

PSYC 203: Research Methods in Psychology
Winter Session, 2025

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Accommodations and Learning Management Systems Assistant: Tara Karasewich

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Course Objectives:

- To develop an ability to think critically about research
- To develop an understanding of how to design and conduct experiments
- To develop an understanding of how to analyze experimental results
- To develop an ability to clearly and concisely present scientific results

Course Website: Access via OnQ

Required Text:

Goodwin, K. A., & Goodwin, C. J. (2017). *Research in Psychology: Methods and Design* (8th Edition). New York: Wiley.

- Hardcopy: \$105.95
- E-textbook 150-day subscription: \$28.00

Recommended Text:

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th Edition). (\$46.95)

Evaluation:

Lab Assignment #1:	15%
Lab Assignment #2:	20%
Midterm Exam:	25%
Final Exam:	40%
Research Participation Bonus:	2%

Lecture Schedule:

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
1	Jan. 7	Introduction to Course	None
2	Jan. 14	Scientific Thinking	Chapter 1
3	Jan. 21	Ethics in Psychological Research	Chapter 2
4	Jan. 28	Developing Ideas for Research	Chapter 3
5	Feb. 4	Measurement and Hypothesis Testing	Chapter 4
6	Feb. 11	** Midterm –Tues. Feb. 11 at 1pm	None
7	Feb. 25	Introduction to Experimental Research	Chapter 5
8	Mar. 4	Methodological Control in Experimental Research	Chapter 6
9	Mar. 11	Single-Factor Experimental Designs	Chapter 7
10	Mar. 18	Factorial Experimental Designs	Chapter 8
11	Mar. 25	Correlational Research	Chapter 9
12	Apr. 2	Quasi-Experimental Designs and Applied Research	Chapter 11

Psychology at Queen's Speaker Schedule:

Week	Date	Speaker	Topic
1	Jan. 9	TBD	TBD
2	Jan. 16	TBD	TBD
3	Jan. 23	TBD	TBD
4	Jan. 30	TBD	TBD
5	Feb. 6	TBD	TBD
6	Feb. 13	TBD	TBD
7	Feb. 27	TBD	TBD
8	Mar. 6	TBD	TBD
9	Mar. 13	TBD	TBD
10	Mar. 20	TBD	TBD
11	Mar. 27	TBD	TBD
12	Apr. 3	TBD	TBD

Lab Schedule:

Week	Topic
1 (Jan. 6 – Jan. 10)	• *** No Lab ***
2 (Jan. 13 – Jan. 17)	• Introduction • Literature Search Techniques and Mendeley
3 (Jan. 20 – Jan. 24)	• Structured Writing, Proper Citation, Plagiarism
4 (Jan. 27 – Jan. 31)	• Data Management in R I • Data Collection for Assignment 1
5 (Feb. 3 – Feb. 7)	• Data Management in R II • Data Analysis for Assignment 1
6 (Feb. 10 – Feb. 14)	• Data Management in R III • Data Analysis and Writing for Assignment 1
7 (Feb. 24 – Feb. 28)	• Data Collection for Assignment 2
8 (Mar. 3 – Mar. 7)	• Data Analysis for Assignment 2 • More on Scientific Writing and Common Writing Problems
9 (Mar. 10 – Mar. 14)	• Data Analysis and Writing for Assignment 2
10 (Mar. 17 – Mar. 21)	• Careers in Psychology
11 (Mar. 24 – Mar. 28)	• To be announced
12 (Mar. 31 – Apr. 4)	• *** No Lab ***

Lab Times:

Lab Section	Day	Time	Teaching Assistant
002	Wednesday	8:30 – 10:00	Eliana Brehaut
003	Thursday	10:00 – 11:30	Carolina de Barros
004	Thursday	6:30 – 8:00	Em Sundby
005	Tuesday	6:30 – 8:00	Gabriella Avila Patro
006	Wednesday	1:00 – 2:30	Gabriella Avila Patro
007	Friday	10:00 – 11:30	Samantha Shang
008	Friday	8:30 – 10:00	Meghan Ford
009	Wednesday	11:30 – 1:00	Patrick Yung
010	Wednesday	4:00 – 5:30	Patrick Yung
011	Wednesday	10:00 – 11:30	Nina Micanovic
012	Monday	8:30 – 10:00	Nina Micanovic
013	Friday	2:30 – 4:00	Prakash Thambipillai

****You must attend the laboratory that you are assigned.**

Psychology at Queen's Speakers:

- The goal is to introduce you to the diversity of psychological research and the breadth of research techniques used here at Queen's. It is hoped that this knowledge will help you with course selections for third and fourth year and help you determine which areas you might like to specialize, and which areas you might like to conduct research. Normally, we aim to get 4 faculty to speak each year.

Lab Assignment #1:

- Submit at the beginning of your lab during week 7.
- You will make and test a hypothesis for a data set.
- You will submit a lab report consisting of a title page, abstract, introduction, method section, results section, discussion section, and references.

Lab Assignment #2:

- Submit at the beginning of your lab during week 10.
- You will make and test a hypothesis for a data set.
- You will submit a lab report consisting of a title page, abstract, introduction, method section, results section, discussion section, and references.

Late Assignment Submissions

- For all assignments, there will be a **late penalty of 10%** for each day late including weekend days.
- If you require an extension because of an academic accommodation, contact Tara Karasewich (Accommodations and Learning Management Systems Assistant) at psyaccom@queensu.ca.
- If you require an extension for extenuating circumstances, you will need to submit a request for academic consideration to the Faculty of Arts and Science. Requests may be submitted using the following link: <https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/undergrad-students/academic-consideration-for-students>. Once your request is approved, then forward your approved request to Tara Karasewich (Accommodations and Learning Management Systems Assistant) at psyaccom@queensu.ca.

Midterm Exam:

- Will be conducted during week 6 on **Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 1pm.**

Final Exam:

- To be held during the final examination period.
- This exam is cumulative covering material from the entire course.

Re-Grading Policy:

- Students who are dissatisfied with their grade on assignments should first discuss the marking with their lab teaching assistant. If that does not resolve the situation, then the student can make a formal request for a re-grade.
- Students who are dissatisfied with their grade on the midterm or final exam can make a formal request for a re-grade.
- The re-grade will stand as the final grade.

Missing Exams or Assignments:

- If you are unable to write the midterm exam, final exam, or complete an assignment, you will need to apply to the University for academic considerations. Once your request is approved, then forward your approved request to Tara Karasewich (Accommodations and Learning Management Systems Assistant) at psyacom@queensu.ca.
- If you are unable to write the midterm there is no makeup midterm, and if you are unable to complete an assignment, there is no make-up assignment. Rather, if you are unable to write the midterm or complete an assignment and you are approved for academic considerations, then reweighting will be done to make up for the missed component.
- If you need to defer the final exam and you are approved for academic considerations, then it will be conducted during the exam deferral period (May 15 to 18) set by the Faculty of Arts and Science.

Research Participation Bonus:**Participant Pool Information:**

- Students in this course have the option of volunteering in psychological research conducted by faculty and advanced students in the Psychology Department. For every half hour of research completed, you can increase your final mark in this course by 0.5% up to a maximum of 2%. If you are enrolled in more than one eligible course, you will select the course toward which your research participation will be credited when you sign up for a study. You can complete studies toward each course. You cannot apply the same study credit to more than one course, and research credit cannot be used to improve a failing mark to a passing mark. The last day to participate in research for bonus credit is the last day of classes. For more details, please see the [Departmental Participant Pool website](#).
- Although participation is not a requirement, we do consider it to be an integral part of the course and encourage students to participate. Students gain valuable direct experience in methods of psychological investigation and contribute to research.
- Each study has been reviewed in detail and cleared by the Department's Ethics Review Committee. Nevertheless, you may decline to participate, for any reason at all, in any study for which you sign up. You may also direct any ethical concerns to the researcher or Participant Pool Officer.
- At the conclusion of each study in which you participate, you should be provided with information about the purpose of the study and other relevant details. The idea is to ensure that your participation will benefit your education, as well as add to the fund of knowledge in psychology. You are encouraged to ask questions about the research in order that you understand fully why the study is being conducted, and what your role is, as a participant.

How to sign up for studies:

- We use the website [Sona](#) for the participant pool. All students will be activated in the participant pool in the 3rd week of classes. If you have previously used the participant pool, you will use the same userid and password that you used previously. If you are new to the participant pool, you will receive an email with your login information during the 3rd week of class.
- During the first week of the semester, you will be emailed a link to an online prescreening questionnaire. If you complete the larger prescreening questionnaire online, you may become eligible for additional studies, and those researchers will contact you directly to find a time to participate.
- **If you are in multiple 2nd year Psychology courses that use the participant pool, you must assign your credits to a particular course.** For example, if you are in PSYC 203 you can have 2 credits assigned to it. If you have 3 credits assigned to that course, the extra credit won't count unless it's applied to another course. If you have credits assigned to the incorrect courses, please contact participant.pool@queensu.ca. The final day you can request a credit reassignment is the final day of class.
- Signing up for studies is done through the Sona site directly: [CLICK HERE](#)

What if I don't want to participate?

- Participation in research is entirely voluntary. If you want to earn credit but don't want to participate in a particular study, you can complete an alternative assignment instead. For the alternative assignment, researchers either will offer a walk-through of their experiment, or they will have you to read an article or blog post, listen to a short podcast, or watch a short video and then answer questions about it. To complete an alternative assignment, you must contact **the principal investigator** of a particular study (see the study's contact information on SONA for their email) before the last week of classes for the semester to complete the alternative assignment option. Although the length of studies will vary, all alternative assignments will last approximately 30 minutes, so you will earn 0.5% for each alternative assignment that you complete.

Off-Campus Students

- Off-campus students: please note that you can participate in online studies and researchers who offer these studies also offer online alternative assignments.

What if I can't make a research appointment?

- Please note: we understand that life happens and you may be unable to attend the session you sign up for as a result of extenuating circumstances. If you are unable to attend your scheduled session due to an extenuating circumstance, please contact the researcher directly to reschedule the session and/or receive an "excused no-show" notation. An "excused no-show" is guaranteed if you contact researchers 3 or more hours in advance of your appointment.

- Research is an important activity that directly impacts science and society, and that also impacts a larger system (e.g., time in lab space is very limited and can be costly—for example, booking a 1 hour session in the fMRI facility costs \$400). We thank you in advance for ensuring that you attend your scheduled sessions, and that you follow up with the researcher as soon as possible if you miss a session due to extenuating circumstances. However, if you reach 2 *unexcused* no-shows in a given semester, you will not be able to sign up for additional studies/alternative assignments that semester. You will be automatically granted the ability to sign up for studies to earn research credit the following academic semester.

Who should I contact for help?

- *Note: Your course instructor is not involved in the administration of studies and alternative assignments. If you have questions about studies, please contact the researchers listed on SONA. Questions about the pool (e.g., credits) should be directed to the participant pool coordinator at participant.pool@queensu.ca.

Grading Scheme:

All components of this course will receive numerical percentage marks. The final grade you receive for the course will be derived by converting your numerical course average to a letter grade according to Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale:

Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale

Grade	Numerical Course Average (Range)
A+	90-100
A	85-89
A-	80-84
B+	77-79
B	73-76
B-	70-72
C+	67-69
C	63-66
C-	60-62
D+	57-59
D	53-56
D-	50-52
F	49 and below

Communication and Meeting Policy:

- Announcements will be posted on OnQ.
- There are Question and Answer forums set up on OnQ.
- There is a FAQ section on OnQ.
- Each teaching assistant will be available for two office hours each week.

- Most course questions should be asked using the forums so that all students can benefit from the response.
- Try to use email only for questions that are specific to your situation.
- Try not to send e-mails asking for information that is available in the syllabus or on the course website.
- We will do our best to answer your e-mail questions within 24 hours.

Academic Integrity:

Queen's University is dedicated to creating a scholarly community free to explore a range of ideas, to build and advance knowledge, and to share the ideas and knowledge that emerge from a range of intellectual pursuits. Queen's students, faculty, administrators and staff therefore all have responsibilities for supporting and upholding the fundamental values of academic integrity. Academic integrity is constituted by the five core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility and by the quality of courage. These values and qualities are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Adherence to the values expressed through academic integrity forms a foundation for the "freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas" essential to the intellectual life of the University.

The following statements from "The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity" (2nd edition), developed by the International Center for Academic Integrity (ICAI), contextualize these values and qualities:

1. **Honesty:** Academic communities of integrity advance the quest for truth and knowledge through intellectual and personal honesty in learning, teaching, research, and service.
2. **Trust:** Academic communities of integrity both foster and rely upon climates of mutual trust. Climates of trust encourage and support the free exchange of ideas which in turn allows scholarly inquiry to reach its fullest potential.
3. **Fairness:** Academic communities of integrity establish clear and transparent expectations, standards, and practices to support fairness in the interactions of students, faculty, and administrators.
4. **Respect:** Academic communities of integrity value the interactive, cooperative, participatory nature of learning. They honor, value, and consider diverse opinions and ideas.
5. **Responsibility:** Academic communities of integrity rest upon foundations of personal accountability coupled with the willingness of individuals and groups to lead by example, uphold mutually agreed-upon standards, and take action when they encounter wrongdoing.
6. **Courage:** To develop and sustain communities of integrity, it takes more than simply believing in the fundamental values. Translating the values from talking points into action -- standing up for them in the face of pressure and adversity — requires determination, commitment, and courage.

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with and adhering to the Senate [regulations](#) concerning academic integrity, along with [Faculty or School](#) specific information. Departures from academic integrity include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification. Actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning, to loss of grades on an assignment, to failure of a course, to requirement to withdraw from the university.

Academic Accommodations:

For all requests for academic accommodations, contact Tara Karasewich (Accommodations and Learning Management Systems Assistant) at psyaccom@queensu.ca.

Queen's University is committed to working with students with disabilities to remove barriers to their academic goals. Queen's Student Accessibility Services (QSAS), students with disabilities, instructors, and faculty staff work together to provide and implement academic accommodations designed

to allow students with disabilities equitable access to all course material (including in-class as well as exams). If you are a student currently experiencing barriers to your academics due to disability related reasons, and you would like to understand whether academic accommodations could support the removal of those barriers, please visit the [QSAS website](#) to learn more about academic accommodations or start the registration process with QSAS by clicking *Access Ventus* button at [Ventus | Accessibility Services | Queen's \(queensu.ca\)](#)

VENTUS is an online portal that connects students, instructors, Queen's Student Accessibility Services, the Exam's Office and other support services in the process to request, assess, and implement academic accommodations.

To learn more go to: <https://www.queensu.ca/ventus-support/students/visual-guide-ventus-students>

Academic Considerations for Students with Extenuating Circumstances:

If you require an extension for extenuating circumstances, you will need to submit a request for academic consideration to the Faculty of Arts and Science. Requests may be submitted using the following link: <https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/undergrad-students/academic-consideration-for-students>. Once your request is approved, then forward your approved request to Tara Karasewich (Accommodations and Learning Management Systems Assistant) at psyaccom@queensu.ca.

Queen's University is committed to providing academic consideration to students experiencing extenuating circumstances. For more information, please see the [Senate Policy on Academic Consideration for Students in Extenuating Circumstances](#).

For more information, undergraduate students in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences should consult the Faculty's webpage on [Academic Consideration in Extenuating Circumstances](#) and submit a request via the [Academic Consideration Request Portal](#). Students in other Faculties and Schools who are enrolled in this course should refer to the protocol for their home Faculty.

Copyright of Course Material:

Course materials created by the course instructor, including all slides, presentations, handouts, tests, exams, and other similar course materials, are the intellectual property of the instructor. It is a departure from academic integrity to distribute, publicly post, sell or otherwise disseminate an instructor's course materials or to provide an instructor's course materials to anyone else for distribution, posting, sale or other means of dissemination, without the instructor's express consent. A student who engages in such conduct may be subject to penalty for a departure from academic integrity and may also face adverse legal consequences for infringement of intellectual property rights.

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