Brescia University College
LONDON CANADA

Research Methods in Psychology II
Psychology 2856G

Winter 2012

Class Meetings

Lecture: Tuesdays, 8:30 – 10:30 am, St. James room 304
Lab: Thursdays, 8:30 – 10:30 am, St. James room 304

Course Instructor Dr. Jennifer Sutton
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Office Hours: TBA

Required Materials

- Myers, A., & Hansen, C. (2012). *Experimental Psychology (7th edition).* Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.
- American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.).* Washington, DC: Author.

Course Website

Registered students will see the course listed on their My Owl page of WebCT.

Course Description

Building on students' knowledge of design and ethical issues in psychological research, this course will introduce more complex designs and data analysis. Students will design and conduct an original research project and communicate the findings in an APA-style written report.
Prerequisite(s): At least 60% in Psychology 2855F/G
Antirequesite(s): Psychology 2800E

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- critique published experimental work in psychology and formulate new research ideas
- design and conduct a research study in psychology
- demonstrate the ability to conduct research in an ethical manner
- recognize and compare within-subjects, between-subjects, and mixed factorial designs in psychology
- create a research poster
- communicate research findings in an APA-style written report

Course Format

This course builds on the skills and information presented in Psychology 2855F: Research Methods I. Students will be exposed to more complicated factorial designs as well as small-N designs, program evaluation techniques, and meta-analysis. In particular, the skills gained will be foundational to written work and oral presentations required in upper-year psychology courses, especially the honours thesis course.

The course consists of a combination of class meetings and interactive labs. Note that the distinction between lab and class is not absolute and it is expected that information introduced in one setting will carry over to the other setting.

Class meetings

Our class meetings will be a mixture of lecture and class discussion. Topics will follow the schedule given below, although lectures will also introduce material that is not in the Myers and Hansen textbook. You are responsible for all of the material from class meetings and the material in the text. Any exceptions will be announced in class. If you miss class, you should arrange to borrow notes from another student.

Labs

The lab is an important component of this course and is meant to give you hands-on experience with understanding research design and how it is implemented in psychology. You will gain experience working with primary research articles in psychology and communicating studies orally and in writing. You will also propose and conduct an original research study based on prior published work and complete ethics documents for the study.

Evaluation

Evaluation consists of two components: exams over class material and lab work. Each is worth 50% of the course final mark. **Students must pass both the class component and the lab component to receive a final passing mark in the course**.

Lecture material: There will be one test and one cumulative exam in this course based on lecture material and the course textbook (Myers & Hansen, 2006). The test will be 1 hour in length and will be worth 15% of the final mark. The cumulative final exam will be 2 hours and will be worth 35% of the total course mark. Thus, the test (15%) plus the exam (35%) make up the class portion (50%) of the final course mark. The test and exam may include questions in several formats, including multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, definitions, short answer, and essay. Without exception, students are required to take both the test and the exam in order to receive a passing overall mark in the course. Make-ups require approval by an academic counselor. Make-ups may consist of any of the above question formats.

Lab evaluation: In the lab portion of the course, you will propose and conduct an original research study, usually with one other student (see Overview of Research Projects, below). Performance in the lab component of the course will be assessed based on the research

proposal poster, including ethics documents (12%), the final lab report (30%) and participation (8%). These requirements make up the lab portion (50%) of the final course mark.

Research proposal poster & ethics documents (12%)
You and your research partner will create and present a poster on your proposed study during the class poster session. Details on the proper formatting and content of a research poster will be given in lab. Both members of the research team will receive the same mark for the poster and the accompanying ethics package. Presence at the poster session is required in order to receive a mark for the team's poster. Therefore, if a student fails to attend the poster session without appropriate approval for accommodation, her poster mark will be 0.

Final lab report (30%)
After gathering and analyzing data for your project, you will write a full APA-style research report. While the proposal and data collection and analysis are completed as a team, the final written lab report must be written individually.

Participation (8%)
Students are expected to attend all lab meetings, although the participation mark is not an attendance mark per se. The mark is based on your active participation in lab sessions, including asking thoughtful questions and providing feedback during the poster session, reporting on your progress, soliciting feedback for your project, and reporting the final outcome to the class in the project outcomes discussion lab session.

Overview of research projects

Students, usually working in teams of two, will be asked to generate their own research topics and, once approved, will conduct an original study. Evaluation will be based on an in-class poster presentation, ethics materials, and a final written lab report. Each student must participate in her team's data collection process in order to access the final data for her written lab report. In short, in order to use the data for your report, you need to help collect it.

Research Topics

There are some topics that cannot be approved for student research projects. Students will **not** be allowed to investigate sensitive matters which are typically dealt with by professionals only, such as psychopathology, depression, suicide, criminality, or topics deemed to unduly focus on areas of personal sensitivity (e.g. sex lives, drug habits, liquor consumption, etc.). Some possible research topics include personality traits, attitudes, values, mood, memory, educational psychology, problem solving, humour, and legal behaviours, and the interrelationships between these variables.

Ethics

Before any research can be conducted, the research team **must** receive research ethics approval for its project.

> *Any individual conducting research without ethics approval will receive an immediate failing grade in the entire course (course grade of F, 40%).*

Research with human subjects is governed by university regulations and by provincial and federal laws that ensure the welfare of the subjects and the integrity of scientific research.

Conducting research without the appropriate ethics review and approval is a serious offence. Each student project is reviewed for ethics approval.

It is expected that students will conduct their research at Brescia and will request participation from students on Brescia property. Students are not allowed to solicit research participation off of Brescia University College property. It is expected that students will behave in an ethical and respectful manner. Participants cannot be coerced into participating in a study, nor harassed if they choose to not participate. It is important that students abide by the statement in the consent form which clearly states that individuals may withdraw from the study at any time.

It is expected that when dealing with the data that they collect students will respect confidentiality and privacy. Laws and regulations governing scientific research require that research materials be kept after the conclusion of the study and presentation of the research data. Thus, **questionnaires and other data records, and all signed consent forms must be submitted to the instructor with the lab report at the completion of the course for proper storage and eventual destruction. Note that the final lab report will not be considered "handed in" (i.e., late penalties will apply) until all materials have been submitted.**

> *Failure to submit questionnaires and other research materials and signed consent forms will be considered a breach of ethics and will result in a failing grade (grade of F, 40%) for the course.*

Late policy

Due dates in this course will be strictly enforced. Work to be turned in is due at the start of the lab or class meeting (no later than 15 minutes after the start of class, or 8:45 am). Items that are submitted after such time will be considered late and subject to a 10% mark deduction. A 10% mark reduction will be enforced for each subsequent day work is late. For example, for a Thursday due date:

> Work submitted after 8:45 am on Thursday or later that day: -10%
> Work submitted Friday: -20%
> Work submitted Monday: -50% (weekends count as 2 days)
> Work submitted Tuesday: -60%

All work submitted after the lab or class meeting has ended should be taken to the receptionist in the Brescia registrar's office. You should request both a time/date stamp from the receptionist and that she place the work in the instructor's mailbox. Assignments may be handed in early to the registrar (follow the same time/date stamp procedure).

Accommodation for late work, missed exams, or missed participation credits will only be provided with the approval of an academic advisor. There are no exceptions to this rule.

SCHEDULE – subject to change, see WebCT Owl and announcements in class for updates

Winter 2008

Lecture	Topic	Text	Lab	Topic
Jan 10	Overview of course		Jan 12	Complete tri-council ethics tutorial online; due at next lab
Jan 17	Between-subs factorial design	10	Jan 19	Research teams announced, research ideas discussed
Jan 24	Between-subs factorial design	10	Jan 26	Preparing a research poster
Jan 31	Within-subs designs	11	Feb 2	Research project consultations
Feb 7	Mixed designs	--	Feb 9	**Research proposal poster session; ethics packages due**
Feb 14	How to write Introduction, Method sections	--	Feb 16	**Test (lecture material): chapters 10, 11 + lectures (exclude Feb. 14)**
Feb 21	*Conference week*		Feb 23	*Conference week*
Feb 28	Small *N* designs	12	Mar 1	How to write a Results section; last day to receive ethics approval
Mar 6	Choosing a statistical test	14	Mar 8	Analyzing data in SPSS
Mar 13	Field Research: Program Evaluation	--	Mar 15	How to write Abstract, Discussion sections
Mar 20	Meta-analysis	--	Mar 22	Data collection
Mar 27	Drawing conclusions	15	Mar 29	Data consultation with instructor
Apr 3	Creating APA-style figures and tables (9:30 am in library computer lab)	--	April 5	Project outcomes discussion
Apr 10	Review/Wrap-Up		April 12	**Lab Reports & research materials due**
April exam period	**Final Exam**	**10-12, 14-15 + lectures**		