



**PSYCHOLOGY 2840F (571, 572)**  
**Research Methods in Psychology**  
**Fall/Winter 2025-2026**

Instructor: Ala Seif, PhDc (she/her)  
Email: aseif5@uwo.ca

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## **Course Information**

### **Lab**

#### **Calendar Description:**

This course is an introduction to basic issues in psychological research. Topics covered include issues in observation and measurement, ethics, and basic issues involved in doing both non-experimental and experimental research.

**Prerequisite(s):** At least 60% in a 1000 level Psychology course; [Mathematics 1228A/B](#) and [Statistical Sciences 1024A/B](#).

**Antirequisite(s):** [Psychology 2830A/B](#), [Psychology 2855F/G](#), [Psychology 2856F/G](#), [Psychology 2801F/G](#), [Psychology 2802F/G](#), the former Psychology 2800E, the former Psychology 2820E.

**Extra Information:** 2 lecture hours, 2 laboratory hours.

**Course Weight:** 0.50

**Breadth:** Category A

**Subject Code:** PSYCHOL

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this 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 prerequisites.

# Psychology 2840G 571/572: Research Methods in Psychology Lab

King's University College at Western University

Fall 2025-2026

## 1. Lab Information

**Professor:** Ala Seif, PhDc (she/her)

**Office Hours:** Posted on OWL Brightspace

**Office Location:** Posted on OWL Brightspace

**Email:** aseif5@uwo.ca

**Lab TA:** Posted on OWL Brightspace

**Lab location:** Posted on Brightspace OWL

**Lab Time:** Posted on Brightspace OWL

**Mode of instruction:** in-person

## 2. Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that our campus at King's University College is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum.

With this, we respect the longstanding relationships that Indigenous Nations have to this land, as they are the original caretakers. We acknowledge historical and ongoing injustices that Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) endure in Canada, and we accept responsibility as a public institution to contribute toward revealing and correcting miseducation, as well as renewing respectful relationships with Indigenous communities through our teaching, research, and community service.

## 3. Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this lab will be able to:

- Find, read, and evaluate scientific articles in psychology.
- Formulate research questions and testable hypotheses.
- Apply guidelines for ethical research and complete an ethics protocol.
- Select the appropriate research methodology, design, variables and operational definitions to address a research question.
- Design and implement studies to address research questions.
- Understand the strengths and limitations of different statistical tests and study designs.

- Interpret graphs and statistical evidence to draw conclusions from data.
- Select, calculate, and interpret basic statistics in the statistical software jamovi.
- Create APA-formatted graphs using Excel.
- Write an APA-formatted research paper.
- Create and present an academic poster.
- Collaborate and cooperate as a team.
- Establish effective group work guidelines.

## 4. Lab Materials

**Lab Manual:** The Psychology 2840 Lab Manual will be provided to you **free of charge** as a PDF file on our lab website.

**Lab website:** You will find all relevant course details on the course website, here: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/>

**Statistical Software:** The lab will be using the software Excel and jamovi. The lab computers already have this software installed. You can also download both programs on your own computer for free. Instructions will be provided on OWL Brightspace.

## 5. Methods of Evaluation

In-lab Assessments (6)	5%
Research Project	30%
Lab Capstone	10%
Lecture Component	55%

### 5.1 In-lab Assessments (5%)

Students will complete the labs individually and write lab reports. These in-lab assessments are due by the end of the lab session to earn credit. These will be graded as pass or fail and are each worth 1% of your final grade. Students will be graded on the best 5 out of 6. Please note: because not all elements of this component are required in the calculation of the final course grade, **the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for these missed elements.**

### 5.2 Research Project (30%)

Students will work in teams to design and conduct a research experiment. The research project has five components, which are listed below. This is a single assessment with multiple graded milestones. **The research project will be the one assessment for**

**this course exempt from the undocumented academic consideration policy.** This means that each component of the research project will require formal documentation submitted to Academic Counselling to be granted academic consideration. **Without formal documentation approved by Academic Counselling, a late penalty will be applied.** This policy is to ensure the success of the group project, which requires timely feedback from the instructor and ethics approval prior to data collection.

**Group contract and reflection (1% of total grade).** Collaborating as a team is a learned skill that can be both rewarding and challenging. To encourage collaborative teamwork, each group will be asked to complete a group contract during the third lab. The group contract will ask you, **as a group**, to write down ground rules, expectations, roles, and responsibilities. This will be used to help keep each group member on track and accountable. **The group contract will be due Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM.** At the end of the semester, each group member will be asked to complete a group reflection worksheet where you will reflect on your group members and your own contribution to the group. **The group reflection worksheet will be due Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:55 PM,** and will not be accepted after this date without academic consideration. Both the group contract and group reflection worksheet will be worth 1% of your total grade. The group mark for the poster presentation may be scaled by individual contribution to determine individual grades, when discrepancies are reported.

**Topic worksheet (2% of total grade).** The topic worksheet will be completed as a **group**. The goal of this assignment is to guide you in developing a research question for your group project. This assignment will also get you started on researching the background literature relevant to your research idea, which will eventually form part of your introduction section. **The topic worksheet is due Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM.**

**Methods worksheet (2% of total grade, group).** The methods worksheet will be completed as a **group**. The goal of this assignment is to formalize your research design and the operational definitions of your variables for your proposed research. You will also be required to submit a research ethics protocol. **You will not be permitted to start data collection for your research project until your research ethics protocol has been approved by me.** This material will become part of your methods section in your final paper. **The methods worksheet is due Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM.**

**Poster (10% of total grade, group).** The poster presentation will be completed as a **group**. The goal of this assignment is to learn how to create a scientific poster and to practice giving an oral presentation of your research findings. This assignment will help develop your scholarly communication skills for future academic, scientific, or professional meetings. **The poster must be submitted by 5 PM the day before the lab to ensure the instructor has enough time to set up the technology required for each poster.**

**Research paper (15% of total grade, individual).** The final research paper will be completed individually. You will be asked to write up your research project as an APA-formatted paper. The final research paper must include a: 1) Title Page, 2) Abstract, 3)

Introduction, 4) Methods, 5) Results, 6) Discussion, 7) Reference list. **The research paper is due at 11:55 PM on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>** on OWL Brightspace. However, no late penalty will be imposed for the first 72 hours after the deadline, in case of extenuating circumstances. Students should plan to submit by the deadline. Because the submission deadline for this assessment already includes flexibility, **the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for assignments submitted past the 72-hour window.**

### **5.3 Lab Capstone (10%)**

A practical assessment of your lab knowledge will be completed *individually* at the end of the semester. The lab capstone will become available Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM and will be due **Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:55 PM**. However, no late penalty will be imposed for the first 72 hours after the deadline, in case of extenuating circumstances. Students should plan to submit by the deadline. Because the submission deadline for this assessment already includes flexibility, **the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for assignments submitted past the 72-hour window.**

The lab capstone is an open-book assessment that is to be completed individually. This means you may use your notes, textbook, and lab manual, but you may not discuss with your peers or use external sources (e.g., google, Chat GPT). Please be advised students will be provided with different versions of the capstone (e.g., with different numbers and variable names).

### **5.4 Lecture Component (55%)**

The lecture component is detailed in a separate syllabus.

**\*\*\*NOTE: You must pass both the lecture and the lab component to pass Psych 2840F. Students failing either portion will receive a final grade in the course of 49% or the grade earned, whichever is less.\*\*\***

## **6. Course Expectations**

To be successful in this course, I encourage students to:

- Complete the assigned readings and review all lab videos *prior* to the lab sessions.
- Attend all lab sessions to complete assignments.
- Actively participate in lab activities.

- Contribute meaningfully to their group research project.

## 7. Lab Schedule

\*Subject to change with notice given on OWL.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Lab</b>	<b>Lab Manual Reading</b>	<b>Deliverables</b>
10-Sept-25	Intro to Lab, Intro to the Library, Literature Searches, and APA References	Chapter 1 & 2	Lab Assessment 1; Group Work Survey
17-Sept-25	How to Read a Journal Article in Psychology; How to Write an Annotated Bibliography	Research Paper assigned on OWL; Chapter 8.1 & 11.9	Lab Assessment 2
24-Sept-25	Research Project Workshop	Chapter 3 & 8.2	Group contract
1-Oct-25	Graphing lab	Chapter 4, 6.1, 6.2, & 7	Lab assessment 3, Topic worksheet is due Monday, September 29th at 5 PM
8-Oct-25	Methods work period	Chapter 8.3 (and review chapter 3)	None
15-Oct-25	Experimental lab # 1	Chapter 5, 6.3, & 11.6	Lab assessment 4, Methods worksheet is due Friday, October 17 at 5 PM
22-Oct-25	Experimental lab # 2	Chapter 6.4	Lab assessment 5
29-Oct-25	Project work period	Chapter 9	None
05-Nov-25	<b>Reading week - No Class</b>	<b>No readings</b>	<b>No deadlines</b>
12-Nov-25	Survey lab	Chapter 6.5 & 11	Lab Assessment 6
19-Nov-25	Data collection week	Chapter 10	Lab Capstone is due Friday, November 21 at 11:55 PM
26-Nov-25	Data analysis lab	none	None
03-Dec-25	Poster session	none	Poster due the day before the lab; Group reflection worksheet and Final Research Paper due Dec 3rd at 11:55 PM

## 8. Course Policies

### 8.1 Policy on Academic Consideration

All students in this course are expected to attend class regularly and complete their work on time. However, situations may arise that are unexpected and prohibit you from attending class and/or submitting your work on time. For this reason, you can miss 1 in-lab assessment without penalty. You will also be given a 72-hour window where no late-penalty will be imposed on your capstone and final research paper. **For any components of the research project, formal documentation approved by Academic Counselling will be required for late submissions.**

Without approval from Academic Counselling, a late penalty of 10% per day will be applied for late assignments, and late assignments will NOT be accepted after a period of five days. Your poster presentation must be submitted before the start of class, unless academic consideration with formal documentation has been granted by Academic Counselling. Students without academic consideration with formal documentation that has been granted by Academic Counselling who do not attend lab and participate in the presentation and question period will receive a zero on the poster presentation.

### 8.2 Course Policy on AI (e.g., Chat GPT)

Within this course AI tools such as Chat GPT are permitted exclusively for information-gathering and preliminary research purposes. If AI tools are used, students must acknowledge use and state how the tool was used. **Unauthorized use of AI constitutes an academic offense and will be subject to academic discipline.**

Here is how to acknowledge use of AI in APA format: <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>

Students can use AI tools to:

- Clarify questions they have about course content (e.g., you can ask chat GPT about a course concept to help with your understanding) but be aware that the response may be inaccurate or inconsistent with the course content. Asking your lecture or lab instructor will likely be more useful.

Students should not:

- Have AI tools write any part of your assignments/papers/capstone, either by copying and pasting or by paraphrasing the output.
- Have AI tools answer any questions from the lab assignments, research project worksheets, or lab capstone.
- Have AI tools generate your research question or study design for your research project.

Students should note that information provided by AI tools such as Chat GPT can include mistakes, inaccuracies, biases, and out-dated information. Whenever these tools are used, students should cross-verify the information provided to them. This includes: 1) verifying that the sources used by AI exist and have been accurately summarized, 2) consulting multiple original and reputable up-to-date sources to verify information, and 3) being cautious of bias that could be present in the information provided.

### **8.3 Notice of Turnitin Analysis**

Work submitted in this course will 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>). Please note that Turnitin analysis now includes AI detection.

## **9. Academic Integrity, Online Behavior, and Intellectual Property Statement**

- Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:  
[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf) (See also Appendix A below)
- All students are expected to engage online in a professional and respectful manner. This includes all interactions with peers, as well as communication between TAs or your Professor. Failure to do so will result in academic discipline.
- Recording of lectures or tutorials without the explicit consent of the Professor or TA is grounds for academic discipline.
- Course content created by a faculty member is considered the faculty member's intellectual property; it should not be distributed, shared in any public domain, or sold by a student or other third party without prior written consent of the faculty member.
- All assessment or examinations done online or in-person are expected to be done by the student registered in this course.

## Department of Psychology Policies Related to AI Tools

### 1. Policy on the Use of Generative AI Tools

**The Department of Psychology expects that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial).**

**The use of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT) is not permitted for any submitted coursework unless express permission has been granted by your instructor.**

Students **should not have AI tools write any part of their assignments or papers, either by copying and pasting or by paraphrasing the output.** Unauthorized use of AI constitutes an academic offence and will be subject to academic discipline.

**Additional information:** Students can use AI tools to clarify questions they have about course content (e.g., you can ask ChatGPT about a course concept to help with your understanding), but students should be aware that the response may be inaccurate or inconsistent with the course content. Asking your instructor is a more effective strategy. Students should note that information provided by AI tools such as ChatGPT can include mistakes, inaccuracies, biases, and outdated information. Whenever these tools are used, students should cross-verify the information provided to them. This means verifying that the sources used by AI exist and have been accurately summarized, consulting multiple original and reputable up-to-date sources to verify information, and being cautious of bias that could be present in the information provided.

### 2. Policy on Use of Translation Tools\*

**The Department of Psychology views the unapproved use of translation or language applications as an academic offence.**

Any usage of translation applications or language generation by students to complete specific assigned work for this course **must be approved** by the instructor **prior** to submitting the work **and noted by the student in the submitted work** itself.

Writing text and then feeding it into a computer application to improve or translate your own words, changing a few words, and then submitting this text as if it was your own **constitutes plagiarism.** You must compose text, choose words, construct logic flow, structure sentences and paragraphs to organize, synthesize, interpret information with your own mind. When you borrow language or ideas from another person or from a machine this must be acknowledged with quotation marks and/or citations.

#### **Why do we have this policy?**

- Translation is intellectual work and produces intellectual property, thus any text which is translated must cite the translator.
- Psychology endeavors to advance students' linguistic, analytic, and reasoning competencies – this can not happen outside of specific language competencies.
- Earning a university degree signals that an individual has advanced literacy and communicative skill in the language of instruction at the university; this is English at King's University College at Western University. If translation machines are used by students without regulation, we will have no way of certifying whether these competencies exist and fewer mechanism for encouraging students to do the hard work to develop them.

*\* Based on the policy developed by the Department of Child and Youth Studies*

# KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

## GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

2025-2026

### **1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences**

#### **Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)**

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

#### **Academic Consideration for Student Absence**

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at

[https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses\\_enrollment/exams\\_and\\_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf](https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf).

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/academic\\_consideration\\_Sep24.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf)

### **Absences from Final Examinations**

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

### **Religious Accommodation**

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

## **2. Support Services**

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

[https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/)

Academic Support Services at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

### **GBSV Support:**

King's is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing [Care@kings.uwo.ca](mailto:Care@kings.uwo.ca) or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by [email](#) or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html)

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

### **3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices**

**Use of Electronic Devices:** Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

**Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom:** King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the

use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

#### **4. Statement on Academic Offences**

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with you instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

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; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>.

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.

#### **5. Copyright of Course Material**

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in

those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

## **6. Use of Recordings**

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

## **7. Policy on Attendance**

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.