

Psychology 2855F (530/531/532/533)
Research Methods in Psychology I
School of Behavioural and Social Sciences

General Information

Course #: PSY2855F
Section #: 530/531/532/533
Term: Fall
Year: 2020
Delivery: Asynchronous Online.

Instructor Information

Name: Elizabeth Kelly
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Office hours: TBA on OWL and by appointment.
Office location: Email, OWL Forums, and/or Zoom.

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): At least 60% in a 1000 level Psychology course.

Course Weight: 0.50

Learning Outcomes and 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).

Notes:

(i) Competency levels in brackets. "Students may vary in their competency levels on these outcomes. They can expect to achieve these outcomes if they honor course policies, attend classes regularly, complete all assigned work in good faith and on time, and meet all other course expectations of them as students" (Nilson, 2010, .37).

(ii) For a description of the Brescia Competencies, see: <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/brescia-competencies/>

Required Course Materials

- Myers, A., & Hansen, C. (2012). *Experimental psychology (7th ed.)*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.
 - Available in eBook (various subscription period options – 6 months, 1 year, etc.) and hardcover formats. The formats are identical in content and thus either can be used for the course.
 - Note that this textbook is also used for PSY2856G – Research Methods in Psychology II.
 - Any ancillary materials offered by the publisher to go with the textbook are optional.
- Students will also be expected to study supplemental readings made available on OWL.

Optional Course Materials

- American Psychological Association (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.)*. Washington, DC: Author.
- Obhi, S. S. (2016). *Success in seminars & tutorials: A guide for social science students*. Don Mills Ontario: Oxford University Press Canada.

Teaching Methodology and Expectations of Students

This course provides 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 an understanding of scientific findings in psychology, it is expected that Psychology 2855F/G 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 lecture and lab materials posted twice weekly. Note that the distinction between lecture and lab materials is not absolute and it is expected that information introduced in either will carry over to the other.

Content wise lecture slides and any corresponding files follow textbook readings and cover material that will be tested on the exams. Textbook topics will be reviewed, an organizational structure provided for note taking, and key concepts highlighted.

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 an original research study based on prior published work and complete ethics documents for the study. In terms of content lab slides and corresponding files focus on material that is integral for completing course components related to the research proposal project.

Registered students will see the course listed on the course OWL website. Information, handouts, PowerPoint slides, grades, etc., will be posted to OWL. It is the student's responsibility to check OWL regularly and to have an active UWO email account for all correspondence.

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 or other university faculty. 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: (i) exams covering class material and (ii) lab work. Each is worth 50% of the course final mark. **Note: students must pass both the lecture component and the lab component to receive a final passing mark in the course.**

Lecture Component

Exams: 2 x 25%

There will be two, non-cumulative exams in this course. The exams are equally weighted, so each contributes 25% to the final course mark (2 exams x 25% = 50% for lecture component). Exams will be held online. Times and dates will be announced on OWL as soon as they are scheduled by the University Registrar. Exams may include questions in several formats, including multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, definitions, and short answer. Without exception, students are required to take both exams in the course in order to earn a passing overall mark.

Make-up exams require submission of documentation to and approval by an Academic Advisor. Make-up exams may consist of any of the above question formats or essay questions. All make-up exams will be held online scheduled during the common make-up exam sitting at Brescia (usually on the Friday afternoon of the week following the exam).

Lab Component

Article presentation: 5%

In the first half of the course, students will perform a presentation. Students will pick a primary research article from the list provided to present. Students will provide an overview of the study selected, note any limitations of the study's design and/or the interpretation by the authors, and propose new research to address shortcomings and/or extend the work to a further research question of interest.

Review of presentations by other students 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. In order to complete all presentation requirements, students must therefore view other's presentations and provide feedback. Students who do not provide feedback on other's presentations, will have two marks (out of the total of five) deducted from the presentation component of their lab mark.

Research proposal & Ethics documents: 38% total

In the second half of the course, each student will individually generate an original research proposal of 6-8 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 opportunities 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 before the deadline to turnitin.com using the links on our course OWL website.

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: 7%

Participation activities will be posted on OWL weekly and due the following week. In the first half of the course participation activities will have a value of 0.5% each. These early participation activities are intended to help students develop the basic skills necessary for completion of the major research proposal project. In the second half of the course participation activities will range in value from 1-2% each and students will be provided with some flexibility to choose the type of participation activity they would like to engage in. There will be approximately eight to ten participation activities across the term (e.g., 6 worth 0.5% each, 2 worth 1% each, and 1 worth 2%). Participation activities will include tasks such as completing short exercises, reporting on internet searches, reflecting on group discussions, and/or taking part in psychology experiments.

Evaluation Summary

Course Component	Evaluation	Weight	Date
Lecture (50%)	Midterm Exam	25%	TBA (Oct. 19-23)
	Final Exam	25%	TBA (Dec. 11-22)
Lab (50%)	Article presentation	5%	Wednesday Oct. 7, 11:55pm
	Research proposal (38% total)		
	Research proposal topic & List of 5 relevant articles	3%	Wednesday Oct. 28, 11:55pm
	Research proposal outline	10%	Wednesday Nov. 18, 11:55pm
	Research proposal & Ethics documents	25%	Wednesday Dec. 2, 11:55pm
	Participation	7%	On-going - Wednesdays 11:55pm

Late Policy

Due dates in this course will be strictly enforced.

Participation activities submitted late will be subject to an immediate 50% mark deduction. Thus, for example, if you submit a participation activity that is worth 0.5% late you will receive 0.25%/0.5%.

Note that accommodation will not normally be considered for late participation activities.

All other course components that are submitted late will be subject to a 10% mark deduction. For example, for a Wednesday due date: work submitted Thursday -10%, work submitted Friday -20%, and work submitted Monday -50% (Note: weekends count as 2 days!).

Accommodation for late work or missed exams will only be provided with the approval of an Academic Advisor. There are no exceptions to this rule. Such accommodation must be requested before, on or near (within a few days of) the due date.

Reminder

This course is designated as an essay course. Senate regulations for a half-year essay course include that: “in order to pass the course, the student must exhibit some minimal level of competence in essay writing and the appropriate level of knowledge of the content of the course”. Also, as noted under “Evaluation” (above), students **must pass both the lecture component and the lab component to receive a final passing mark in the course**. It is your responsibility to ensure that you complete **all** required aspects of evaluation to pass both components of the course.

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 will be required. Medical or other supporting documentation should be submitted to your Academic Advisor.

Course Content / Schedule

Topics will follow the schedule. Both lecture and lab sessions will also introduce material that is not in the textbook. Additional material for reading and/or discussions will be distributed on OWL. You are responsible for all the material from lectures and labs as well as the material in the textbook. Any exceptions and/or changes to the schedule will be announced on OWL.

Week	Material	Topic	Reading
Sept. 9-11			
	Lecture	Overview / Scientific method	Ch. 1
Sept. 14-18	Lecture	Psychology as a science	Ch. 1
	Lecture	Research ethics	Ch. 2
Sept. 21-25	Lecture	The literature of psychology	Ch. 2
	Lecture	Non-experimental designs	Ch. 3
Sept. 28- Oct. 2	Lab	PsychINFO tutorial / How to present an article	
	Lecture	Surveys & Sampling	Ch. 4
Oct. 5-9	Lab	Article presentation preparation	
	Lab	Article presentation due (5%)	
Oct. 12-16	Lecture	Correlational research	Ch. 5
	Lab	Research proposal requirements	
Oct. 19-23		Midterm Exam (25%) - Chapters 1-5 plus lectures	
Oct. 26-30	Lecture	Formulating the hypothesis / Experimentation part 1	Ch. 6 & 7
	Lab	Outlining / Research proposal topic & List of 5 relevant articles due (3%)	
Nov. 2-6		<i>Reading Week</i>	
		<i>Reading Week</i>	
Nov. 9-13	Lecture	Experimentation part 2	Ch. 7
	Lab	APA format / Plagiarism	
Nov. 16-20	Lecture	Controlling variables	Ch. 8
	Lab	Ethics: Process and package requirements / Research proposal outline due (10%)	
Nov. 23-27	Lecture	Basic between-subjects designs	Ch. 9
	Lab	Proposal checklist	
Nov. 30- Dec. 4	Lecture	Why we need statistics	Ch. 13
	Lab	Course debrief / Research proposal & Ethics documents due (25%)	
Dec. 7- Dec. 9	Lecture	Catch-up / Review	
TBA (Dec. 11-22)		Final Exam (25%) - Chapters 6-9 & 13 plus lectures	

2020-21 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

The complete policy regarding [Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12) can be found at http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12.

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 (http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&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. Submitting a **Self-Reported Absence** form provided that the conditions for submission are met;
2. For medical absences, submitting a **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)** signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner;
3. 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.

Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Portal

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance of 48 hours or less that is sufficiently severe to render them unable to meet academic requirements should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours. Note that the excused absence includes all courses and academic requirements within the up to 48 hours, it is not intended to provide an excused absence from a single course while students fulfill their academic responsibilities in other courses during that time.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

1. Students will be allowed **a maximum of two self-reported absences** between September and April and one self-reported absence between May and August;
2. The duration of the absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm;
3. The excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period if the student undertakes significant academic responsibilities (writes a test, submits a paper) during that time;
4. Self-reported absences will **not** be allowed for scheduled final examinations; midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations scheduled during the final week of term;
5. Self-report absences may **not** be used for assessments worth more than 30% of any course;
6. Any absences in excess of 48 hours will require students to present a Student Medical Certificate (SMC), or appropriate documentation;
7. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24** hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

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 http://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.

The [full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness](#) can be viewed at:

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12

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. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines; please refer to the [Registrar's website](#), <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official sessional dates in the Academic Calendar (<http://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 maybe 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 (http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_68).

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: http://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 (<http://www.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 http://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 Skills Services 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 **Mental Health & Wellness at Brescia** (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>) 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 <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/>.

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.
