

**PSYC399 Social Psychology Lab
(Winter session, 2017)**

Syllabus

Instructor: Li-Jun Ji,
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Office hour: by email or appointment
Class email: psyc399winter2017@gmail.com
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Office hour: Tuesday 2:30 to 3:30pm (location: TBA)

Class time: Tuesday 11:30am – 2:20pm
Class location: Humphrey Hall 219

Prerequisites: 203/241

You are expected to check your Queen's email on a regular basis as some course materials will be emailed to you.

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

This course aims to provide an introduction to the basic research methods for conducting social psychological research and to enable students to explore a substantive area of interest using valid empirical research methods. The course is divided into two main portions: lecture and laboratory.

- **Lectures:** Students will learn principles of research methods in social psychology, conceptual foundation for understanding how to design studies, conduct experiments, analyze data, report and communicate findings.
- **Laboratories:** Through conceptualizing and executing a research project, the laboratory portion of the course will provide students with a more practical, hands-on experience, as they apply the basic concepts covered in lecture. Students will gain first-hand experience with selecting a research question pertaining to social psychology, conducting a literature review, formulating specific hypotheses from the research question of interest, designing an empirical study, collecting data, analyzing the data using relevant statistical analysis, giving an oral presentation of the results in class, and writing a paper to summarize the study and communicate the findings following the American Psychological Association Style Manual.

COURSE FORMAT:

Research projects – Two projects are planned for this course, and the completion of both projects is required to pass this class. These projects will involve collecting, analyzing, and writing up data.

Students are **required to** complete the Course on Research Ethics (CORE) and obtain the CORE certificate before anyone can begin data collection. We will have basic ethics training during the first week of class. To learn more about the general research ethics board, please read the information provided on the GREB page: <http://www.queensu.ca/urs/ethics/general-research-ethics-board-greb>

For **research project 1**, students will be given a specific research question and hypothesis, collect data as a class, analyze the data using relevant statistical analysis, and write a short report on the findings.

For **research project 2**, students will work in groups, design their own experiment, and collect data as a group. Although students will work in groups for this, the literature review and analysis of the

collected data must be conducted individually, and the paper must be originally and individually written up. Before groups can begin collecting the data for their studies, each group must submit a written proposal to be approved by the instructor/TA. Students will have the opportunity to gain feedback on their ideas at their labs. The proposals must state the study's objective and provide a detailed description of the design of the experiment. Groups must follow the following ethical guidelines to obtain approval:

1. Data can be collected only from adult human participants. You may not use people from special populations.
2. Participants must provide informed consent prior to any data being collected from them.
3. No identifying information (i.e., name, student identification number, etc.) can be associated with the participants' data. You must take steps to ensure that their responses remain confidential. Results should be reported only at the group or condition level and not for specific individuals.
4. The procedure cannot involve either physical or mental harm to the participants including embarrassment.
5. No information of a highly personal or sensitive nature as defined by the General Research Ethics Board (i.e., basically anything pertaining to the participants' sexual orientation or behaviors, psychopathologies like depression and drug use or other illegal behaviors) can be gathered from participants.
6. Information gathered from this research is not to be disseminated outside the classroom setting.

All written reports (including final paper) must be submitted in electronic format (e.g., Word, PDF, etc.) and must follow the format of the 6th edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (APA). To read about what constitutes plagiarism, please read the handout provided by the Writing Centre: <http://www.queensu.ca/writingcentre/handouts/Plagiarism.pdf>.

Lab assignments and reports – There will be five assignments/reports to be completed with the two research projects.

Project 1 data collection:	Data collection using snowballing research method
Project 1 report:	Short report on the methodology and results for project 1
Project 2 literature report:	Summary of the hypothesis justified using relevant literature
Project 2 proposal (group):	Summary of the research proposal (including ethics checklist) & Study materials
Project 2 data collection:	Making study online, collecting data

Article Critique. You will evaluate an empirical article. Please prepare a 1-1.5-page outline summarizing the article. Follow the example of the outline provided. Your papers must be typed, single-spaced, framed in 1-inch (2.5 cm) margins, and typed in 12-point font (i.e., the size of this font). Please turn in critiques online. Critiques will not be accepted after discussed in class.

Poster Presentation – The last two weeks of class will be used for your individual poster presentation of research project 2. Each student will have 5 minutes to do a poster presentation on their research study and findings. After every member in the group presented their poster, there will be a 10 to 15 minutes Q&A session for students as a group. Students and instructors will observe and evaluate each student individually.

Project 2 Paper – The final paper is a 10- to 12-page (double spaced, 12-point font) written report of research project 2. The paper should include the following sections: relevant literature review, research questions and hypotheses, rationale for your predictions, research design and methodology, analysis of

the results (with graphs if applicable), brief discussion/conclusion of the findings, and references. The proposal format should conform to APA styles. The proposal is due on 11th April 2017 (4:30pm).

Participation – Participation involves completing assigned readings, regular attendance, active involvement in group work, and participating in discussions and class exercises.

Attendance is essential. Materials will be presented in class. It is impossible to make up for laboratory work. For these reasons please plan to regularly attend class and laboratory sessions.

EVALUATION:

Students are expected to write and submit all lab assignments/reports on the indicated due date. Everything will be individually written up and graded except for research project 2's proposal and its presentation. For team proposal and team proposal presentation, assessment will be performed group-wise (i.e. each group will receive one grade). In this case, additional peer-evaluations will be used to distribute the grades for the group proposal and presentation. Each group member will be responsible for evaluating the group members in the form of structured peer feedback.

Late assignments

Penalties will be applied to late lab reports assignments. Details will be explained during the first class.

GRADING BREAKDOWN:

Lab reports ----- 60%

- Research project 1 data collection (5%; bonus of 1% if you exceed quota)
- Research project 1 lab report (15%; data analyses and write-up)
- Research project 2 literature report (10%)
- Research project 2 team proposal (10%)
- Research project 2 proposal team presentation (2-4 presenters per team; 5%)
- Research project 2 data collection (5%)
- Article critique (10%)

Final poster presentation----- 10%

Project 2 paper----- 20%

Participation----- 10%

Total----- 100%

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this courses, students will be able to

- Use PsycINFO and google scholar to conduct literature research on a given topic in social psychology
- Use a web platform (Qualtrics) to design and conduct a questionnaire-type survey
- Use snowballing technique to recruit research participants
- Manage and analyze correlational and experimental data with SPSS
- Critically evaluate methodology of empirical research in social psychology
- Develop skills in presenting research findings, including providing background material, highlighting key results, and outlining the implications of the work.

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abide by these conditions is a breach of copyright, and may also constitute a breach of academic integrity under the University Senate's Academic Integrity Policy Statement.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is constituted by the five core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility (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/senateandtrustees/principlespriorities.html>).

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments 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/2011-2012-calendar/academic-regulations/regulation-1>), on the Arts and Science website (see <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academics/undergraduate/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.

Letter grades

In this course, some components will be graded using numerical percentage marks. Other components will receive letter grades, which for purposes of calculating your course average will be translated into numerical equivalents using the Faculty of Arts and Science approved scale:

Arts & Science Letter Grade Input Scheme

Assignment mark	Numerical value for calculation of final mark
A+	93
A	87
A-	82
B+	78
B	75
B-	72
C+	68
C	65
C-	62
F0 (0)	0

Your course average will then be converted to a final 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

Tentative course schedule

Week	Date	Lecture Topics (~1hr)	Lab Topics (~1 hr 30 mins)	Deadline
1	10 th Jan	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ice-breakers & syllabus • Ethics in research involving human participants 	Introduction to GREB and ethics training (CORE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign up CORE account in the lab • CORE tutorials to be completed by Friday (13th Jan 2017) Briefing for Research Project 1 Assignment : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection using snowballing • Procedure & protocol • Introduction to the topic of interest 	Assignment due on 28 th January 2017 11:59pm; CORE certificate emailed to TA due 13 th Jan 11:59pm; Reading assigned for next class
2	17 th Jan	Research methods I	Introduction to web-based survey (Qualtrics) Sign up Qualtrics account.	Reading assigned for next class
3	24 th Jan	Research Methods II Form groups of 4-5s and choose a topic	Introduction to literature search <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to do a lit search using PsycINFO and Google Scholar As a group, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discuss the research question and hypothesis • identify potential search terms • perform a literature search to support the hypothesis. Research Project 2 Rationale write up: Report the research question, hypothesis, and the rationale for the hypothesis supported by the relevant literature in 1-page <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individually written up • Template provided 	Rationale write up due on 29 th Jan 11:59pm
4	31 st Jan	Research methods III [field studies]	Design Project 2 as a group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design an experimental study that tests the hypotheses of the research topic your group have chosen • Operationalize and measurement of the relevant IVs and DVs • Specify the research design (e.g., between- or within-subject design) • Identify and address potential confounds, etc. 	
5	7 th Feb	Team presenting their proposal (hypothesis and design) 8 minutes each team, 10 minutes for Q&A	Preparing all relevant experimental materials (including consent and debrief forms, etc.) as a group Project 2 Proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarize the research proposal 	Proposal and peer evaluation due on 10 th Feb 11:59pm

			<p>using the template (see GREB form) provided</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include ethics checklist • Include all relevant study materials 	
6	14 th Feb	Research Methods/Designs	<p>Finalize the experimental design, materials, and protocol.</p> <p>Obtain approval from Instructor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection can only begin after obtaining instructor's approval 	Data collection may begin as soon as approval is obtained.
7	21 st Feb	Reading Week	Reading Week	
8	28 th Feb	Data analysis part I	<p>Introduction to data management and manipulation (using the collected data to learn how to clean data and put them together), and data analysis using SPSS</p> <p>Research Project 1 lab report: Short report on the methodology and results obtained from the data collected (individually written up)</p>	<p>Project 1 report due on 5th March 11:59pm</p> <p>Data collection cont.</p>
9	7 th Mar	Data analysis part II	<p>Creating tables and figures using excel/words. – present findings</p> <p>Writing up research study in APA format</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • Method • Results • Discussion • References 	<p>Article critique due by 11:59pm on 11th March;</p> <p>Data collection due 12th March 11:59pm</p>
10	14 th Mar	Be a competent consumer of scientific research	Data cleaning, management and analysis with collected data	
11.	21 st Mar	Creating a compelling story: presenting your results	<p>Students can take this time to prepare for their poster presentation starting next week;</p> <p>Decide on the order of poster presentation</p>	
12	28 th Mar	<p>Poster presentation I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each presenter will have 5 mins to present their poster • Group Q&A after the last member of the group presented 	Students should actively participate in the Q&A session; Students will also evaluate each other on the evaluation form provided.	
13	4 th Apr	Poster presentation II	Students should actively participate in the Q&A session; Students will also evaluate each other on the evaluation form provided.	Paper for Project 2 due on 11 th April 4:30pm