

# PSY309H5F – Experimental Design and Theory

Monday 3:00pm – 6:00pm

Room Location: CC 3160 (CCIT Building)

## Contact Information

**Professor Erika Carlson**

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**Office Hours** Mondays 2-3 or by appointment  
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**Teaching Assistant:**

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**Office Hours** by appointment

## 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) by Beth Morling; ISBN 0393936937, 9780393936933

Posted readings on Blackboard

APA Manual 6<sup>th</sup> edition

## Course Evaluation

Testing	55% total	Class Project	35% total	Labs	10% total
Test 1	25%	Literature review	5%	Weekly group	
Test 2	25%	Proposals	5%	work	
Quizzes	5%	Poster	5%		
		Final Paper	20%		

## Course Webpage

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

Note: You don't need to create a new login for Blackboard; 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 Blackboard. If you have any general questions regarding Blackboard, please visit the following help site:

<http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/students.htm>

## 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>.

Students are to submit original supporting documentation (e.g., medical certificates, accident reports, etc.) to the Psychology Academic Counselor or drop it in the drop box located outside the Psychology office, Deerfield Hall, 4th Floor. Students have up-to one week from the date of the missed test to submit request. Late submissions will NOT be considered without a letter of explanation specifying and documenting the reasons for the lateness.

Medical certificates or physician's notes must be completed by the Physician and MUST include the statement "This Student [name] was unable to write the test on [date(s)] for medical reasons". This documentation must show that the physician was consulted within one the day of the missed term test. A statement merely acknowledging a report of illness made by the student to the physician is NOT acceptable. For further information on this procedure please see: <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/psychology/undergraduate-studies/missed-tests/late-submissions>

If you missed your test/assignment deadline for a reason connected to your registered disability, please be advised that the department will accept documentation supplied by the UTM AccessAbility Resource Centre.

**IMPORTANT:** The Department of Psychology verifies the authenticity of medical certificates by contacting medical offices. Students are NOT to make any changes or alteration to completed medical certificates. Students who submit forged or altered documentation are subject to severe academic penalties.

**If your request is approved by the department, a make-up test will be offered within 2 weeks of the original test date.** You will receive an email when a make-up date has been arranged. The department will try and give 2-3 days notice of make-up date, however this is sometimes 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.**

Original supporting documentation (e.g., medical certificates, accident reports, etc.) must be submitted to the Psychology Academic Counselor or dropped off in the drop box located outside the Psychology office Deerfield Hall, 4th Floor. Students are expected to submit requests to the Department before the last day of the term, unless demonstrably serious reasons prevent them from doing so. In the event of an illness, medical certificates or doctor's notes must confirm that student was ill on the due date of the assignment (for a one-day extension). For a longer extension, documentation must specify the full duration during which academic work could not be carried out.

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>

### **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

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/>

## Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Honesty and fairness are considered fundamental to the university's mission, and, as a result, all those who violate those principles are dealt with as if they were damaging the integrity of the university itself. When students are suspected of cheating or a similar academic offence, they are typically surprised at how formally and seriously the matter is dealt with - and how severe the consequences can be if it is determined that cheating did occur. The University of Toronto treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. Please take the time to review the Academic Integrity website:

<http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/academic-integrity/students.>

- Common trends in academic offences:
- Plagiarizing/concocted references
- Collaboration/unauthorized assistance
- Purchasing work
- Recycling work - "double-dipping"
- Resubmitting of altered work for re-grading
- Electronic devices (cell phones) or any unauthorized aids
- Altering medical certificates and UofT documents

From the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters: "It shall be an offence for a student to knowingly: represent as one's own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work, i.e. to commit plagiarism. Wherever in the Code an offence is described as depending on "knowing", the offence shall likewise be deemed to have been committed if the person ought reasonably to have known." All students must refer to this website to obtain information on what constitutes plagiarism.

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize.>

If questions arise after reading the material on the website, consult your instructor.

**Plagiarism will not be tolerated.**

## 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).

## **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 25% or more 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.

### **You will be asked to submit assignments via Turnitin.**

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site"

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, the assignment and test dates are fixed.

## Course Outline

Dates			Topics	Reading	Quizzes DUE: Mondays 3pm	Weekly Labs DUE: Fridays, 11:59 pm	Final Project Deadlines
Week 1	September	11	FUNDAMENTALS REPLICABILITY	Chapters 1, 2, 4	Quiz 1	Lab 1	
Week 2	September	18	MEASUREMENT RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY	Chapters 3, 5	Quiz 2	Lab 2	
Week 3	September	25	OBSERVATIONAL DESIGNS	Chapters 6, 7	Quiz 3	Lab 3	Research Topic Sept 29, 11:59pm
Week 4	October	2	WRITING <i>Guest Speaker</i>	TBA	Quiz 4	--	
Week 5	October	9	Thanksgiving (No Class) Reading Week		--	--	Literature Review Oct 13, 11:59pm
Week 6	October	16	<b>TEST 1</b>		--	--	
Week 7	October	23	CORRELATIONAL DESIGN	Chapter 8	Quiz 5	Lab 4	Correlational Proposal Oct 27, 11:59pm
Week 8	October	30	CORRELATIONAL DESIGN	Chapter 9	Quiz 6	Lab 5	<i>Feedback due</i> Nov 3, 11:59pm
Week 9	November	6	EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN	Chapters 10-11	Quiz 7	Lab 6	Experimental Proposal Nov 10, 11:59pm
Week 10	November	13	EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN	Chapter 12	Quiz 8	Lab 7	<i>Feedback due</i> Nov 17, 11:59pm
Week 11	November	20	QUASI- EXPERIMENTS	Chapters 13-14	Quiz 9	Lab 8	
Week 12	November	27	<b>TEST 2</b>				
Week 13	December	4	Poster Day		Quiz 10 <i>poster ratings</i>		Paper and Poster due Dec 4, <b>5pm</b>

**Tests** (50% of your grade) will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Typically, these sections comprise 1/3 of the test each. You will have 2.5 hours to complete tests.

**Quizzes** (5% of your grade) will be administered in class, at the end of class, and will cover textbook readings and lecture materials for that week. The rationale behind quizzing is not punishment! Rather, this approach is based on a large body of empirical work showing that testing (instead of just re-reading material) fosters learning. However, this method is most effective when answers are presented immediately after testing. As such, there are no make up quizzes and your lowest scoring quiz will be dropped.

**Weekly labs** (10% of your grade) will be administered on Blackboard and will be based on both readings and lecture material. Labs will be made available at 3pm on the day of the lecture and will be due by the end of the day on Friday, the week of the lecture. You will work with group members in class (and continue to do so outside of class if you wish). Your submission will be your own, but you can discuss your answers with classmates. Answer keys will be provided over the weekend so that you can check your work prior to class and/or tests. Because answer keys are provided to the class for study purposes, late work will not be accepted and we will not create specialized assignments if you miss a lab.

You must obtain proper documentation if you miss a lab or a quiz (remember, you can drop your lowest scoring quiz, so you might not need a letter for a quiz), otherwise your score is a zero. If you miss a lab (or a quiz) and receive departmental approval for the missed work, the points you would have received for the lab will be redistributed to the test covering the missed material (i.e., that test will count for more points).

**Class Project** (35% of your grade). See Blackboard for specific details about this project. Your project will be completed in small chunks rather than turned in all at once. Specifically, you will a) submit your topic idea, b) conduct a literature review, c) submit proposals, d) receive peer feedback on those proposals, and e) present your work in a poster and a final paper. Each component adds up to a total of 35% of your grade.