

Course Outline – Psychology 2855 (530/531)

Research Methods in Psychology 1

School of Behavioural and Social Sciences

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course moving away from in-person delivery, course content may be delivered online either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). There may also be changes to any remaining assessments at the discretion of the course instructor. In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence, detailed information about the impact on this course will be communicated by the Office of the Provost and by the course instructor.

General Information

Course #: Psy 2855F
Section #: 530/531
Term: *Fall*
Year: 2022-23
Delivery: *in-person*
Course Day and Time: *Monday 1:30-3:30*
Wednesday 1:30-3:30
Course Location: BR- MRW 152

Instructor Information

Name: Dr. Caroline Strang
E-mail: cstrang@uwo.ca
Office hours: By appointment
Office location: UH 337

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the variety of ways research is conducted in psychology. Topics to be covered include the scientific approach, ethical issues in human and animal research, specific experimental and non-experimental designs, and APA writing style.

Antirequisite(s): Psychology 2800E, Psychology 2820E, [Psychology 2830A/B](#), [Psychology 2840F/G](#); [Health Sciences 2801A/B](#).

Prerequisite(s): A mark of at least 60% in 1.0 credits of Psychology at the 1000 level.

Extra Information: 2 lecture hours, 2 laboratory hours.

Required Course Materials

Introduction to Behavioral Research Methods -- 7th ed. Author: Mark R. Leary
ISBN-13: 9780137541188

Optional Course Materials

The text can be purchased with REVEL access, which is a website made by the publisher (Pearson) that provides quizzes and some online activities. Students are welcome to purchase REVEL access if they would like to use these additional learning tools, but it is not required for the course.

Learning Outcomes

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

- analyze the published experiments on a given topic in psychology and communicate methodology and findings orally and in writing
- critique published experimental work in psychology and formulate new research ideas based on this work
- demonstrate knowledge of and ability to apply APA writing style
- recognize and compare experimental and non-experimental designs in psychology and appropriately interpret the findings resulting from those designs
- demonstrate an understanding of ethical issues surrounding research with humans and animals and how these issues are handled in a research setting

Brescia Competencies

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

- Analyze different forms of publications on a given topic in psychology and communicate methodology and findings orally and in writing.
Competencies: Communication (3); Critical Thinking (3); Inquiry and Analysis (2-3).
- Critique published work in psychology and formulate new research ideas based on this work.
Competencies: Critical Thinking (3); Inquiry and Analysis (2-3); Valuing (2).
- Demonstrate knowledge of, and ability to apply, APA writing style.
Competencies: Communication (2-3); Critical Thinking (3); Inquiry and Analysis (2-3).
- Recognize and compare experimental and non-experimental designs in psychology and appropriately interpret the findings resulting from those designs.
Competencies: Communication (2-3); Critical Thinking (3).
- Demonstrate an understanding of (i) ethical issues arising regarding research with humans and with animals and (ii) how these issues are handled in a research setting.
Competencies: Critical Thinking (3); Inquiry and Analysis (3); Valuing (2).

Teaching Methodology and Expectations of Students

This course is an introduction to the way in which research is planned, conducted, and communicated in psychology. In addition to providing instruction in research techniques needed for digesting scientific findings in psychology, it is expected that Psychology 2855G will contribute significantly to the development of critical thinking skills that students can apply to their future courses, careers, and everyday life. In particular, the skills gained will be foundational to written work and oral presentations required in upper-year psychology courses.

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, discussion, and in-class activities. The lecture component will include PowerPoint slides that will be provided in advance on OWL. In-class activities will include completing worksheets as a group or individuals and then discussion of those activities. Topics will follow the schedule given below, and there will be corresponding readings for each lecture in the required textbook. There will be material presented in class that is not present in the 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. Any changes to the schedule will be announced in class and on Owl.

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. The labs may include a lecture component to introduce a topic, but will primarily involve in-class activities. You will gain experience working with primary research articles in psychology and communicating studies orally and in writing. You will also propose an original research study based on prior published work and complete ethics documents for the study.

Copyright and Intellectual Property

PowerPoint lecture slides and notes, lists of readings, in-class activities, assignment guidelines, and other components of the course materials are typically the intellectual property of the instructor. Unauthorized reproduction through audio-recording, video-recording, photographing, sharing on social media, or posting on course-sharing websites is an infringement of copyright and is prohibited. Such action may be considered a Code of Conduct violation and lead to sanctions.

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 component

Exams cover class material: There will be two non-cumulative tests in this course. Tests are based on lecture material and the course textbook. Tests are equally weighted, so each contributes 25% to the final course mark (2 exams x 25% = 50% for class component). Exams may include questions in several formats, including multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, definitions, and short answer. All exams are closed book with no aids allowed. Without exception, students are required to take both exams in the course in order to earn a passing overall mark. Make-up exams require approval by an academic counselor. Make-ups may consist of any of the above question formats or essay questions.

Lab component

Oral presentation – 8%

The oral presentation will be performed in groups to be assigned by the instructor. Each group will pick a primary research article from a provided list of preapproved articles to present to the class using PowerPoint. In addition, the group should note any shortcomings in the study's design and the interpretation by the authors and propose new research to address shortcomings and/or extend the work to a further research question of interest. Every member of the group will receive the same mark. Each member of the group must participate (i.e. talk) in the presentation.

Research proposal & Ethics documents – 38% total

In the second half of the course, each student will individually generate an original research proposal of 8-10 pages. The proposal will follow APA style guidelines and build on published research on a topic in psychology of the student's choice. There will be time allotted during lab for feedback on your proposal from your peers. You will also prepare ethics documents for your study. All written work in this course must be submitted in hard copy for and through dropbox on the OWL site.

The proposal will be completed in a series of assignments:

1. *Statement of Topic & list of 5 relevant references* (with justification for their inclusion) = 3%
2. *Introduction outline*, including brief discussion of proposed methodology = 10%
3. *Final proposal*, including ethics documents = 25%

Participation – 4%

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 and lecture activities, including asking questions and actively providing feedback during group oral presentations, and reporting on your progress and soliciting feedback for your proposal in small groups and with the instructor. Please note that "participation" is not simply talking a lot in class; it is providing *thoughtful* comments and feedback in a way that does not monopolize the discussion.

In addition, attendance at oral presentations by other groups is mandatory, as feedback and discussion of research are an integral part of the research process and skills you are expected to acquire in this course.

Evaluation Breakdown:

Component	Weight	Date/ Deadline	Brescia Competencies
Lecture: Midterm Exam	25%	Oct 24 th In class	Critical Thinking, Inquiry & Analysis
Lecture: Final Exam	25%	TBA	Critical Thinking, Inquiry & Analysis

Lab: Research Proposal <i>(Components below are part of the proposal)</i>	38%		Critical Thinking, Inquiry & Analysis, Communication, Valuing
Topic List	3%	Nov 9 th	
Outline	10%	Nov 16 th	
Final Proposal	25%	Dec 7 th	
Lab: Presentation	8%	Oct 12 th Oct 19 th	Communication, Critical Thinking, Valuing
Lab: Participation	4%	Ongoing	Communication

Academic Accommodation

For course components worth 10% or more of the total course grade, please see the Academic Policies and Regulations section at the end of this course outline or consult the Academic Calendar.

For course components worth less than 10% of the total course grade, documentation is not required. Whenever possible students should provide notification in advance of due dates or absence. If advance notification is not possible, the course instructor should be contacted within two business days.

Course Content

The course will follow the schedule provided below. The material for later weeks builds on material from previous weeks, so material from early weeks in the course will frequently be revisited in later lectures/labs.

Weekly Organizer:

Class/Week	Date	Lecture	Textbook Readings	Date	Lab
1	Sept 12th	Overview/Scientific Method	Ch. 1	Sept 14th	Psychology as a Science
2	Sept 19th	Research Ethics	Ch. 15	Sept 21st	The literature of Psychology; group assignments
3	Sept 26th	Non-experimental designs	Ch. 13 Ch. 14	Sept 28th	How to present an article (1 hour), Literature Review

					tutorial in computer lab (1 hour)
4	Oct 3rd	Surveys & Sampling	Ch. 3 (sections 3.1 & 3.2) Ch. 4 (sections 4.3 & 4.4) Ch. 5	Oct 5th	Group meetings
5	Oct 10th	Thanksgiving Holiday		Oct 12th	Article presentations (8%)
6	Oct 17th	Correlational Research	Ch. 7	Oct 19th	Article presentations (8%); Research proposal requirements
7	Oct 24th	Exam 1 (25%) during class; covers lecture and textbook material from weeks 1-6		Oct 26th	APA format; Plagiarism
8	Oct 31st	Reading Week		Nov 2nd	Reading Week
9	Nov 7th	Formulating the Hypothesis/ Experimentation pt. 1	Ch. 9	Nov 9th	Proposal topic & list of 5 relevant articles (3%) due; Outlining
10	Nov 14th	Experimentation, pt. 2	Ch. 2 Ch. 3 (Sections 3.3 & 3.4) Ch. 9 (sections 9.4 – 9.8)	Nov 16th	Outline due (10%); small group study design discussions
11	Nov 21st	Controls	Ch. 13 (section 13.7.1)	Nov 23rd	Ethics: process and package requirements
12	Nov 28th	Basic between-subjects design	Ch. 10 (Section 10.1)	Nov 30th	Proposal Checklist & Introduction to computer programming for research

13	Dec 5th	Why we need statistics	Ch. 6 Ch. 11 (Sections 11.1 & 11.2)	Dec 7th	Research proposals & Ethics packages (25%) due; Course Debrief
December Exam Period (Dec 10-22)		Exam 2 (25%; Lectures) covers lecture material and textbook from weeks 9-13			

2022-23 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

The complete policy regarding Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students can be found at https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_135

Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions which may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities should seek Academic Accommodation through Student Accessibility Services (https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_10).

Personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

Students who experience an illness or extenuating circumstance sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

1. For medical absences, submitting a **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)** signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner;
2. For non-medical absences, submitting **appropriate documentation** (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to their Academic Advisor. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Advisor to clarify what documentation is acceptable.

Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation.

Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

The following conditions apply for students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds:

1. Students must submit their Student Medical Certificate (SMC) along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after

the date specified for resuming responsibilities. An SMC can be downloaded from https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf;

2. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Advisor for advice during their recovery period;
3. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, scheduled tests or examinations, and other academic requirements;
4. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the SMC to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence;
5. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the course instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements, arranging Special Exams (make-ups), re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawal without academic penalty.

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds are not normally considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor (https://brescia.uwo.ca/enrolment_services/academic_advising/book_an_appointment.php). If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines; please contact your Academic Advisor or see the list of sessional dates in the Academic Calendar (<https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>).

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Please note that for asynchronous online courses, attendance or participation requirements may be different than for synchronous or in-person courses.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work, and arrange academic accommodations if appropriate and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory

(https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_64).

4. SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence at:

https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20.

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, they may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, they may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal and if the matter falls within the jurisdiction of the SRBA. For information on academic appeals consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the Academic Calendar

https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14.

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices.

6. PREREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written Special Permission from the Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

7. SUPPORT

Support Services

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. Students can access supports through Brescia's Student Life Centre (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/student-life/>) and Learning Development & Success at Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/>).

Mental Health and Wellness

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can obtain information about how to obtain help for yourself or others through **Health & Wellness at Brescia**, https://brescia.uwo.ca/student_life/health_and_wellness/index.php and **Health and Wellness at Western**, http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html.

Sexual Violence

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at https://brescia.uwo.ca/safe_campus/sexual_violence/index.php.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy, and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.
