



PSYCHOLOGY 217-005/006: Research Methods in Psychology

Fall 2019

ABOUT PSYC 217

Psychologists use the principles of science to conduct research in order to better understand human behaviour. The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the commonly used research methods of the psychological sciences. The course also provides you with the opportunity to conduct your own research as a novice scholar. You will learn to design and conduct a basic experiment to test a hypothesis about human behavior, analyze your data, interpret your results and communicate your findings to a scholarly community in written, oral, and visual forms.

WHO, WHEN, WHERE

Instructor: Dr. Mark Lam

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Office Hours: Mon 11:30-12:30 Thu 12:30-2

Or by appointment

Teaching Emily Clark

Fellow: Office: 3402 DMCBH

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Office Hours: Wed 2:00-3:00

Or by appointment

Labs: Teams 1-4; 17-20

Teaching Lucy DeSouza

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Office Hours: Mondays 11:45-12:45

Or by appointment

Labs: Teams 5-8; 21-24

Teaching Erica Dharmawan

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Office Hours: Wed 10:30-11:30

Or by appointment

Labs: Teams 9-12; 25-28

Teaching Kyle Gooderham

Fellow: Douglas Kenny 3510

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Office Hours: Thursdays 12:30-1:30

Or by appointment

Labs: Teams 13-16; 29-32

SCHEDULE:

Lectures:	AERL 120	Tues/Thurs
	005	9:30-10:50am
	006	11:00-12:20am

Notes: (1) Office hours might change; please check the Canvas course website for updates; (2) Emails will be answered on weekdays during normal working hours. Please limit emailed questions to ones that can be answered briefly. For more complex questions, please come to one of our office hours or contact one of us to schedule an appointment.

LEARNING GOALS

By the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Describe the scientific approach used by psychologists to generate knowledge.
2. Understand, describe, evaluate, and compare research designs commonly used in the psychological sciences.
3. Design, conduct, and interpret findings of a basic experiment examining human behaviour.
4. Use and interpret basic descriptive statistics and graphs
5. Present and discuss your research in both written and oral modes of communication.
6. Locate, understand, and critically evaluate empirical journal articles.
7. Work collaboratively with peers to complete a research project within a given timeframe.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required: Cozby, P. C., & Rawn, C. D. (2016). *Methods in Behavioural Research* (2nd Canadian Ed.). Toronto, ON: McGraw-Hill Ryerson. New, used and electronic versions are fine. Please note: Lectures and exams are based upon the Second Canadian Edition. Information presented in older editions may differ significantly.

From time to time, this text may be supplemented by other readings or videos to facilitate your understanding of the course materials. Please attend class and check Canvas to obtain more information about these additional readings and videos.

Required: i>Clicker. This tool will be used for questions and polls during lectures. It can be purchased from the bookstore--used or new. You must register your i>Clicker in Canvas in order to get course credit for your use of your i>Clicker.

Optional: Cuttler, C. (2010). *Research Methods in Psychology*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt. This lab guide will help you and your teammates create a successful research project. New, used, and electronic versions are acceptable.

Optional: Any additional learning aids associated with the textbook (e.g., "Smartbook") are optional. Although they might be useful for enhancing your understanding and retention of the course materials, you will never be examined on any materials contained in these learning aids. Access to such materials may come bundled with your textbook if you buy it new.

EVALUATION

1. Exams (52%):

There will be three exams: one (the December exam) will be written during the exam period at a time designated by the Registrar's Office (you must be available to write at any time during the December exam period), and two midterm exams will be written during class time.

First Midterm (11%)	Oct 1 (class time)
Second Midterm (11%)	Nov 5 (class time)
December Exam (30%)	Dec 3-18 (exam period)

Notes on the Exams:

- Midterms are not cumulative; the December exam is cumulative.
- There will be no makeup midterm examinations (see Grading & Attendance below).
- There will be topics covered in class that are not in the readings and topics in the readings that are not covered in class. You will be responsible for both. **That is, all readings and all class materials are examinable.**
- Exams will be composed of multiple-choice and short-answer questions.
- Note that the instruction on all multiple-choice questions will be to "select the single best response."
- Scantron sheets are to be completed during the exam. No additional time will be given once the exam has ended. **Unanswered questions on the scantron sheet will be not be graded.**
- Once exams have been marked, grades will be available on Canvas.
- No electronic devices are permitted during exams (e.g. cell phones, laptops, Google Glass).
- You are strongly encouraged to review your exam with your teaching fellows. Most requests for grade adjustments can be settled directly with your teaching assistant. In cases of a dispute that cannot be satisfactorily resolved, please complete the "Request to Review Grading" survey found [here](#).

2. Intro to Empirical Journal Articles in Psych (4%):

The goal of this assignment is for students to gain experience locating, reading, understanding and summarizing an empirical research article in Psychology. Specifically, you will be asked to relate key concepts discussed in lecture with a research article of your choice.

• Suggested Deadline October 17th via Canvas

To accommodate your busy schedule, I've suggested the deadline of Oct 17th. I strongly encourage you to complete this assignment by the suggested deadline, however you may submit your assignment anytime before 11:59pm, December 3rd. Assignments will not be accepted after this date, no exceptions! More detailed assignment instructions will be provided in lecture and posted on Canvas.

3. Collaborative Research Project (up to 37%)

For most students, the collaborative research project is the highlight of PSYC 217. This project provides you with the opportunity to apply what you've learned in class, to design and conduct an experiment in order to test a hypothesis about human behaviour. You will then present the results of your study at the annual Poster Session held on Friday November 29th from 5:00-6:30pm.

You will receive guidance from your Teaching Fellow at each stage of the process. Lab Meetings will take place during class time, but in a smaller room, on five Thursdays throughout the course (see the course schedule for dates). **Attendance at all Lab Meetings and the Poster Session (last day of classes, 5-6:30pm) is required.**

Final Research Report (25%)	Nov 25th
Poster Presentation & Participation (10%)	Nov 29th
iPeer peer-evaluations (2x1%; 2%)	Oct 15th & Dec 3rd

Final Research Report (25%)

Each team member will independently write an APA-style report, describing their research. Reports must be 5-7 double spaced pages (approx. 1500-1700 words).

Poster Presentation and Participation (10%)

Research teams will prepare a poster to be presented during the Annual PSYC 217 Poster Session Friday November 29th. During this poster session, students will evaluate others' posters and have their poster evaluated by a Teaching Fellow and their peers.

Please refer to the PSYC 217: Lab Research Project Syllabus for the complete and detailed instructions regarding this component of the course.

iPeer peer-evaluations (2%)

Working in a team can be both rewarding and challenging. Students are required to complete two peer-evaluations through which they will provide anonymous feedback to their team members, to indicate what is working well, and what could be improved. Peer-evaluations are graded for **thoughtful completion**. TFs will review the first peer-evaluation (following Lab 2), to identify any groups that may be facing substantial challenges and require support. Following the Poster Session, students will complete a second peer evaluation, which may be used by the instructor to adjust

grades if it is clear that specific team members are more or less than deserving of the average group grade. Access iPeer using your CWL login at <https://ipeer.elearning.ubc.ca/login>.

4. Engagement (up to 7%):

Active participation and engagement will promote better comprehension and retention of the material you are learning and will be evaluated by the following:

i>Clicker (2%)	Each class
Tri-Council Policy Statement (1%)	Sept 20 th
Research Experience Component (4%)	During the term

i>Clicker - Attendance and In-Class Participation (2%)

Each lecture will have content that requires you to either vote or answer a question using i>clicker. If you answer at least 75% of the i>clicker questions during a class period and answer at least one question correctly per class, for at least 75% of the classes during the whole term, you'll earn 2%.

Tri-Council Policy Statement 2 Tutorial (1%)

You are required to complete the Tri-Council Policy Statement (TCPS2) tutorial as you will be designing and conducting a research project using your fellow classmates as participants. This tutorial will introduce you to key ethical guidelines to be considered when on conducting research with human subjects. **Deadline: September 20th**. Please refer to the "PSYC 217: Lab Research Project Syllabus" for more detailed instructions.

Research Experience Component (4%):

Psychology is an active and exciting scientific discipline. Many of the research designs that you will learn about in this course are utilized by researchers in our own Psychology department! As part of this course, you will be asked to complete the Research Experience Component (REC) as an opportunity for you to participate in research and relate your experiences to key concepts learned in class. This REC will be worth 4% of your grade in the class and you are free to choose from one or more of following three options:

i. Complete a brief survey following each lab and at the end of the course. We would like to gather information about students' experience of the labs and are asking for your feedback after each lab session. Complete all six surveys and receive 1% towards your course grade.

ii. Participate in the Psychology Department Human Subjects Pool. Most students will choose to earn their REC by spending four hours participating in psychology studies (worth 1% for each hour) through the Department of Psychology's Human Subject Pool (HSP) system. You can create an account, locate and sign up for studies by going to <https://ubc-psych.sona-systems.com>. Please register in the system by the end of the first month of classes to have the opportunity to earn your first ½ hour credit with a brief online survey that will increase your eligibility for more studies.

Once registered in the system, you will be able to browse through and select which studies you wish to participate in, sign up for an available time slot, and confirm your accumulated credits afterward. At the end of the last day of class for the term, the subject pool is closed. At that point, you will no longer be able to receive credits. I strongly urge you to participate in and confirm your credits long before the last week of class. Further instructions on how to use the HSP online system can be found at <https://psych.ubc.ca/undergraduate/human-subject-pool/> in the document entitled "HSP Participant Information - 2019."

iii. The Library Option. As an alternative to participation in psychology subject pool experiments, you may complete a library-writing project. Such projects consist

of reading and summarizing 1) the research question, 2) the methods and 3) the results (in written form) of a research article from the peer reviewed journal *Psychological Science*. You will receive 1% for each article summary that meets the following requirements:

Requirements:

- The article must have been published in the journal titled "*Psychological Science*"
- The article must have a publication date from the year 2000 to present.
- The article must be a research article; it cannot be a review article, a news item, a notice, or a letter to the editor, for example.
- The summary should be approximately 500 words in length.
- You must include your name, student number, course, section, instructor and email address on each summary.
- You must log on to the HSP system (<https://ubc-psych.sona-systems.com>) and create an account before submitting your article summaries. Your course credit is assigned using the online system.

Summaries must be submitted by the last day of class

Further instructions on how to use the HSP online system can be found at <https://psych.ubc.ca/undergraduate/human-subject-pool/> in the document entitled "HSP Participant Information - 2019."

SUMMARY OF LEARNING ASSESSMENTS:

Assessment	Course Value	Deadline(s)
Midterms (2 x 11%)	22%	Oct 1 st ; Nov 5 th
Final	30%	Dec 3 rd – 18 th
Intro to Empirical Journal Articles	4%	Oct 17 th suggested; Dec 3 rd final
Collaborative Group Project		
Group Poster Presentation	10%	Nov 29 th
Individual APA Report	25%	Nov 29 th
Ipeer Evaluations (2 x 1%)	2%	Oct 15 th ; Dec 3 rd
TCPS2 Tutorial	1%	Sept 20 th
i>clicker	2%	Throughout the term
Research Experience Component	4%	Last day - Nov 29 th
TOTAL	100%	

GRADING AND ATTENDANCE

Grading. Your grade for each exam and assignment will be posted on Canvas.

The Department of Psychology reserves the right to **scale** grades in order to maintain equity among sections and conformity to departmental norms. Students should therefore note that an unofficial grade given by an instructor might be changed by the department. Grades are not official until they appear on a student's academic record. With regards to this policy, the Department of Psychology has adopted the following target grade distributions in 100- and 200-level courses, and reserves the right to adjust final grades in this course if the distribution deviates substantially from the target.

Class Performance	Mean	Standard Deviation
Strong Class	67%	14%
Average Class	65%	14%
Weak Class	63%	14%

Attendance. In this course, material that is taught in class may be different from or supplement the course readings. It is, therefore, essential you attend class and read ahead in the text. If you do have to miss a class, you are responsible for getting notes from another student.

No makeup midterms will be given in this course. If you miss a midterm exam due to illness, death or loss of a loved one, or varsity sports please inform the instructor as soon as possible, with official, supporting documentation when required (for details, see <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,329,0,0>). The final exam will be reweighted to account for a missed midterm only for students with a legitimate and approved absence.

If the December exam is missed, you must apply through the Registrars office to write a make-up exam--they will probably require medical or other documentation. Please refer to the UBC Calendar for details of 'academic concession.'

During your time in this course, if you encounter medical, emotional, or other personal problems that affect your attendance or academic performance, please notify us, as well as your Academic Advisor. Please refer to the UBC Calendar for a discussion of academic concession.

The University accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the Center for Accessibility office. The University also accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance or scheduled exams. Please let us know in advance, preferably in the first few weeks of class, if you will require any accommodation on these grounds. Other absences (e.g., varsity athletics, family obligations or similar) are not part of University policy and you should not assume they will be accommodated.

Early Alert Program. We participate in the Early Alert program, which helps us support students who are facing difficulties that are interfering with school. For answers to frequently asked questions regarding the Early Alert program, please visit blog.students.ubc.ca/earlyalert/information-for-students/students-frequently-asked-questions/.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

There are 18 lectures and 14 chapters to be covered during the course. This means there will usually only be 1-2 lectures per text chapter--plan your reading and studying accordingly. I strongly encourage students to read relevant sections of the text *before* they are discussed in class.

Lectures will typically focus on particularly important and/or interesting ideas. You are responsible for all readings and lecture materials.

Lecture slides will be made available on Canvas. However, if you miss a lecture, don't expect to find all of what you missed in the slides. (Ask a friend!) Attending lectures will greatly increase your chances of success!

Laptops and similar devices can be effective learning tools and are welcome in class. However, if you are using them for non-class-related activities it can be distracting to your learning (and others'). Please be considerate.

WITHDRAWAL DATES

If you wish to withdraw from this course without any record of the course on your transcript, you must do so on or before **Sept 17th**. If you wish to withdraw after September 18th, please discuss the possibility with me as your absence will be missed by the members of your research team. Any such withdrawals must be completed by October 11th and will result in a “W” on your transcript.

GRADE BUMPS

When computing final grades, the instructor carefully analyzes every single student to determine whether a grade bump is deserved. Bumps may be awarded for consistent performance at a major grade boundary or for marked improvement from the midterms to the final (10%+ at minimum). Bumps are not guaranteed and are **not** awarded for non-academic reasons (i.e., student is graduating and/or involved in sports or other extracurricular activities). **DO NOT send the instructor an email asking for a grade bump.**

STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

In the Department of Psychology, and with the UBC and the scholarly community at large, we share an understanding of the ethical ways in which knowledge is produced. A core practice of this shared value of academic integrity is that we acknowledge the contributions of others to our own work. It also means that we produce our own contributions that add to the scholarly conversation. We don't buy or copy papers or exams, or have someone else edit them. We also don't falsify data or sources, or hand in the same work in more than one course. Because it is so important that research be done ethically, we expect students to meet these expectations. Any instance of cheating or taking credit for someone else's work, whether intentionally or unintentionally, can and often will result in receiving at minimum grade of zero for the assignment, and these cases will be reported to the Department Head, and the Faculty of Arts Associate Dean, Academic. According to the University Act (section 61), the President of UBC has the right to impose harsher penalties including (but not limited to) a failing grade for the course, suspension from the University, cancellation of scholarships, or a notation added to the student's transcript. See the UBC Calendar entries on "[Academic Honesty](#)," "[Academic Misconduct](#)," and "[Disciplinary Measures](#)," and check out the [Student Declaration and Responsibility](#). See "[Tips for Avoiding Plagiarism](#)" from the Chapman Learning Commons, and bookmark the OWL website for how to use APA citation style.

All graded work in this course, unless otherwise specified, is to be original work done independently by individuals. **If you have any questions as to whether or not what you are doing is even a borderline case of academic misconduct, please consult your instructor or TA before you submit your assignment – WE ARE HERE TO HELP!!**

WELLNESS RESOURCES

Below you will find a list of resources you may want to utilize if you are struggling in any way to manage your responsibilities while in school or the stresses of life in general. For a comprehensive list of UBC resources see <https://campuslightbox.com/>

Student Health Services:

students.ubc.ca/livewell/services/student-health-service
604- 822-7011

Student health provides students with a variety of healthcare related services to help you maintain your health while studying. Access to doctors and registered nurses.

Counselling Services:

students.ubc.ca/livewell/services/counselling-services
Phone number: 604-822-3811

Counselling services offers a variety of resources to help you maintain your mental health while in school. You may see a counsellor on an individual basis, attend group counselling, or to document an illness if you should require academic concession.

Access and Diversity:

students.ubc.ca/about/access
604-822-5844

Access and Diversity provides accommodations for students living with physical or mental disabilities.

BC Crisis Center:

<https://crisiscentre.bc.ca/>
Phone number: 604-872-3311

Non-profit, volunteer-driven organization that provides emotional support to youth, adults, and seniors in crisis in BC. Crisis line available 24/7.

Distress Line:

Phone number: 1-800-Suicide (784-2433)

If you are in distress or are worried about someone in distress who may hurt themselves, call 1-800-SUICIDE 24 hours a day to connect to a BC crisis line, without a wait or busy signal.

SpeakEasy:

<http://www.ams.ubc.ca/services/speakeasy/>
Phone number: 604-822-9246

A student run service that offers confidential support for students experiencing crisis. Also a good resource for additional information and referrals within the UBC community.

UBC Wellness Centre:

students.ubc.ca/livewell/services/wellness-centre

Phone number: 604-822-8450

Speak with other students about tips for managing stress, keeping healthy sleep and eating patterns, concerns about safe sex and more.

Mood Disorders Clinic UBC:

<http://ubc-mooddisorders.vch.ca/>

A psychiatric program designed specifically to treat individuals living with depression or bipolar disorder.

Live Well, Learn Well:

<https://students.ubc.ca/health-wellness>

The Live Well, Learn Well initiative is a resource hub that provides students with information to help improve physical and mental wellbeing.

Mental Health Awareness Club:

<http://blogs.ubc.ca/ubcmhac/>

A club that offers opportunities to speak about mental health with others and strives to promote mental health awareness throughout the UBC community.

Pacific Spirit Addiction Services:

3rd Floor, 2110 West 43rd Ave Vancouver B.C. V6M 2E1
Phone number: 604-267-3970

A free and confidential services for youth and young adults up to the age of 24. Services include Adult Counselling, access to an Addiction Physician - including usage of a methadone maintenance program - and a Drug Education Series.

AMS Food Bank:

www.ams.ubc.ca/services/food-bank/

If you are in a financial emergency AMS food bank can provide you with a food hamper. You are able to use the service up to 6 times each term.

UBC Psychology Clinic:

<http://clinic.psych.ubc.ca/>

Professional psychological services provided to the community, including assessment & treatment for children, adults & families by clinical psychology trainees.

The Kaleidoscope: the-kaleidoscope.com

A confidential peer-run mental health support group that takes place on campus 2-3 times a week. You may attend the group if you are experiencing any kind of mental health related challenges, or if you're just feeling stressed about school in general. Registration is not required to attend the group. See the website for meeting times and locations. Food and drink is provided.

Course Schedule

Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Canvas

Week	Date	Topics	Readings	Reminders
1	Th Sept 5	Intro to 217	This Syllabus!	Register your i>clicker
2	T Sept 10	Principles of Science	Chapter 1	Sign-up for HSP
	Th Sept 12	Theories, Hypotheses, & Research articles	Chapter 2	
3	T Sept 17	Research Design Basics	Chapter 4	
	Th Sept 19	Experimental Designs	Chapter 8	TCP2 certificate due Sept 20
4	T Sept 24	Conducting Experiments	Chapter 9 Chapter 7 (p. 131-143)	
	Th Sept 26	Lab 1: Research Design	Cutler Chapter 1	
5	T Oct 1	Midterm 1: Chapters – 1, 2, 4, 7 (p. 131-143), 8, & 9		
	Th Oct 3	Ethical Research & Measurement	Chapter 3 Chapter 5	
6	T Oct 8	Measurement	Chapter 5 (cont)	
	Th Oct 10	Lab 2: Proposal Presentations	Cutler Chapter 2	
7	T Oct 15	Special Research Designs Complex Research Designs	Chapter 11 Chapter 10	iPeer Evaluations due
	Th Oct 17	Complex Research Designs	Chapter 10 (cont)	Suggested Deadline – Intro to Empirical Articles
8	T Oct 22	Descriptive Statistics	Chapter 12	
	Th Oct 24	Lab 3: Data Collection!	Cutler Chapter 3	
9	T Oct 29	Descriptive Statistics	Chapter 12 (cont)	
	Th Oct 31	Lab 4: Data Analysis	Cutler Chapter 4	
10	T Nov 5	Midterm 2: Chapters – 3, 5, 10, 11, & 12		
	Th Nov 7	Inferential Statistics	Chapter 13	
11	T Nov 12	Inferential Statistics (cont)	Chapter 13 (cont)	
	Th Nov 14	Lab 5: Writing Research Reports	Cutler Chapter 5	
12	T Nov 19	Observational Methods & Sampling	Chapter 6 Chapter 7	
	Th Nov 21	Generalizability & Replication	Chapter 14	
13	T Nov 26	Replication & Publication	Chapter 14 (cont)	Individual APA Report Due
	Th Nov 28	Epistemology & Wrap-up		
	F Nov 29	Poster Session!! 5:00 - 6:30pm Life Sciences Centre		Last day for REC
	Dec 3 -18	Final Exam		Empirical Articles Assignment & iPeer Evaluations – Dec 3