

PSYC 203: Research Methods in Psychology
Winter Session, 2021
Syllabus

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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

Lectures: Course delivery will be asynchronous such that there will be no specific lecture times. Lectures will be released on OnQ on the Monday of each week.

Labs: Labs will be online and synchronous such that you will be attend a lab that will led by a TA during your lab time. We will use the Microsoft Teams platform to conduct these lab meetings.

Required Text:

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

Recommended Text:

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

Evaluation:

Lab Assignment #1:	15%
Lab Assignment #2:	20%
Critical Thinking Assignment:	5%
Midterm Exam:	20%
Final Exam:	40%
Research Participation Bonus:	2%

Lecture Schedule:

Week	Topic	Reading
1 (Jan. 11 – Jan. 15)	Introduction to Course	None
2 (Jan. 18 – Jan. 22)	Scientific Thinking	Chapter 1
3 (Jan. 25 – Jan. 29)	Ethics in Psychological Research	Chapter 2
4 (Feb. 1 – Feb. 5)	Developing Ideas for Research	Chapter 3
5 (Feb. 8 – Feb. 12)	Measurement and Hypothesis Testing	Chapter 4
6 (Feb. 22 – Feb. 26)	** Midterm –Wed. Feb. 24 (time to be determined)	None
7 (Mar. 1 – Mar 5)	Introduction to Experimental Research	Chapter 5
8 (Mar. 8 – Mar. 12)	Methodological Control in Experimental Research	Chapter 6
9 (Mar. 15 – Mar. 19)	Single-Factor Experimental Designs	Chapter 7
10 (Mar. 22 – Mar. 26)	Factorial Experimental Designs	Chapter 8
11 (Mar. 29 – Apr. 2)	Correlational Research	Chapter 9
12 (Apr. 5 – Apr 9)	Quasi-Experimental Designs and Applied Research	Chapter 11

Lab Schedule:

Week	Topic
1 (Jan. 11 – Jan. 15)	• *** No Lab ***
2 (Jan. 18 – Jan. 22)	• Introduction • Literature Search Techniques and Mendeley
3 (Jan. 25 – Jan. 29)	• Structured Writing, Proper Citation, Plagiarism
4 (Feb. 1 – Feb. 5)	• Data Management in SPSS I • Data Collection for Assignment 1
5 (Feb. 8 – Feb. 12)	• Data Management in SPSS II • Data Analysis for Assignment 1
6 (Feb. 22 – Feb. 26)	• Data Management in SPSS III • Data Analysis and Writing for Assignment 1
7 (Mar. 1 – Mar 5)	• Data Collection for Assignment 2
8 (Mar. 8 – Mar. 12)	• Data Analysis for Assignment 2
9 (Mar. 15 – Mar. 19)	• Data Analysis and Writing for Assignment 2
10 (Mar. 22 – Mar. 26)	• Careers in Psychology
11 (Mar. 29 – Apr. 2)	• Critical Thinking Assignment
12 (Apr. 5 – Apr 9)	• *** No Lab ***

Lab Times:

Lab Section	Day	Time	Teaching Assistant
002	Wednesday	4:00 – 5:30	Anna Gallagher
003	Tuesday	11:30 – 1:00	Michelle Blumberg
004	Tuesday	1:00 – 2:30	Michelle Blumberg
005	Thursday	4:00 – 5:30	Charlie Shen
006	Wednesday	2:30 – 4:00	Charlie Shen
007	Friday	1:00 – 2:30	Natasha Drobotenko
008	Friday	11:30 – 1:00	Natasha Drobotenko
009	Wednesday	10:00 – 11:30	Caitlin Barry
010	Friday	8:30 – 10:00	Samuel Kim
011	Wednesday	1:00 – 2:30	Emma Littler
012	Wednesday	8:30 – 10:00	Caitlin Barry
013	Monday	8:30 – 10:00	Samuel Kim

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

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.

Critical Thinking Assignment:

- Submit at the beginning of your lab during week 12.
- More details to be provided later.

Late Submissions:

- There will be a **late penalty of 10%** for each day late including weekend days.

Midterm Exam:

- Will be conducted during week 6 on Wednesday, Feb. 24 (time to be determined).
- It will be conducted via OnQ.

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.
- There will be no make-up for the midterm or assignments. Rather, if you are unable to write the midterm or complete an assignment and you are approved for academic considerations, then the final exam will be reweighted 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 on the Psychology Exam Deferral date set by the department.

Research Participation Bonus:**• Main 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 by the 3rd week of the term. 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 by the 3rd week of class.
- During the first week of the semester, you will be emailed a link to an online prescreening questionnaire that will be due by the end of the Add/Drop period (second Friday of the term). 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.
- 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, prescreening) 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 students, faculty, administrators and staff all have responsibilities for upholding

the fundamental values of academic integrity; honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage (see www.academicintegrity.org). These values 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 (see the Senate Report on Principles and Priorities <http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/policies/senate/report-principles-and-priorities>).

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments and their behaviour conform to the principles of academic integrity. Information on academic integrity is available in the Arts and Science Calendar (see Academic Regulation 1 <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academic-calendars/regulations/academic-regulations/regulation-1>), on the Arts and Science website (see <https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/students-at-queens/academic-integrity>), and from the instructor of this course. Departures from academic integrity include plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification, and are antithetical to the development of an academic community at Queen's. Given the seriousness of these matters, actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the university.

Academic Accommodations:

Queen's University is committed to achieving full accessibility for people with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. The Senate Policy for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities was approved at Senate in November 2016 (see <https://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/sites/webpublish.queensu.ca.uslclwww/files/files/policies/senateandtrustees/ACADACCOMMPOLICY2016.pdf>). If you are a student with a disability and think you may need academic accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the **Queen's Student Accessibility Services (QSAS)** and register as early as possible. For more information, including important deadlines, please visit the QSAS website at: <https://www.queensu.ca/studentwellness/accessibility-services>

Academic Considerations for Students with Extenuating Circumstances:

Queen's University is committed to providing academic consideration to students experiencing extenuating circumstances that are beyond their control and are interfering with their ability to complete academic requirements related to a course for a short period of time, not to exceed three months. Students receiving academic consideration must meet all essential requirements of a course. The Senate Policy on Academic Consideration for Students in Extenuating Circumstances was approved at Senate in April, 2017 (see <http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/sites/webpublish.queensu.ca.uslclwww/files/files/policies/senateandtrustees/Academic%20Considerations%20for%20Extenuating%20Circumstances%20Policy%20Final.pdf>) Each Faculty has developed a protocol to provide a consistent and equitable approach in dealing with requests for academic consideration for students facing extenuating circumstances. Arts and Science undergraduate students can find the Faculty of Arts and Science protocol and the portal where a request can be submitted at:

<http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/accommodations>. 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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