



SMU IN TAOS SM

Study Psychology in Taos!

Research Methods in Psychology (PSYC 3301) will be offered at SMU-in-Taos for May Term 2018. Complete a requirement for the Psychology Major in 11 days while studying issues specific to the experiences, cultures, and peoples of the Southwest. Coursework will include collecting data at UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Taos.



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(PSYC 3301)
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Course Overview

Research Methods in Psychology is a required course for all students planning to become Psychology majors. This course gives students the foundational understanding in how psychological knowledge is developed and grows across all domains of psychology. Students will learn a variety of research methods and will conduct their own research studies in this condensed term.

Design and evaluation of psychological research, with emphasis on scientific method, data collection, experimentation, control procedures, validity, reliability, and report-writing skills. This is a challenging and rigorous class in research, and is required for psychology majors. **At SMU-in-Taos, we will focus on applying psychological research methods to studying issues relevant to the experiences, cultures, and peoples of the American Southwest.**

Prerequisites: PSYC 1300 and one additional psychology course, or instructor approval.

Course Aims and Objectives

Aims: Students will gain an in-depth understanding of a) the development of research questions and hypotheses in psychology, b) methods for testing hypotheses, including cross-sectional, longitudinal, experimental, and treatment outcome designs, c) ethical and practical concerns regarding collecting data to test psychological hypotheses, and d) interpreting and reporting the results of psychological research. In addition, students will e) learn to be critical consumers of psychological research.

This course fulfills Proficiencies & Experiences for the domains of Quantitative Reasoning, Information Literacy, and Writing.

Specific Learning Objectives:

1. As measured by exams, students will be able to describe the scientific method, describe and differentiate sampling procedures, describe and differentiate research designs, and discuss ethical considerations in psychological research.
2. As measured by labs, students will be able to apply the concepts discussed in lecture to appropriately develop research designs, and interpret study findings.
3. On written reports, students will be able to formulate research hypotheses, describe an appropriate research design, present results of data collection, and write in APA style.

Proficiencies and Experiences Learning Objectives:

Information Literacy

1. Students will be able to select and use the appropriate research methods and search tools for needed information.
2. Students will be able to evaluate sources for quality of information for a given information need.

Quantitative Reasoning

3. Students will be able to assess the strengths and limitations of quantitative models and methods.
4. Students will be able to test hypotheses and make recommendations or predictions based on results.
5. Students will be able to communicate and represent quantitative information or results numerically, symbolically, aurally, visually, verbally, or in writing.

Writing

6. Students will state and defend a thesis with adequate attention to analysis and evidence.
7. Students will demonstrate an understanding of essay and paragraph development and organization.
8. Students will craft sentences with attention to audience, purpose, and tone, as well as sentence variety and diction.
9. Students will demonstrate proper use of grammatically and mechanically correct English (or the language in which the course is taught).

Readings

- Required Textbook: Leary, M.R. (2016). *Introduction to Behavioral Research Methods (7th Edition)*, Pearson Education, Inc.
- Recommended Textbook: Schwartz, B.M., Landrum, R.E., & Gurung, R.A.R. (2013). *An Easy Guide to APA Style (2nd Edition)*. Los Angeles, CA: Sage Publications.
- If you plan to go to graduate school in a field that uses APA style, it may be helpful to purchase a copy of the most recent (6th edition) APA style guide.

Course Evaluation

Exams: There will be a mid-term exam and a final exam. The mid-term will cover material from chapters 1, 3-6, and 15, and the final will be cumulative, but with an emphasis on material from chapters 7 and 9-14. Exams will cover information provided in both the textbook and class discussions, so it is important that you complete the required reading and attend class on a regular basis. Exams will consist of true-false, multiple-choice, and short answer questions. The mid-term exam will count for 100 points toward your final grade and the final exam will count for 200 points.

Labs: Each class period will consist of new material (lecture and discussion of the assigned reading) followed by a lab assignment in which you will apply the material to practice applying research methods and consolidate what you have learned. Each Lab is worth 30 points, for a total of 240 points toward your final grade. If you are not able to complete the Lab within the time allotted during class, you may complete it that evening and turn it in the next morning.

Research Report: You will review psychological literature and generate hypotheses to test using a data collected by PSYC 3301 sections, with an emphasis on topics related to the cultures and peoples of the Southwest. Possible topics include cultural differences in expectations about marriage and parenting, health disparities among Hispanic and Native American groups, or the effects of discrimination faced by ethnic minorities. The data include a series of online questionnaires that address a variety of topics. You will be expected to recruit 10 participants from the Taos area on a field trip to complete the questionnaires and will utilize the data to complete a research report.

Research Report, Part 1 consists of a (5-7 page) literature review that makes an argument for your hypotheses and a summary of the methodology. Part 1 is due by Friday, 5/25/18. You will receive feedback by Monday, 5/28/18. Part 1 counts for 100 points.

Research Report, Part 2 is the final report (15-16 pages) that incorporates feedback from Part 1 and results and discussions sections based on the results of your hypothesis tests. We will conduct analyses in class on Wednesday, 5/30/18. Part 2 counts for 150 points.

Grades: All grades will be posted on Blackboard.

<i>Possible Points per Assignment</i>	
Mid-Term Exam	100
Final Exam	200
Labs	240
Project Report, Part 1	100
Final Project Report	150
Total	790

<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59 or lower

Course Policies

Attendance: Attendance is required and is necessary to succeed in this course. If you miss class, you will miss important information as well as graded activities.

Office Hours: I will meet with you as needed before and after class to address any questions about the material.

Electronic Devices: The use of electronic devices for purposes not related to class material (e.g. phone calls, text messages, surfing the web, email, etc.) is not allowed during class. Make sure that all cell phones are turned off or placed on silent during class. Do not leave cell phones on vibrate as this is often audible and disruptive to other students. You are welcome to use electronic devices for the purpose of taking notes, but use of electronic devices during class for non-approved reasons will result in loss of points from your total grade. I try to keep the class as “paperless” as possible, so you are encouraged to bring a laptop computer to use for completing labs and tests.

Changes to Syllabus: From time to time, I may make changes to the course plan, topics, or other aspects of the course. These changes will be announced in class, posted on the website and/or sent in a class-wide email. You are responsible for keeping up with announcements of changes and other course business.

Disability Accommodations: If you need academic accommodations for a disability, you must first contact Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS) at 214-768-1470 or <http://www.smu.edu/alec/dass.asp> to verify the disability and to establish eligibility for accommodations. Then you must schedule an appointment with the professor to make appropriate arrangements.

Religious Observance: Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence.

Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities: Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity will be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of their participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work.

Academic Integrity: Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course and will be dealt with according to the University’s Honor Code. As stated by the Honor Council, “Permitting others to prepare their work, using published or unpublished summaries as a substitute for studying required materials, or giving or receiving unauthorized assistance in preparation of work to be submitted are directly contrary to the honest process of learning.” A violation of the Code will result in an F for the course. In addition, the student may also be taken before the Honor Council. If you are unclear about this, please see the instructor immediately.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic, Readings, and Assignments
Thursday, 5/17	Introduction to Psychological Research; Research Ethics Chapters 1 and 15 Lab 1
Friday, 5/18	Scientific Writing; Measuring Psychological Variables Chapter 3 and 4 Lab 2
Monday, 5/21	Sampling and Research Design; Discussion of Class Project Chapter 5 Lab 3
Tuesday, 5/22	Descriptive Statistics; Mid-Term Review Chapter 6 Lab 4
Wednesday, 5/23	Mid-Term Exam
Thursday, 5/24	Correlational Research Chapter 7 Lab 5
Friday, 5/25	Research Report Part 1 Due Field trip for data collection, 1-5pm
Monday, 5/28	Experimental Methods Chapters 9 and 10 Lab 6
Tuesday, 5/29	Null Hypothesis Significance Testing Chapters 11 and 12 Lab 7
Wednesday, 5/30	Analysis of Research Project Data
Thursday, 5/31	Quasi-Experimental and Single-Case Designs; Final Exam Review Chapter 13 and 14 Lab 8
Friday, 6/1	Final Exam Class Project Final Report Due