

Research Methods in Psychology
PSYC 3301 August, 2019 SMU in Taos

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Course Description

This course covers research methodology in psychology. In addition to research methods generally, the course will bring in examples to demonstrate some differences in methods associated with different areas of experimental psychology. You will also learn elements of APA format and statistical analysis. The main goals for the class are to get you to a point where you can critically evaluate research in psychology and communicate research findings and methods verbally and in writing.

With the unique nature of the SMU in Taos campus, I do not normally hold regular office hours. Instead, I am usually available during lunch, before and during dinner, and often after dinner by arrangement. Email is usually the best way to get a message to me but I sometimes have a local cell phone that works on campus.

If you must miss an exam, quiz, or activity you must let me know BEFORE the event. Makeups will be scheduled at instructor's discretion and only with a written excuse. If you wish to contest an exam score, you have one week from the day the exam was returned to do so.

Student Learning Outcomes

- On class exams, students will be able to describe the scientific method, describe issues relating to empirical confidence in information, describe and differentiate research designs, and discuss ethical considerations in psychological research.
- In class-based exercises, students will be able to apply the concepts discussed in lecture to appropriately develop research designs and interpret study findings.
- On written research reports, students will be able to formulate research hypotheses, describe an appropriate research design, present results of data collection, and write in proper APA style.
- The course is tagged under the University Curriculum as a Writing Intensive course. As such, there is one additional SLO that will be assessed by writing a major paper over the term:
 - Through multiple opportunities supervised and/or directed by a professor, an editor or other authority, students will demonstrate proper use of language through completion of a substantial amount of purposeful writing appropriate for a specific or targeted audience.
- The course is tagged under the University Curriculum as a Quantitative course. As such, there are three additional SLOs that will be assessed by specific exam items, in class exercises, and the major paper:

- Students will be able to collect, organize and analyze data from a variety of sources.
- Students will be able to test hypotheses and make recommendations or predictions based on results.
- Students will be able to communicate and represent quantitative information or results numerically, symbolically, aurally, visually, verbally, or in writing.
- The course is tagged under the University Curriculum as an Information Literacy course. As such, there are two additional SLOs that will be assessed by specific exam items, in class exercises, and the major paper:
 - Students will be able to select and use the appropriate research methods and search tools for needed information.
 - Students will be able to evaluate sources for quality of information for a given information need.

Books

- Required Textbook: Shaughnessy, J. J., Zechmeister, E. B., & Zechmeister, J. S. (2015). *Research Methods in Psychology*, 10th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill.
 - The textbook is available as an eTextbook online at vitalsource.com.
 - The textbook is also available in an enhanced format through McGraw-Hill Connect.
- Recommended: *Publication Manual of the APA (6th Edition)*
 - You should have a copy of the APA Manual if you plan to continue to graduate school after SMU. You can likely find a friend who has one who will let you borrow it for the term if you don't want to buy it.

Grades

- Attendance in lecture is required. The in-class exams are over material presented in class, so attendance will help your grade. You will have some sort of experiential activity in class almost every day. Absences over the semester will result in decreased understanding and a drop in points. Creating an atmosphere in class that discourages the participation of others (interrupting or insulting classmates) or interferes with the classroom environment (text messaging, reading the newspaper, talking during class, using a computer for activities unrelated to this class) will also result in a drop in points.
- Over the term, you will have four quizzes, four in-class labs, and final exam. The quizzes will include a combination of multiple choice, true-false, and short answer questions. Although the final exam is cumulative, it will emphasize the last section of the term.
- The labs will be during regular class times on the days indicated on the syllabus. Each lab is worth 10 points. Most of the labs will be completed during class but may be finished outside of the lab class. You will get more details on each lab at the lab session. You will also have a take-home assignment covering APA format, rules of research writing, and reading research articles.

- If you have an official, University approved absence during a lab, you need to contact me *before* the absence to have the lab assignment turned in by the due date (not after you return). There will be no makeups allowed for the APA format assignment.
- You will also have two writing assignments culminating in an individual, original research proposal of 8-10 pages of text (title page, references, appendices, etc. are in addition to the pages minimums). The first assignment is split into a first version of two sections of the final paper (Introduction and Methods). You will develop a hypothesis based on a review of the literature and propose a research methodology that will test that hypothesis. You will then collect and analyze data based on your proposed methodology. Finally, you will put everything together in a student version of a research article submission. Based on enrollment, there is a chance that we will do this as a class rather than doing every part individually. If we do a class option, everyone will work on the same topic and collect data together. Your papers will be your own original work though. Details will be discussed often during the term.
- LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
- Breakdown of total points for graded work:

Labs	40
Quizzes	100
Writing	100
Final Exam	100
Total	340

Course Calendar

Date	Topic	Reading	Experiential Activity	Graded Event
7	Intro, Scientific Method	1, 2		
8	Ethics	3		
9	Communication	13	APA Lab	Quiz, Lab
12	Observation	4	Field Trip	Intro due
13	Survey Research	5	Field Trip	
14	Independent Groups	6	Attitudes lab	Quiz, Lab
15	Repeated Measures	7	Field Trip	Methods due
16	Complex Designs	8	Lab	Quiz
19	Small-n Designs	9		
20	Quasi-Experimental Designs	10		Quiz
21	Data Analysis	11, 12	Stat lab	Final Paper Due
22	Final Exam			Final Exam

Changes to the Syllabus

From time to time, I may make changes to the course plan, topics, or other aspects of the course, **including the dates of exams**. These changes will be announced in class. You are responsible for keeping up with announcements of changes and other course business. Once the KNW is released, there is a good chance one of our class days will be eliminated. I will make adjustments to the calendar at that time.

- **Disability Accommodations:** Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first register with Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS). Students can call 214-768-1470 or visit <http://www.smu.edu/Provost/ALEC/DASS> to begin the process. Once registered, students should then schedule an appointment with the professor as early in the semester as possible, present a DASS Accommodation Letter, and make appropriate arrangements. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and require advance notice to implement.
- **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. (See University Policy No. 1.9.)
- **Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities:** Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity should 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. (University Undergraduate Catalogue)
- Any study involving observation of or interaction with human subjects which originates at Southern Methodist University, including a class project, report, or research paper, must be reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the Protection of Human Subjects in Research and Research-Related Activities. Students should consult with their course instructors early in the course to ascertain if their projects need to be reviewed by the IRB and/or to secure information on appropriate forms and procedures for IRB review. The student's instructor and department chair must sign the application for approval by the IRB.

Letter Grades

Letter	Percentage
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	Below 60