

**PSY309H5F – Experimental Design and Theory PRA9201**

**Monday 12:00pm – 3:00pm**

**Online Synchronous**

**Course Delivery**

Monday synchronous sessions will be held on **Zoom** and will involve interactive activities with classmates. Lectures will be pre-recorded and posted in **Quercus** BEFORE class on Mondays (by the Wednesday preceding class). The first lecture will not be pre-recorded.

Learn Anywhere Guide for Students: <https://library.utm.utoronto.ca/students/quercus/learn-anywhere>  
University of Toronto tech [requirements for online learning](#)

**Contact Information**

**Course Instructors:**

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**Office hours:** Virtual via Zoom **Fridays at 2pm**. This room will have a waiting room, you will be admitted in order of arrival. I will do my best to update you on wait times.

<https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/83632494007>

(Be sure to register for a UTM Zoom account at <https://utoronto.zoom.us>)

**Course Description**

You will learn how to overcome practical problems in research design, as well as how to interpret and critically evaluate research findings. You will also gain experience in the processes involved in collecting and analyzing data and in writing a research paper.

Prerequisite: PSY201H5, 202H5 or equivalent, 1.0 credit in PSY at the 200 level

Exclusion: PSY309H1

**Reading Material**

Research Methods in Psychology (4th edition) by Beth Morling; ISBN 978-0-393-53634-8.

\*Previous editions are very similar; however, I cannot ensure that past texts cover all of the tested material.

**Course Evaluation**

In class work 15% total		Class Project 45% total		Tests 40% total	
Quizzes	5%	Literature review	10%	Test 1	20%
Labs	10%	Proposals	6%	Test 2	20%
		Poster	4%		
		Final Paper	25%		

**Quizzes** will be administered at the start of class (12:10pm) and will cover textbook readings and lecture materials for that week (the pre-recorded lecture posted after last class). There are no make-ups, but your lowest

scoring quiz will be dropped. For example, Week 2 lecture (Research Foundations for Any Claim) will be posted on Quercus by September 15<sup>th</sup>. Your in-class quiz for Week 2 (September 20<sup>th</sup>) will cover this pre-recorded lecture and Chapters 4 and 5.

**Weekly labs** will cover readings and lecture material and will be completed in class with your groups. A major component of research and in turn, this course, is collaborative learning with colleagues. To foster collaborative learning, in-class time will be largely spent in a small group with your peers. However, your individual lab will be submitted individually. Note that part of your grade will be based on your group members' feedback about your engagement in the group. Answer keys will be provided as soon as labs are due so that you can check your work prior to class and/or tests. Because answer keys are provided, late work will not be accepted. Lab make-ups will be a six-page, double spaced summary of the reading and lecture material due one week after the missed lab assignment. The grade for this summary will be based on the accuracy of the summary and coherence of the writing. Keep in mind that essay grading will be prioritized behind labs and final project deadlines – please do not ask your TA for your grade on a lab make-up assignment, they will provide this grade when they have a chance.

**Class Project** includes a few components that culminates into a final poster presentation and paper. Please see the final project summary on Quercus.

**Tests** will be completed during the class period and will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.

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### Learning Outcomes

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

- Identify and evaluate reputable sources of information.
- Critically evaluate the validity of research designs and the quality of empirical evidence in scientific papers.
- Explain the scientific process through which a theory is tested.
- Analyze and identify important patterns in data and draw inferences from them.
- Design correlational and experimental studies that appropriately, and rigorously, test a theory.
- Communicate clearly the strengths and limitations of research designs.

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### Course Webpage

**The website associated with this course is accessible via <http://q.utoronto.ca>**

**Note:** You don't need to create a new login for Quercus; it already knows who you are. You just need your UTORid and password. This is the same login that gets you onto the wireless network with your laptop, and the same one that you use to check your email. If you're confused about your UTORid or don't remember your password, go to: <https://www.utorid.utoronto.ca/>

In order to access course material, monitor course information, and view your grades you must log into Quercus. If you have any general questions regarding Quercus, please visit the following help site: <https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/46670/pages/student-quercus-guide>

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### IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES **\*\*PLEASE READ\*\***

#### **Missed Test Special Consideration Request Process**

Students who miss a test due to circumstances beyond their control (e.g. illness or an accident) can request that the Department grant them special consideration. Students must present their case to the Department (NOT the Instructor) by submitting a request via the online Special Consideration Request form at:

<https://utmapp.utm.utoronto.ca/SpecialRequest>.

**Important note:** Once the test/exam is available online and you're unable to write or have an approved request to miss, **DO NOT** at any point attempt to access the test/exam. If at any time you access the test/exam, you will **NOT** be able to submit a special consideration and/or your request will be refused.

If your request is approved by the department, a make-up test will be offered. You will receive an email when a make-up date has been arranged. The department will try to give 2-3 days notice of make-up date, however sometimes this is not possible. **Be prepared for the make-up.**

### **Extension of Time Special Consideration Request Process**

Students who seek to be granted more time to complete their term work beyond the due date without penalty, owing to circumstances beyond their control (e.g., illness, or an accident), must do so by submitting a request **directly to the Instructor** for the period up to and including the last day of the term. The decision as to whether or not to apply a penalty for the specified period rests with the Instructor.

Students who seek to be granted more time to complete term work beyond the last day of the term must submit their request directly to the Department. This request covers the period following the last day of classes and ends the last day of the exam period. This is done by submitting a request via the online Special Consideration Request form at <https://utmapp.utm.utoronto.ca/SpecialRequest>. You are advised to seek advising by the departmental Undergraduate Counsellor prior to the deadline.

### **Supporting Documentation**

The University is temporarily suspending the need for a doctor's note or medical certificate for any absence from academic participation. However, you are required to use the Absence Declaration tool on ACORN found in the Profile and Settings menu to formally declare an absence from academic participation. The tool is to be used if you require consideration for missed academic work based on the procedures specific to our campus/department.

### **Missed Final Exam or Extension of Time beyond exam period**

Missed final exams or for extensions of time beyond the examination period you must submit a petition through the Office of the Registrar. <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/registrar/current-students/petitions> and follow their procedures.

### **Penalties for Lateness**

A penalty of 10% per calendar day (i.e., including week-ends and holidays, during which students are not able to submit term work) up to and including the last day of classes, will be applied by the Instructor. After the last day of classes, the penalty of 10% per calendar day will be applied by the Undergraduate Counsellor on behalf of the Department. No penalty will be assigned if request for special consideration, described above, was successful.

### **Academic Guidelines**

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have met all prerequisites listed in the UTM Calendar for this course. If you lack any prerequisites you **WILL BE REMOVED** from the course up until the last day to add a course. Further information about academic regulations, course withdrawal dates and credits can be found in the University of Toronto Mississauga Calendar at: <http://www.erin.utoronto.ca/regcal/>.

You are encouraged to read this material. If you run into trouble and need advice about studying, preparing for exams, note taking or time management, free workshops and advice are available from the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre at 905-828-5406.

## **AccessAbility Services**

The University provides academic accommodations for students with disabilities in accordance with the terms of the Ontario Human Rights Code. This occurs through a collaborative process that acknowledges a collective obligation to develop an accessible learning environment that both meets the needs of students and preserves the essential academic requirements of the University's courses and programs. Students requiring academic accommodations for learning, physical, sensory, or mental health disabilities or medical conditions should contact the AccessAbility Office (2037B Davis Building), 905-828-3847.

<http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/accessability/>

## **Privacy and Copyright Disclaimer**

### ***Notice of video recording and sharing (Download and re-use prohibited)***

This course, including your participation, will be recorded on video and will be available to students in the course for viewing remotely and after each session. Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other sources depending on the specific facts of each situation, and are protected by copyright. Do not download, copy, or share any course or student materials or videos without the explicit permission of the instructor. For questions about recording and use of videos in which you appear please contact your instructor.

## **Academic Honesty and Plagiarism**

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto Mississauga is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, UTM treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously.

The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters outlines behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the process for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

### **In papers and assignments:**

1. Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
2. Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
3. Making up sources or facts.
4. Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

### **On tests and exams:**

1. Using or possessing unauthorized aids.
2. Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test.
3. Misrepresenting your identity.

### **In academic work:**

1. Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
2. Falsifying or altering any documentation required, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

With regard to remote learning and online courses, UTM wishes to remind students that they are expected to adhere to **the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters** regardless of the course delivery method. By offering students the opportunity to learn remotely, UTM expects that students will maintain the same academic honesty and integrity that they would in a classroom setting. Potential academic offences in a digital context include, but are not limited to:

## Remote assessments:

1. Accessing unauthorized resources (search engines, chat rooms, Reddit, etc.) for assessments.
2. Using technological aids (e.g. software) beyond what is listed as permitted in an assessment.
3. Posting test, essay, or exam questions to message boards or social media.
4. Creating, accessing, and sharing assessment questions and answers in virtual “course groups.”
5. Working collaboratively, in-person or online, with others on assessments that are expected to be completed individually.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources.

## Academic Rights

You, as a student at UTM, have the right to:

- Receive a syllabus by the first day of class.
- Rely upon a syllabus once a course is started. An instructor may only change marks' assignments by following the University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy provision 1.3.
- Refuse to use turnitin.com (you must be offered an alternative form of submission).
- Have access to your instructor for consultation during a course or follow up with the department chair if the instructor is unavailable.
- Ask the person who marked your term work for a re-evaluation if you feel it was not fairly graded. You have up to one month from the date of return of the item to inquire about the mark. If you are not satisfied with a re-evaluation, you may appeal to the instructor in charge of the course if the instructor did not mark the work. If your work is remarked, you must accept the resulting mark. You may only appeal a mark beyond the instructor if the term work was worth at least 20% of the course mark.
- Receive at least one significant mark (15% for H courses, 25% for Y courses) before the last day you can drop a course for H courses, and the last day of classes in the first week of January for Y courses taught in the Fall/Winter terms.
- Submit handwritten essays so long as they are neatly written.
- Have no assignment worth 100% of your final grade.
- Not have a term test worth more than 25% in the last two weeks of class.
- Retain intellectual property rights to your research.
- Receive all your assignments once graded.
- View your final exams. To see a final exam, you must submit an online Exam Reproduction Request within 6 months of the exam. There is a small non-refundable fee.
- Privacy of your final grades.
- Arrange for representation from Downtown Legal Services (DLS), a representative from the UTM Students' Union (UTMSU), and/or other forms of support if you are charged with an academic offence.

## Equity Statement

The University of Toronto is committed to equity and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect. As a course instructor, I will neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual in this course and wish to be alerted to any attempt to create an intimidating or hostile environment. It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Discrimination, harassment and hate speech will not be tolerated. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns you may contact the UTM Equity and Diversity officer at [edo.utm@utoronto.ca](mailto:edo.utm@utoronto.ca) or the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union

Vice President Equity at [vpequity@utmsu.ca](mailto:vpequity@utmsu.ca).

*Please note that this outline is subject to change depending on the needs of the class (we may need additional time to cover a topic). Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in class one week before. However, assignment and test dates are fixed.*

For extra credit (5 points on your first test), please email your TA a beautiful (in your view) nature scene (photograph, artwork), using the subject line "Please accept my extra credit assignment." This has to be received before October 1<sup>st</sup> (11:59pm).

## Course Outline

Dates			Topics	Reading	Quizzes	*Weekly Labs	*Final Project Deadlines
Week 1	September	13	Introduction to Psychological Thinking	1, 2, 3	---	Lab 1	
Week 2	September	20	Research Foundations for Any Claim	4, 5	Quiz 1	Lab 2	
Week 3	September	27	Writing	Pg 523-561	Quiz 2	Lab 3	
Week 4	October	4	Frequency Claims	6, 7	Quiz 3	Lab 4	
Week 5	October	11	Reading Week				
Week 6	October	18	Test 1				Literature review due (Oct 22)
Week 7	October	25	Association Claims: Correlational Design 1	8	Quiz 4	Lab 5	Association proposal due (Oct 29)
Week 8	November	1	Association Claims: Correlational Design 2	9	Quiz 5	Lab 6	
Week 9	November	8	Causal Claims: Experimental Design 1	10, 11	Quiz 6	Lab 7	Experiment proposal due (Nov 12)
Week 10	November	15	Causal Claims: Experimental Design 2	12	Quiz 7	Lab 8	
Week 11	November	22	Quasi-Experiments	13,14	Quiz 8	Lab 9	
Week 12	November	29	Test 2				
Week 13	December	6	Poster day				Paper and electronic version of poster due <b>DEC 6<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm.</b>

\*Labs and final project deadlines are **Friday @11:59** -- except for the paper and poster which are **due on Monday, Dec 6 at 5pm**

