

# PSYC341 Social Psychology Lab

## Fall 2023

### Syllabus

TA email: [psyc341@queensu.ca](mailto:psyc341@queensu.ca)

Prerequisites: 203/241

*You are expected to check OnQ and your Queen's email on a regular basis as some course materials will be posted/ 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, develop a conceptual foundation for understanding how to design studies, conduct experiments, analyze data, and report and communicate findings.
- **Labs:** 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 the 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 analyses, 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 (APA) Style Manual 7<sup>th</sup> edition.

#### **COURSE FORMAT:**

**Research project** – You will complete a research project for this course.

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: <https://www.queensu.ca/vpr/ethics/greb>

For the **research project**, students will work in groups, design their own experiments, 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 reported 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

anonymous and 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 the final paper) must be submitted in electronic format (e.g., Word, PDF, etc.) and must follow the format of the 7<sup>th</sup> 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** – The following assignments/reports are to be completed for the research project.

Project rationale report (individual): Research hypothesis supported by relevant literature

Proposal Presentation (team): The team presents the proposal to get feedback from the class.

GREB form (team): Summary of the research proposal (including ethics checklist) and study materials.

Preregistration (team): Preregistration of the data clean & analysis plan

Project data collection: Put the study online & collect data.

Poster (individual): Each student will submit their own poster based on their research project

Poster presentation (team)

Final paper (individual)

**Poster Presentation** – You will make a TEAM poster presentation, followed by a Q&A session for students as a group.

**Project Final Paper** – The final paper is a 10- to 12-page (double-spaced, 12-point font) written report of the research project. 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), brief discussion/conclusion of the findings, and references. The paper should conform to APA styles. The paper is due on **the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2023 (11:59 pm)**.

**Article Critique.** You will evaluate and critique an empirical article (details will be provided later)

**Blog writing:** It is important for us to be able to communicate scientific findings to the public without using jargon. Can you write an engaging blog article (within 800 words) that your grandparents can easily understand and find interesting? Research papers will be assigned for this task.

**Participation** – Participation involves active participation in the OnQ Discussion forums (by asking questions and responding to other people), keen involvement in group work, and active participation in class.

It is super important to keep up with the laboratory work, as it's almost impossible to make up with it. Please keep up with the lectures and tutorials and engage actively with your team once assigned.

**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 proposal and its presentation. For team proposal and team proposal presentation, assessment will be performed group-wise, while we will consider peer evaluation of each team member's contribution.

**Late assignments**

Penalties will be applied to late lab assignments. 10% deduction will be applied for each day an assignment is late. Therefore, it is important to plan ahead of time, and get in touch with us as soon as hurdles come up.

**GRADING BREAKDOWN:**

- Research rationale report (Individual 5%)
- Proposal presentation (TEAM 5%)
- GREB form (TEAM 5%)
- Preregistration (TEAM 5%)
- Project data collection (including putting study on Qualtrics) (TEAM 5%)
- Research poster (Individual; 10%) and presentation (TEAM; 5%)
- Research project final paper (Individual 30%)

Article critique: Individual 10%

Blog writing: Individual 10%

Participation: Individual 10%

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, 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
- Manage and analyze data with SPSS or R
- Critically evaluate the methodology of empirical research in social psychology
- Develop skills in presenting research findings, including providing background material, highlighting key results, outlining the implications of the work, and writing in plain language.

## **COPYRIGHT OF COURSE MATERIALS**

This material is copyrighted and is for the sole use of students registered in Psyc341. This material shall not be distributed or disseminated to anyone other than students registered in Psyc341. Failure to 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](http://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. Your course average will then be converted to a final letter grade according to Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale.

***Arts & Science Letter Grade Input Scheme***

<b>Assignment mark</b>	<b>Numerical value for calculation of final mark</b>
A+	93
A	87
A-	82
B+	78
B	75
B-	72
C+	68
C	65
C-	62
D+	58
D	55
D-	52
F48 (F+)	48
F24 (F)	24
F0 (0)	0

***Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale***

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Numerical Course Average (Range)</b>
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	Lab
1	Sept 6	Introduction  Info survey (due at the end of the day)	CORE and GREB (TA)  Tasks: Sign up CORE account, complete CORE certificate; certificate submitted by 12 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2023, 11:59pm  <b>Reading:</b> Mortensen, C. R., & Cialdini, R. B. (2010). Full-cycle social psychology for theory and application. <i>Social and Personality Psychology Compass</i> , 4(1), 53–63.
2	Sept 13	Research Methods I	Form groups of 3-4 people and choose a research topic for the Research Project As a group, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• discuss the research question and hypothesis</li> <li>• identify potential search terms</li> <li>• conduct a literature search to support the hypothesis.</li> </ul> After team discussion, meet with the teaching team.  <b>Research Project Rationale write up:</b> Report research question, hypothesis, and the rationale for the hypothesis supported by the relevant literature in 1-page <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individually written up</li> <li>• Template provided</li> </ul> due on Sept 19th by 11:59pm  <b>Reading:</b> Heng, Y. T., Wagner, D. T., Barnes, C. M., & Guarana, C. L. (2018). Archival research: Expanding the methodological toolkit in social psychology. <i>Journal of Experimental Social Psychology</i> , 78, 14–22.
3	Sept 20	Research Methods II  /GREB form (TA)	Design Research Project as a group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design an online experimental study that tests the hypotheses of your research topic</li> <li>• Operationalize and measurement of the relevant IVs and DVs</li> <li>• Specify the research design (e.g., between- or within-subject design)</li> <li>• Identify and address potential confounds, etc.</li> </ul> Afterward, meet with the teaching team. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• proposal presentation ppt due on Sept 27 before class.</li> </ul>
4	Sept 27	Team presenting their proposal (hypothesis and design)  Revise research design (based on feedback) and finalize all relevant experimental materials (including consent and debrief forms, etc.) as a group	

		<b>Continue to work on GREB form</b>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Oct 4</b>	<b>Qualtrics (TA)</b> Finalize research design, putting study on qualtrics Work on and finalize <b>GREB form</b> ; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summarize the research proposal using the template (see GREB form) provided</li> <li>Include ethics checklist</li> <li>Include all relevant study materials</li> </ul> <b>GREB form and peer evaluation</b> due by the end of class.  Extra resource for Qualtrics: <a href="https://youtu.be/slsta7zqC2I">https://youtu.be/slsta7zqC2I</a>	
	<b>Oct 11</b>	<b>Fall Break</b>	<b>(No Class)</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Oct 18</b>	Be a competent consumer of scientific research	Finalize the study Data collection may begin as soon as approval is obtained from the teaching team. <b>Article critique due on Oct 24th by 11:59pm</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Oct 25</b>	Research Methods III	<b>Preregistration (TA)</b> <b>Power analysis</b>  <b>Preregistration due on Oct 29 by 11:59pm</b> Collecting data
<b>8</b>	<b>Nov 1</b>	Communicating (Assign articles for blog writing)	Data management and cleaning (TA)  <b>Data collection due on Nov 7 by 11:59pm</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Nov 8</b>	Data analysis (TA)	Data analysis for Research Project <b>Blog articles due on Nov 10 by 11:59pm</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Nov 15</b>	Creating tables and figures using excel/words (TA) Making a poster (TA)	Data analysis Make a poster
<b>11.</b>	<b>Nov 22</b>	<b>Finish individual Poster (e-copy), due on 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov by 11:59 pm</b> <b>Prepare for your poster presentation next week</b>	
<b>12</b>	<b>Nov 29</b>	Poster presentation and Q&A [ <b>peer ratings</b> ]  <b>Final Paper</b> due on Dec 9th by 11:59pm	