

Research Methods in Psychology

Code	PSYC 2331.001
Term	Spring 2022
Instructor	Dr. Lauren Kirby
Department	Psychology and Counseling
Institution	University of Texas at Tyler
Format	Face-to-Face

Instructor Information

Preferred name and pronouns	Dr. Kirby; she/her
Full name	Lauren A. J. Kirby
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Phone number	(334) 703-5635
Office hours	TBD

Course and Meeting Information

This course is face-to-face meeting once per week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 to 3:20pm in Hudnall-Pirtle-Roosth Hall (HPR) Room 253. Assignments for each module (week) may be submitted any time after they become available and before their posted due dates. There are no timed exams, only “take-home” projects. This course also heavily relies on group work. Research Methods in Psychology requires on average 10-15 hours of work per week.

Course Materials and Resources

- APA PsycLearn Research Methods (online textbook replacement system): buy from the UT Tyler Bookstore or from the American Psychological Association (APA) directly. The login will be embedded in Canvas automatically
- APA Academic Writer (Online enhanced version of APA style manual): buy from the UT Tyler Bookstore or from the American Psychological Association (APA) directly. The login will be embedded in Canvas automatically
- CITI Program Account. The registration instructions are here and will be covered in class.
- Microsoft Office Products (free for UT Tyler students at <https://www.uttyler.edu/it/office365/365-proplus-students.php>)
- Zoom (UT Tyler account)
- Earphones and microphone
- Strongly encouraged: A Gmail account with a professional-appearing name

Course Catalog Description

Designed to extend the student's ability to recognize and use typical behavioral research methods and controls. Emphasis will be given to experimental design techniques, evaluation of research articles, writing of journal reports, and statistical procedures used in psychological experiments. Prerequisite: PSYC 2354 or equivalent.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course you should be able to master course content (remembering and understanding) in major areas such as

- the scientific method
- reliability and validity
- research ethics
- observational designs
- experimental designs

- quasi-experimental designs
- single-subject designs
- non-reactive designs
- APA style guidelines

Assignments and Activities

Participation Assignments

Some readings and built-in assessments in PsycLearn and Academic Writer will usually be due on Tuesdays by class time. They help you practice concepts before you apply them on the research project assignments typically due on Thursdays by class time. Most participation assignments are quizzes with a few multiple-choice items so that you can quickly check your understanding of what you learned from the readings and lectures. Participation assessments are worth 10% of your grade: your scores get fed into Canvas from the APA systems (PsycLearn and Academic Writer).

Project Development Assignments

There are 12 assignments throughout the semester that serve as smaller pieces of the two projects described below: they are worth 2% of your course grade each and I will drop the lowest two. Performing these assignments to the best of your ability is paramount to performing well on the large projects. You must also respond to feedback on these assignments in order to earn a high final course grade.

Observational Research Project Presentation

You will work with a group to collect observational data and create a PowerPoint presentation to be recorded and posted on Canvas for your classmates to view. The project is worth 40% of your final grade.

Survey Research Proposal Paper

You will be asked to write an APA-style paper that is a proposal of a study you will not actually conduct. The paper will describe a survey you created and predict a hypothesis for an imaginary future research project. The project is worth 40% of your final grade.

Reflection

Your final assignment is a reflection on what you have learned in the course, including about yourself. You will be asked to write in response to a reflection prompt provided during the final exam week. A completed reflection is worth 10% your final course grade.

Extra Credit

You may earn extra credit by participating in research hours on SONA (2 pts/hour), writing response papers to research articles (2 pts/paper), counseling hours (2 pts/session), writing response papers to podcasts (2 pts/paper), or for extracurricular work at my discretion. I will provide details for each of these options on Canvas. You can perform any combination of any of these methods. You may earn a maximum of 10 points of extra credit and the deadline to earn any points is the final exam day.

Course Policies

Make-up and Late Work

I do not do deductions for late work. I do not offer make-ups for participation assignments such as the PsycLearn or Academic Writer quizzes. You may get an extension on the project preparation or survey paper if you request them in a timely manner (before end-of-business/5pm on the due date). I do NOT require documentation for medical, family emergency, religious, or other excuses; however, I may ask for screenshots in the case of electronic submission errors to help troubleshoot. Because of the turnaround time needed for feedback, project development components cannot have very long extensions after the due date (e.g., only around a day or two).

Covid Statement

Students are expected to wear face masks covering their nose and mouth in public settings (including classrooms and laboratories). The UT Tyler community of Patriots views adoption of these practices consistent with its Honor Code) and a sign of good citizenship and respectful care of fellow classmates, faculty, and staff. Students who are feeling ill or experiencing symptoms such as sneezing, coughing, digestive issues (e.g. nausea, diarrhea), or a higher than normal temperature should stay at home and are encouraged to use the UT Tyler COVID-19 Information and Procedures website to review protocols, check symptoms, and report possible exposure. Students needing additional accommodations may contact the Office of Student Accessibility and Resources at University Center 3150, or call (903) 566-7079 or email saroffice@uttyler.edu.

Grading

There are 1000 points available in this course. The following table displays the number of points devoted to each type of assignment and its proportion of your final grade.

Assignment	Number	Percent of Grade
Participation	Varies	10%
Group Project Development	5/6	10%
Group Project Presentation	1	30%
Survey Project Development	5/6	10%
Survey Project Paper	1	30%
Reflection	1	10%
Total		100%
Extra Credit	Varies	1%

I do not round any grades. Please let me know in writing if and why you feel any grading or feedback is in error. The grading scale is as follows.

- A = Excellent, $\geq 90\%$
- B = Good, $\geq 80\%$, $< 90\%$
- C = Fair, $\geq 70\%$, $< 80\%$ (the lowest possible passing grade if this is a course for your major)
- D = Poor, $\geq 60\%$, $< 70\%$
- F = Fail, $< 60\%$
- I = Incomplete: Assigned if you stop participating due to some crisis and agree to finish the remainder of assignments within one year.

Extra Credit

You may earn extra credit by participating in extra research hours on SONA (2 pts/hour), writing response papers to research articles (2 pts/paper), counseling hours (2 pts/session), writing response papers to podcasts (2 pts/paper), or for extracurricular work at my discretion. I will provide research articles for extra credit papers: to write a review of one, type at least two double-spaced pages summarizing the content of each major section of the article (e.g., Method, Discussion) and provide at least one critique of each section. For a podcast review, choose any episode of Invisibilia, Hidden Brain, or 10% Happier to listen to. Write a 2-page double-spaced paper summarizing the content of the episode and providing critique. These are completion-based papers and are meant to be equivalent effort to showing up to participate in research or counseling (because we cannot require you to do those and need to provide alternatives). Extra credit points are added to your Portfolio grade, but because the grading is based on total points, it does not matter where I add it. I will notify you where and when they get added. You may earn a maximum of 10 points of extra credit and the deadline to earn any points is the final exam day.

Course Calendar

Date	Week	Topic(s)	Assignments
01/11/22	1	Psychology as Science	
01/13/22	1	Psychology as Science	Group Coordination
01/18/22	2	Research Questions (RQs)	Group RQ
01/20/22	2	Research Questions	Survey RQ
01/25/22	3	Reading Research Articles	Article Assignment
01/27/22	3	Study Designs	Group Project Sources
02/01/22	4	Ethics	Group Hypothesis
02/03/22	4	Ethics	Survey Hypothesis
02/08/22	5	Sampling and External Validity	Data Collection Plan
02/10/22	5	Sampling and External Validity	
02/15/22	6	Correlational Design and Construct Validity	Collect Data
02/17/22	6	Correlational Design and Construct Validity	Collect Data
02/22/22	7	Analyzing and Interpreting Data	Group Data Analysis
02/24/22	7	Analyzing and Interpreting Data	
03/01/22	8	Group Project Presentations	Presentations
03/03/22	8	Group Project Presentations	Presentations
03/15/22	9	Measurement and Reliability	Survey Questions Draft
03/17/22	9	Measurement and Reliability	
03/22/22	10	Reviewing the Literature	Survey Bibliography
03/24/22	10	Reviewing the Literature	
03/29/22	11	Experimental Design	Survey Paper Outline
03/31/22	11	Experimental Design	
04/05/22	12	Between- and Within Group Designs	
04/07/22	12	Between- and Within Group Designs	
04/12/22	13	Reporting Results	Survey Analysis Plan
04/14/22	13	Reporting Results	
04/19/22	14	Work on Paper	
04/20/22	14	Work on Paper	
TBD	15+	Finals Week	Survey Paper; Reflection