



**Psychology 4850B – Advanced Methodology - Fall 2013**  
**Department of Psychology**

**Location:**

Tu, 3:05-5:45 pm, C610

**Co-Instructors:**

Dr. Margaret Forgie (D850)

Email: [forgie@uleth.ca](mailto:forgie@uleth.ca) (preferred contact)

Phone: (403) 329-2437

Dr. Stephanie Hancock (D854)

Email: [stephanie.hancock@uleth.ca](mailto:stephanie.hancock@uleth.ca)

Phone: (403) 394-3930

**Office Hours:** By individual appointment

**Course Dropbox:** adjacent to C866

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to give senior students the chance to engage in the process of conducting original research (rather than just reading about it or following someone else's research protocol). In other words, students will work towards designing and conducting a piece of primary research culminating in the preparation of a research manuscript of the type that you would read in a peer-referred journal. To that end, each class will focus on a specific stage of the research process (e.g., forming a testable hypothesis; picking a research design; collecting data), in a step-by-step fashion, and will consist of hands-on, in-class activities and out-of-class assignments. In other words, we will guide you through the process from start to finish. Students should note this is NOT a lecture-based course. The course is not suitable for students who cannot commit to attending every class, to spending a significant amount of time outside of class each week working on assignments and the major project, and to fully participating in a collaborative research effort.

**Prerequisite Courses and Background Preparation:**

The prerequisites for this course are Psychology 2030 AND four (4) additional courses (12.0 credit hours) in Psychology or Neuroscience (including two at the 3000-level), AND 4th year standing (a minimum of 90.0 credit hours completed). With respect to 3000-level courses, it is strongly recommended students have one course in Psychology (3.0 credit hours; designated Social Science), and one course in Psychology or Neuroscience (3.0 credit hours; designated Science). Students who do not have the required prerequisite courses (e.g., verified transfer credits) can be deregistered from the course without warning. In exceptional circumstances, a prerequisite waiver will be considered for a student who has adequate equivalent background. If you are considering requesting a waiver, please contact your instructors prior to the end of the add/drop period. Submitting a request for a waiver does not guarantee that you will receive one; each case will be evaluated individually, and you will have to provide supporting documentation for prior courses not taken at the U of L. At the 4000-level, students are expected to have a broad range of knowledge of the fundamentals of psychology and neuroscience; prerequisite courses are considered the minimum background preparation for this course.

**Required Texts:**

- Cozby, P.C. & Rawn, C.D. (2012). *Methods in behavioural research* (1st Canadian ed.). Toronto ON: McGraw-Hill Ryerson.
- Northey, M., & Timney, B. (2012). *Making sense in psychology: A student's guide to research and writing*. Don Mills ON: Oxford University Press.

**Course Rules and Regulations:**

You are expected to attend and to be prepared for every class. This preparation includes completing homework assignments and reading all background material. Cell phones **MUST** be turned off during the class and texting is absolutely prohibited. Students are permitted laptops or tablets for the sole purpose of engaging in course material. As this is a senior course, it should go without saying that you are expected to be respectful to your fellow classmates and your instructors. This includes not using the class time for conversation and other activities that are unrelated to the course material. In addition, everyone (including us) is a bit late every now and then (or needs to leave a bit early). Once class is in session, however, you are not welcome to disrupt us with your late arrival or early departure. Should you have an ongoing situation that prevents you from arriving or leaving class on time, please contact either instructor personally. For this course, in particular, it is essential that you follow guidelines for the ethical conduct of research, which includes strict confidentiality of participant identity. Finally, do not abuse the class listserv by sending communications that are not relevant to our course. **NB.** All students are expected to be familiar with Part 4 of the current University of Lethbridge Calendar that governs Academic Regulations, Policies, and Program Requirements. In particular, all students should be familiar with Sections 5 and 9 <http://www.uleth.ca/ross/academic-calendar/2013-14>.

**Students with Special Needs:**

If you have a documented condition that prevents you from fully participating in this course, including evaluation procedures, it is your responsibility to contact your instructors regarding your individual situation. Please note that no accommodations will be given without official notification from the Disabilities Resource Centre (<http://www.uleth.ca/ross/disabilities/index.html>).

**Course Information Online:**

Moodle: All course information will be available from the Moodle LMS system. This information includes: assignment requirements, materials for in-class activities and assignments, and class-by-class updates as we progress through the semester. Students will be able to track their standing in the course by accessing the Moodle grade book. All students are expected to be aware of copyright regulations regarding intellectual property and distribution of course material.

With the exception of information that is freely available on the internet, all course information should be treated as copyright protected. You are free to download and print a **SINGLE** copy of any materials posted for your use within Moodle, and you are free to take your own notes in class and from the textbook (of course!). You are *not* permitted to distribute the information in any form to persons not registered in this course in this semester, including the Students' Union Note Bank. Once the information is in your hands, you are responsible for what you do with it and we will not be held responsible for students who choose to violate the law. Audio or video recording of lectures or any other in-class presentation or activity is *strictly prohibited*. Doing so violates intellectual property rights and the privacy of your classmates who have not consented to have their voice/questions recorded. Finally, with respect to the data you collect for your major project, **ALL** data must be destroyed once you receive your final grade. This includes both electronic and hard copies.

Email: Other than posts to Moodle, our primary method of communicating with you for general notices and points of interest to supplement course material will be via in-class announcements or by email to

the class listserv. Please check your U of L email account on a regular basis, or have that account forwarded to your preferred provider. Please do your best to remember to do regular housekeeping of your U of L account so that you do not miss important notices due to a full mailbox. Any requests for information pertaining to matters of a confidential nature (e.g., your particular standing in the course), must be sent from your U of L account and you must include your ID# and your full name as it appears on your registration. Please send your email to both instructors so that we can avoid duplicating answers and causing confusion. **NB:** If your email to your instructor concerns course information that has been made available in class, has been posted on Moodle, is given within this syllabus, or you are disrespectful, do not expect a reply.

### **Course Requirements:**

All students are expected to attend all classes. If you choose not to attend class, there is no opportunity to re-schedule in-class activities and no notes will be posted.

#### **(1) Major Project (50% total)**

Final Research Report and Supporting Documentation (45%): Complete, APA manuscript of your groups research project, suitable for submission to a peer-refereed journal; all supporting documentation (raw data; data analyses; ethics forms; etcetera).

Peer Review of Research Partner (5%): An important part of the scientific process is to be able to critically evaluate the work of another in an objective and unbiased fashion. The review is confidential and will be seen only by your instructors.

#### **(2) Assignments (50% total)**

Assignments are weighted relative to the amount of work involved.

- a. Certificate of completion of the Tri-Council Policy Statement online tutorial - 5%
- b. Literature Review: background research on your topic; introduction to your manuscript - 10%
- c. Phase 1 of Project Planning: finalizing your research question; operationalizing variables; selecting research designs - 10%
- d. Phase 2 of Project Planning: finalizing your methodology; preparing to collect your data - 15%
- e. Analyzing, Reporting, and Discussing Data: statistical analysis, writing a results and discussion section; graphical presentation of data - 10%

#### **(3) Assigning Research Partners (compulsory, no credit)**

Though not a graded component of the course, every student is required to submit an electronic copy of the Statement of Interests worksheet **NO LATER than Monday, September 16 by 4:00 pm.**

Templates of the worksheet will be made available in .doc, .pages, and .pdf formats on Moodle. The purpose of asking you to complete the worksheet is to ensure that we construct collaborative research groups consisting of students who share topic interest, approach, and compatible schedules.

Regardless of group membership or topic, all students are responsible for ensuring that the project is a success. Research groups will be assigned in class on **September 17**. Students who do not submit the worksheet on time will not be assigned to a research group and will have to accept one of the selected topics.

**NB. Re-scheduling of Exams and Late Submissions:** With the exception of extreme extenuating circumstances (e.g., prolonged illness, accident, or bereavement), students turn in written assignments and complete data collection on the specified dates. Supporting documentation must be provided for any

request for an extension. Should you find yourself in an extreme situation, please contact one of your instructors ASAP via email so that we may assist you. Otherwise, if you fail to turn in assignments on or before the specified deadline, you will incur an automatic 25% penalty. Assignments turned in more than 24 hours after the specified deadline will receive an automatic grade of 0%. Incomplete assignments will be considered late submissions; therefore, it is to your advantage to carefully read the information sheets so that you include all the relevant elements. Depending on the assignment, you will be asked to turn in a hardcopy or an electronic copy or both. Assignments may be submitted in class on the due date or in the dropbox located adjacent to C866. There will be no opportunity to re-weight other course components or complete extra work to make up for missed assignments or poor performance.

All assignments and presentations will be graded under the assumption that all students have read and understood the contents of Northey and Timney (2012); specifically here, Chapter 2 - *Ethical Issues in Research and Writing*. All assignments must be in your own words. Paraphrasing someone else's words or ideas, even if you reference those words, is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Any case of plagiarism will be dealt with severely, including the imposition of the maximum penalties allowable (see Part 4, Section 5 of the U of L Calendar regarding Academic Offenses).

### **Grading Scheme:**

Letter grades will be assigned to assignments, final manuscripts, and final grades according to the following percentage range:

A+ (90+)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (67-69)	D+ (56-59)
A (85-89)	B (73-76)	C (63-66)	D (50-55)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (60-62)	F (< 50)