA

GTA Name: Rebecca Lee

GTA Email: rlee01@uoguelph.ca  
GTA office location and office hours: TBA

## **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:**

- 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
- Research Project in-class sessions

### Course Assignments and Tests:

Assignment or Test	Due Date	Contribution to Final Mark (%)	Learning Outcomes Assessed
Proposal Topic	Wed. Jan. 20 (11pm)	0.5%	Information Literacy
Journal Article Analysis	Wed. Jan. 27 (10am)	0.5%	Reading Comprehension
Annotated Bibliography Worksheet	Mon. Feb. 1 (10am)	1%	Reading Comprehension, Information Literacy
Sample Proposal Grade/Review	Wed. Feb. 3 (10am)	1%	Reading Comprehension
Mid-term	Fri. Feb 12	20%	Methodological Literacy, Quantitative Literacy, Reading Comprehension, Ethical Issues in Research
Research Proposal 1	Wed. Feb. 24 (11pm)	(completion)	Problem Solving, Information Literacy, Methodological Literacy, Quantitative Literacy, Written Communication, and Reading Comprehension
Peer Reviews	Mon. Feb.29 (11pm)	2%	Written Communication, Reading Comprehension
Self-Reflection on Reviews	Wed. Mar. 2 (11pm)	5%	Written Communication, Reading Comprehension
Research Proposal 2	Fri. Mar. 4 (11pm)	15%	Problem Solving, Information Literacy, Methodological Literacy, Quantitative Literacy, Written Communication, and Reading Comprehension
Final Research Report	Wed. Apr. 6 (10am)	25%	Problem Solving

Assignment or Test	Due Date	Contribution to Final Mark (%)	Learning Outcomes Assessed
			Information Literacy, Methodological Literacy, Quantitative Literacy, Written Communication, and Reading Comprehension
Final Exam	April 22 <sup>nd</sup> (2:30pm - 4:30pm)	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:** April 22, 2016 from 2:30pm – 4:30pm

**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).

**Other Resources:**

Assignments will be submitted using the course Dropbox and PEAR (an electronic system of submission and peer review). 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. More information can be found on the [University website](https://www.uoguelph.ca/ccs/my-accounts/central-login-account/undergraduate-).  
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/ccs/my-accounts/central-login-account/undergraduate->

students

## **Course Policies**

### **Grading Policies**

#### ***Late Policy***

For the Research Proposal 1, Research Proposal Reviews (2), and Research Proposal 2, late assignments will NOT be accepted. Assignments must be submitted to PEAR or course drop box at the day and time indicated on the schedule.

Please note that any students that do not submit Research Proposal 1, do not complete two Reviews, and/or do not provide grades for the Reviews, will not get a grade for their self- reflection assignment.

For the major research report 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 instructor, before class on the extended due date (Fri. Apr. 8th). 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%.

#### **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 Centre for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible.

For more information, contact CSD at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email [csd@uoguelph.ca](mailto:csd@uoguelph.ca) or see the website: [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 11**. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Academic Calendar: [Current Undergraduate Calendar](#)

## **Additional Course Information**



## Expectations about e-mail communication

I really enjoy meeting students during my office hours (Th. 1:00-2:00pm). 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 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 the weekends.