

PSYC 302: Advanced Research Methods
Winter 2016

Instructor

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Head TA

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Office: AGSIP Lounge (HUM 2nd floor)
Office Hours: Wed 12:00pm – 2:00pm

Lecture Times

Mondays 10:00 – 11:30am
Wednesday 8:30 – 10:00am

Lecture Location

Bioscience 1102

Course Objectives

The objectives for PSYC 302 are to deepen your understanding of research methods and statistical analyses. By the end of this course you will be able to 1) demonstrate mastery of advanced statistical inference methods, 2) critically assess published quantitative research with regards to design, statistical methods used, and interpretations made, 3) demonstrate an understanding of ethical conduct in psychological research, 4) design and carry out a research study for a specific research question of your choice, and 5) interpret and effectively communicate the results of an independent project.

Course Materials

Copyright. The course material including lecture notes, lab activities, etc., is copyrighted and is for the sole use of students registered in PSYC 302. This material shall not be distributed or disseminated to anyone other than students registered in PSYC 302. 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.

Required Materials

Field, A., (2013). *Discovering Statistics Using IBM SPSS Statistics* (4th ed.). California: Sage Publications.
Howitt, D., & Cramer, D., (2014). *Introduction to SPSS in Psychology* (6th ed.). United Kingdom: Pearson Education.

Selected chapters will be posted online from:

Lomax, R. G., & Hahs-Vaughn, D. L. (2012) *An Introduction to Statistical Concepts* (3rd Ed). New York: Routledge Publishing.

Recommended Materials

American Psychological Association. (2012). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.
Stern, L. (2007). *What every student should know about avoiding plagiarism*. New York: Pearson Education, Inc.

SPSS and Excel for Windows or Macintosh (Student Version)¹

Supplementary readings can be accessed online through the Queen's Library website (<http://library.queensu.ca>) or on Moodle.

Web Content

Additional information for this course will be available on the web at <https://moodle.queensu.ca/login/index.php>. The web content will consist of lecture notes, lab materials, electronic message boards for course questions, a list of supplemental course readings, auxiliary study materials, and links to web pages with further information on selected topics. The Moodle message board is intended only as a forum for posting questions and discussing topics related to PSYC 302 course material. Messages pertaining to inappropriate topics or subjects unrelated to PSYC 302 content will be deleted, and if those messages are deemed harassing, abusive, or insulting, disciplinary action will be taken (see the section below entitled "Academic Integrity").

Because students' questions tend to be similar, **please post your queries in the appropriate Moodle forum rather than emailing the Head TA or the instructor directly.** The Head TA and the instructor will check the forums regularly and will respond to your questions there. This way everyone in the class has access to the same information. If you do email questions that should have been posted in an appropriate forum, you will be directed to post your question to Moodle in order to receive a reply.

Lectures

There are two 90 min lectures each week. Before attending each lecture, you should be familiar with the assigned reading material for that week. Given the volume and complexity of information that will be covered over the course of each term, the lectures will be designed to build on your understanding of concepts learned through reading and self-exploration of topics. While the majority of topics covered in class will overlap with the textbook, there will be cases in which topics will be covered in one but not the other. **It is your responsibility to read and be familiar with all of the course material.**

Comprehension Quizzes. Over the course of the semester you will be responsible for completing comprehension quizzes designed to test your understanding of concepts covered in both the readings and lectures. In total there are 4 comprehension quizzes (each worth 5%), that will be available for completion on Moodle for **four days** following a major section of the lecture material. Each quiz should take approximately 30 minutes to complete. These quizzes will test your understanding of key theoretical concepts outlined in the lectures and readings, and may include definitions, multiple choice, matching, and T/F.

Laboratories

All labs are held in Humphrey 219 and will begin the week of January 11th 2016. Labs will focus on;

1. Writing skills
2. Practical aspects of statistical analysis using various types of software
3. Active learning and critical thinking exercises

¹ Digital Copies can be purchased from the Campus Computer Store in Dupuis hall. Alternatively a student licence can be purchased from www.onthehub.com's eStore following verification of enrollment at a recognized university.

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4. Working on course assignments

Students are expected to attend their assigned laboratories for the *full three hours* each week. Students are also expected to participate in lab activities and to complete all assigned laboratory activities. Please keep in mind that in order to fully participate in lab activities you will need to bring your copy of the Howitt and Cramer (2014) text to every lab meeting.

Lab Section Teaching Assistants

Section	Day	Time	TA	Email
002	Fri	8:30am – 11:30am	Tanya Tran	tt40@queensu.ca
003	Fri	11:30am – 2:30pm	Haykaz Mangardich	hm61@queensu.ca
004	Thu	8:30am – 11:30am	Chloe Hockley	ch127@queensu.ca
005	Tues	8:30am – 11:30am	Chloe Hockley	
006	Thu	2:30pm – 5:30pm	Haykaz Mangardich	

TA Office Hours and Locations

TA	Day	Time	Location
Sara Furlano	Wednesday	12:00pm – 2:00pm	AGSIP Lounge (HUM 3 rd floor)
Tanya Tran	Wednesday	10:00am – 11:00am	AGSIP Lounge
Chloe Hudson	Thursday	11:30am – 1:30pm	HUM TA Room
Haykaz Mangardich	Thursday	12:30 – 2:30	HUM 245

The TAs will be available for the full three hours of their scheduled lab time. They are not required to hold any formal office hours; however, they may wish to make themselves available at specific times or by appointment. Therefore, you are strongly encouraged to take advantage of their availability during lab times. Your TA is unlikely to monitor the Moodle message board, but the head TA and the instructor will be able to answer questions regarding lab material. The TAs want to help you, but bear in mind that the volume of e-mails generated by even one lab section in this course is enormous, so please use e-mail conscientiously and sparingly.

If you do have questions or need to meet with your TA, please contact him/her well in advance of any due dates. If you wait until the last minute, there is no guarantee that your TA will have the opportunity to read your email and/or be available to meet you in time. Remember to always treat your TAs with respect – rude, unruly, or inappropriate behaviour towards TAs or in labs will not be tolerated (**see the section on “Academic Integrity” below**).

Written Assignments and Group Research Project. Written assignments will become available during scheduled lab sessions and will be due at the times indicated on the course schedule.

Article Critique. You will be required to read and critically evaluate a recently published journal article chosen from one of an approved list of journals. Your chosen article should make use of a form of statistical analysis covered in the course. You will be responsible for evaluating the article on several dimensions, all of which are designed to improve ability to interpret scientific information.

Group Research Project. Along with several other members of your lab you will be responsible for designing a small scale in-lab experiment; performing a literature review, collecting data, entering and cleaning data, data analysis, interpretation, and write up.

Research Ethics Proposal. You will be responsible for writing a grant-application style research proposal with a focus on methodology, ethics, planned statistical analyses, and expected results.

All written assignments must be original and will be assessed via an online plagiarism prevention program, Turnitin.com. **Please see the section below entitled “Academic Integrity” & “Plagiarism”.** All written assignments must be submitted to Turnitin.com in electronic format (e.g., Word, PDF, etc.) and follow the formatting guidelines of the 6th edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. Written assignments will be marked by the TAs and will comprise 50% of your final grade (see “Marking Scheme” below for details). Late assignments will be penalized 5% of the assignment grade per day, for each day late.

Final Exam

There is one final examination worth 30% of your final grade. Students are expected to write the final exam as scheduled by the exams office, and you must write the final exam to pass this course (i.e., if you do not write the exam, you will receive a failing mark for the class regardless of your performance on the other components of the course). If you are unable to write the final exam during the scheduled time, appropriate documentation of your reasons for not writing the exam must be submitted to and approved by the instructor **PRIOR** to the exam (specifically, by 5:00pm the day before the scheduled exam). Please read the section below labeled “Psychology Departmental Policies” for more information about the procedure for exam deferral.

Evaluation

You are responsible for all lecture and laboratory material and all corresponding material in the texts and on Moodle. You are expected to write the final exam as scheduled and submit projects and lab work on the indicated due date. Exceptions will be made only under relevant circumstances, and when appropriate written documentation is provided. Penalties will be applied to late projects and proposals.

Remarking. If you believe that an error was made in grading one of your exams or lab assignments, you must complete the re-marking form available for download from Moodle. All remarking requests should be made to the head TA. On the form, you must specify if there are specific items in dispute, or if you are requesting that the whole assignment be remarked, the nature of the error and, if necessary, supporting documentation to defend your position. Please note that the re-marked grade will stand as the final mark even if it is lower.

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Grading Scheme

COMPREHENSION QUIZZES	4 Quizzes (5% each)	20%
ARTICLE CRITIQUE		10%
GROUP RESEARCH		20%
PROJECT		
ETHICS PROPOSAL		20%
FINAL EXAM		30%
TOTAL		100%

Grading Method. In this course, all components will be graded using numerical percentage marks, which will be used to calculate your final course grade. This grade will then be converted into a final letter grade using the Faculty of Arts and Science approved scale based on the Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale.

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
D+	58
D	55
D-	52
F48 (F+)	48
F24 (F)	24
F0 (0)	0

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	53-55
D-	50-52
F	49 and below

Appointments

We strongly recommend that you take advantage of opportunities to set up appointments with both the TAs and the instructor of this course. Questions before, during, or after class are always welcome, and simple questions outside of class time should be posted on Moodle for the benefit of everyone. However, if you have a question that may take some time to answer, we recommend meeting with your lab TA, the head TA, or the instructor. **If you are having trouble understanding lecture or lab material, please see someone well in advance of the exam or lab assignment due dates. Waiting until the last minute is not a wise strategy!**

Psychology Departmental Policies

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 building, nurturing, and sustaining 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 on the Arts and Science Calendar (see Academic Regulation 1 at <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academic-calendars/regulations/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 that contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment, to failure of a course, to requirement to withdraw from the university.

Discriminatory, rude, threatening, harassing, disruptive, distracting, and inappropriate behavior or language will not be tolerated in class or in laboratories regardless of the context in which such actions occur (i.e., in person, in email, on Moodle, etc.). Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulation concerning academic misconduct. Information on misconduct in an academic or non-academic setting is available in the Arts and Science Calendar (see Academic Regulation 17 at <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academic-calendars/regulations/academic-regulations/regulation-17>). Actions that contravene the regulation on misconduct carry sanctions that can range from a statement of apology, loss of grades, failure of a course, or requirement to withdraw from the university.

Accommodation After the Fact. Once a student has written an exam or submitted an assignment, they may not subsequently be granted accommodation such as being offered a second opportunity to write the exam or assignment or have it count for less than originally specified in the course syllabus (reweighted). **Students who cannot perform to the best of their abilities due a serious, extenuating circumstance must inform their instructor before attempting an exam or completing an assignment to arrange appropriate accommodation.** Appeals to change a grade after the fact must be made to the Associate Dean (Studies) and will only be supported by the department in exceptional circumstances.

Anxiety. If you have previously had problems with anxiety (e.g., math anxiety, test anxiety, etc.), please make an appointment with Queens Health, Counseling, and Disability Services (HCDS) immediately. Do not wait until the week of exams. You can find their office on the second floor of the LaSalle Building, 146 Stuart Street, or call them at 613-533-2506 to set up an appointment. They have counsellors trained to assist you with anxiety and stress relief techniques, and they can determine whether or not you require special accommodations.

Disability Accommodations. Queen's University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons 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. If you are a student with a disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Disability Services

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Office (DSO) and register as early as possible. For more information, including important deadlines, please visit the DSO website at: <http://www.queensu.ca/hcds/ds/>.

Exam Absence. Students who cannot write the final exam during the December exam period due to a serious, extenuating circumstance (illness, death in the family) must follow the steps below to be eligible to write a deferred exam during the PSYC department's make up exam period in January, April, and September.

1. Obtain permission from their instructor to write a deferred exam. This requires notifying your instructor in advance or, under extraordinary circumstances, within 72 hours after, the exam, with appropriate documentation. Appropriate documentation includes a signed letter from a registered health professional, Queens HC&DS, or documentation of a death such as a bulletin from a memorial service, obituary (newspaper or online) or funeral home letter. Official documents will be copied and originals returned to the student. *Note* that the PSYC department randomly checks document authenticity and that fraudulent documents will be grounds for a finding of a major departure from academic integrity. Please use the [Request for Exam Deferral form](#) and attach your documentation.
2. Complete and return the instructor-signed [Permission for an Incomplete Grade](#) form available on the Arts and Science website and return to the UG office.
3. Be available to write the makeup exam the PSYC department's make up exam period in January, April/May or September or receive '0' on the exam.

NOTE: Students who do not write the makeup exam are advised to drop the course. If a student cannot write the makeup exam due to a serious extenuating circumstance for which they can provide new documentation, they will either be granted a second deferral by their instructor or be supported in their appeal to drop the course after the deadline though this decision rests with the Associate Dean (Studies).

Learning Disabilities. Dyscalculia is relatively rare (estimated to effect between 3 and 6% of the population), but even at this stage in your academic career, you could unknowingly suffer from it, or another learning problem that may affect your performance in this class. If you are uncertain, HCDS can diagnose you. The waiting list can get rather long, so you should make an appointment (see Anxiety above) to be tested as soon as possible.

Plagiarism. It is your responsibility to be aware of what constitutes plagiarism and/or the departure from academic integrity, and what the consequences of this are. Please see Regulation 1.2.1 at <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academic-calendars/regulations/academic-regulations/regulation-1>, the handout provided by the Writing Centre at <http://www.queensu.ca/writingcentre/handouts/Style-Plagiarism.pdf>, as well as the Stern (2007) book listed under the recommended materials section of this syllabus.

Special Accommodations. If you qualify to receive special accommodations, please notify the Head TA right away. The midterm exam is held during regular class time, so HCDS does not provide accommodations (unlike for exams held during the fall and winter exam period). Therefore, for this exam your instructor will provide the accommodation, and the sooner we are aware of the need, the more able we will be to provide it.

Religious Observances. All religious observances that conflict with an assignment due

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date, or exam, must be declared by **Sunday, January 31, 2016**. Please contact the instructor and include the date and nature of the observance in your correspondence. Failure to declare your need for accommodation by this deadline means that your absence will not be excused and/or you will not be accommodated with an alternative due date or exam date.

Travel During Exams. According to university regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December and April examination periods as well as during any scheduled class times. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) or requests to miss an in class exam due to other plans will NOT be considered except under extraordinary circumstances. Students are advised to wait until the final exam schedules are posted before making any travel arrangements.