

PSYC 2102-001  
U2017W  
TuTh 8:30am-9:45am  
Room 4C40

# Introduction to Research Methods

## *In this syllabus*

Instructor & Course Description	1
Learning Tools	1
Grades & Exams	2
Course Policies & Resources	3
Course Schedule	4

## Your Instructor



### Michelle Crease Lark

I am a PhD Candidate in Cognitive Science at the University of British Columbia. I specialize in memory for plans and future activities.

**Instructors' Office:** Room 4L17 N

**Instructors' Office Hours:** Thursdays, 9:45AM – 10:45AM

**Instructor's Email Address:** m.creaselark@uwinnipeg.ca

## Your Course Description and Learning Goals

This course introduces basic research designs. Topics include observation and measurement, reliability and validity, balanced coverage of experimental and non-experimental design strategies, control of extraneous variables, generalizability, and research communication. The lab component provides an opportunity to apply knowledge to research experiences that sample from representative areas of psychology.

### **Learning Goals:**

1. Describe basic characteristics of the science of psychology.
2. Explain, compare, and contrast various research methods used by psychologists, including their key characteristics, strengths and limitations.
3. Know and follow ethical guidelines in all aspects of scholarly work (e.g., literature search, research design, data collection, analysis, interpretation, reporting).
4. Use critical thinking effectively (e.g., evaluate the quality of information from various sources; challenge claims that arise from untested assumptions).
5. Understand the application of descriptive and inferential statistics to various experimental designs.

## Your Learning Tools

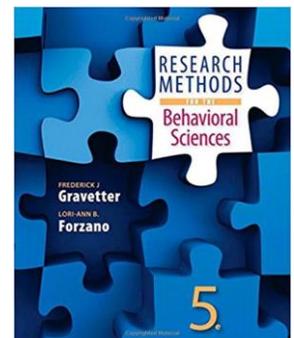
### **Required Textbook:**

Gravetter, F. J., & Forzano, L. B. (2015). *Research Methods for the Behavioral Sciences: 5<sup>th</sup> Edition*. I do not recommend that you use any other edition of the textbook as there may be differences in material. You may purchase a hard copy (used or new) from the bookstore. You may also purchase the electronic only version at <http://www.nelsonbrain.com/shop/index.html>

### **Course Website:**

The Nexus website is: <https://nexus.uwinnipeg.ca/d2l/home/21279>

This site is where I will post lecture slides AFTER class. Other course materials (e.g., this syllabus, additional readings, supplemental activities) and announcements (e.g., minor changes to topics) will also be accessed here. The Nexus site is also where you can contact classmates.



## Your Grades

Letter Grade	Grade Range
A+	Instructor's discretion
A	85% and above
A-	80-84%
B+	75-79%
B	70-74%
C+	65-69%
C	60-64%
D	50-59%
F	0-49%

Requirement	Date	Percentage
Midterm 1	Jan 30	20%
Midterm 2	Mar 8	20%
Final Exam	Apr 19	40%
Lab component	Ongoing	20%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**NOTE:** Grade cut-offs are tentative and subject to change in either direction by:

- i) the instructor
- ii) the departmental review committee
- iii) the Senate

*"Taking a memory test not only assesses what one knows, but also enhances later retention, a phenomenon known as the testing effect"*

*-Henry L. Roediger III*

### Exams:

Each midterm is worth 20% of your final grade and the final is worth 40%. Each exam will be composed similarly, mostly multiple choice questions as well as some fill in the blank and/or short answer questions. Exams will include material from lectures and the textbook. Be warned... lecture slides are NOT a substitute for attending class.

The midterm exams are not cumulative. Midterm 1 will cover everything from the beginning of the term up to and including lecture 7. Midterm 2 will cover everything from lecture 8 up to and including lecture 16. The final exam will be cumulative, however more focus will be on material covered since midterm 2.

## Exam Policies

### During Exams

Every exam will require you to fill out a Scantron sheet in response to multiple choice questions, and therefore it is your responsibility to bring a pencil and eraser to every exam. Pens and standard calculators are also acceptable. You must bring your student ID with you to every exam. You will not be allowed to write the exam if you are more than 30 minutes late, or if another student has already submitted his/her exam if that occurs first. You may not leave the room (e.g., to use the bathroom) unless you have provided me with medical documentation 24 hours prior to the exam indicating a medical condition that might require you to leave the room. When time is called at the end of the exam, you must immediately stop writing, remain quiet and follow the instructions for submitting your exam. This means you will not be given extra time to put your name and/or student ID on your Scantron form or exam, change an answer, etc. Failure to comply with any of these instructions will result in a '0' on your exam.

**Important: Please do not give any reason to suspect cheating during an exam. Keep your eyes on your own paper and store any notes, cell phones, or books completely out of sight.**

### Missing Exams

If you miss an exam for a medical reason, you must contact me before the exam to let me know. You must also provide medical documentation of the illness as soon as possible following the exam. You may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of your religion, but you must notify me at least two weeks in advance. A list of religious holidays can be found at: <http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/important-notes.pdf>. Should you miss an exam for any legitimate reason, we will make alternate arrangements (e.g., make-up exam or alternative assignment).

If you miss an exam for any other reason (e.g., work commitments, sleeping in, forgetting there was an exam, etc.) you will receive a '0' on the exam. **Absolutely no exceptions will be made.**

### Reviewing Exams

There will be an exam review period scheduled after the exam marks are released. I will run this review session, and will be available to answer any questions or concerns regarding your exams. Should you be unable to attend this review session, please contact me to make alternative arrangements to see your exam.

# COURSE POLICIES

## Lecture Policies

### Attendance

I expect you to attend every lecture. Lecture slides will be posted **after** class, but please note: **Posted lectures slides are NOT a substitute for attending lecture.** Exams will contain a significant amount of content only provided in lecture. I will number the lecture slides so that you can take notes corresponding to each slide during lecture. If you must miss a class, please contact your fellow classmates to obtain notes and/or information on what you missed. You may contact your classmates via the discussion forums on our course website.

### In the Classroom

Your behaviour in the classroom reflects on you as a person and student. I expect you to treat me, your fellow classmates, and anyone else that might be a part of our class with respect. This means being courteous and respectful when asking questions or making comments during class, and not monopolizing a discussion or question period. All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found online at [www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect)



## Email Policies

Email is a great way to get in touch with me. If you have a question related to the course content, policies, or any concerns regarding the course, I encourage you to contact me. Emails should contain the same respect and courtesy as the classroom. Student emails are very important to me, but I am not always available to respond. Please allow me a 24-hour window to respond to your email. Use the email address provided on page 1, and include **PSYC 2102** in the subject line.

**Important:** Each email should contain only **one question**. The questions should be fairly simple for clarification purposes. Should you have more than one question, or require more than simple clarification, I encourage you to make arrangements to come to office hours.

## Academic Misconduct

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of academic offenses. There is a section in the General Calendar on academic misconduct dealing with regulations on student discipline and grade appeals

<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf>.

Students facing a charge of academic or non-academic misconduct may choose to contact the University of Winnipeg Students' Association (UWSA) where a student advocate will be available to answer any questions about the process, help with building a case, and ensuring students have access to support. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit the website at [www.theuwsa.ca/academic-advocacy](http://www.theuwsa.ca/academic-advocacy), or call 204-786-9780.

*"I would prefer even to fail with honor than win by cheating."*

—Sophocles

## Accessibility Services & Other Useful Resources

Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 786-9771 or [accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca) to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential. <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>.

*"Be strong enough to stand alone, smart enough to know when you need help, and brave enough to ask for it."*

— Ziad K. Abdelnour

### Other Useful Resources:

**Academic Calendar:** <http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/>

**Academic Advising:** <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academic-advising/index.html>

**Exam Schedule:** <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/exam-schedules/>

**University of Winnipeg Students Association:** <http://theuwsa.ca>

## Course Schedule\*

Lecture	Day	Date	Topic	Readings	Notes
1	Th	4-Jan	Introduction Knowledge	Chapter 1	
2	Tu	9-Jan	The Scientific Method	Chapter 1	
3	Th	11-Jan	Research Ideas & Hypotheses	Chapter 2	
4	Tu	16-Jan	Measurement	Chapter 3	
5	Th	18-Jan	Participant Selection	Chapter 5	
6	Tu	23-Jan	Research Strategies	Chapter 6	
7	Th	25-Jan	Research Strategies, Validity	Chapter 9 (pp. 252-255)	
8	Tu	30-Jan	<b>Midterm 1</b>		<b>Covers Lectures 1 - 7</b>
9	Th	1-Feb	Descriptive Statistics	Chapter 15 (pp. 441-454)	
10	Tu	6-Feb	Inferential Statistics	Chapter 15 (pp. 460-494)	
11	Th	8-Feb	Inferential Statistics (cont.)		
12	Tu	13-Feb	Experimental Research	Chapter 7	
		<i>Wed 14-Feb</i>	<i>Last day to voluntarily withdraw from the course without academic penalty</i>		
13	Th	15-Feb	Between-Subjects Designs	Chapter 8	
<b>FEB 18 to 24 READING WEEK – NO CLASSES</b> <b>University closed on Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> for Louis Riel Day</b>					
14	Tu	27-Feb	Within-Subjects Designs	Chapter 9	
15	Th	1-Mar	Non-Experimental Designs	Chapter 10	
16	Tu	6-Mar	Non-Experimental Designs		
17	Th	8-Mar	<b>Midterm 2</b>		<b>Covers Lectures 9 - 16</b>
18	Tu	13-Mar	Factorial Designs	Chapter 11	
19	Th	15-Mar			
20	Tu	20-Mar	Correlational Research	Chapter 12	
21	Th	22-Mar	Correlation & Regression	Chapter 15 (pp. 454-460)	
22	Tu	27-Mar	Descriptive Research	Chapter 13	
23	Th	29-Mar	Single Subjects Research	Chapter 14	
		<i>Fri 30-Mar</i>	<i>University closed for Good Friday</i>		
24	Tu	3-Apr	Ethics	Chapter 4	
		<b>Thu 19-Apr 9AM</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>		<b>Cumulative, with more focus on lectures 12 - 18</b>

\*Changes to this schedule may be necessary; but all changes will be announced in class as well as on the course website. In circumstances where in-class announcements are not possible (e.g. emergency school closures), an email announcement will be sent.