## PSYC 2331-060/1: Research Methods in Psychology | Fall 2021

**Instructor**
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**Check These Daily:**
- Patriot email
- Canvas announcements
- Canvas modules
- Canvas calendar

**Assignments and Grading at a Glance**
- Observational Research Project Presentation (20%)
- Survey Research Project Proposal Paper (20%)
- PsycLearn (25%)
- Project Development Assignments (25%)
- Reflection (10%)
- Extra Credit (1% max)

**I do not round grades.**

**Course Overview**
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.

**Course Format and Expectations**
- Fully online and asynchronous (no meeting times)
- Modules open and close weekly
- Spend 10-15 hours per week
- Readings due Weds night, bigger assignments on Sun at midnight
- Assignments build on each other (projects completed in pieces)
- Complete a group research project and present your results
- Write a proposal paper for an individual research project
- No timed tests or quizzes

**Required Resources**
- APA PsycLearn Research Methods (online textbook replacement system): embedded in Canvas already
- APA Academic Writer (Online enhanced version of APA style manual): embedded in Canvas already
- CITI Program Account (registration instructions here)
- Microsoft Office Products (free at https://www.uttyler.edu/it/office365/365-proplus-students.php)
- Zoom
- Earphones and microphone
- A Gmail account with a professional-appearing name

**Learning Outcomes**
Content:
- the scientific method
- reliability and validity
- research ethics
- observational designs
- experimental designs
- quasi-experimental designs
- single-subject designs
- non-reactive designs
- APA style guidelines

Skills:
- **Cooperate** with team members on a long-term project
- **Analyze** scientific literature
- **Apply** research design and ethical principles to **create** two original research projects

**Course Calendar**

| Date | Week | Topic(s) | Assignments |
|---|---|---|---|
| 08/23-28 | 1 | Psychology as Science | Introduction Discussion Board; Group Coordination |
| 08/30-09/04 | 2 | Research Questions | Research Questions (both projects) |
| 09/06-11 | 3 | Reading Research Articles and Study Designs | Reading Research Articles Assignment; Observation Project Sources |
| 09/13-18 | 4 | Ethics | Hypotheses (both projects) |
| 09/20-25 | 5 | Sampling and External Validity | Observational Project Data Collection Plan |
| 09/27-10/02 | 6 | Correlational Design and Construct Validity | |
| 10/04-09 | 7 | Analyzing and Interpreting Data | Observation Project Data Analysis |
| 10/11-16 | 8 | | Observation Project Group Presentation |
| 10/18-23 | 9 | Measurement and Reliability | Survey Questions |
| 10/25-30 | 10 | Reviewing the Literature | Annotated Bibliography |
| 11/01-06 | 11 | Experimental Design | |
| 11/08-13 | 12 | Between- and Within Group Designs | Lit Review Outline |
| 11/15-20 | 13 | Reporting Results | Survey Data Analysis Plan |
| 11/22-27 | **N/A** | **Break** | **Break** |
| 11/29-12/04 | 14 | Paper | Survey Research Paper |
| 12/07-11 | 15+ | Reflection | Reflection* |

*Note: The final reflection is due on Tuesday, December 7 at 11:59pm.

**Course Policies**

**Late or Missing Work**

Deadline dates and times are firm. If you experience significant barriers to submitting on time, please contact me as soon as possible about it. If it is close to or after the due time and you cannot reach me, feel free to submit it anyway and I can evaluate whether and how to award credit. I do NOT ask for 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. Late policies vary based on the assignment type. There are no make-ups for participation assignments, but there will be more available than required (lowest grade dropped). Project development assignments cannot be submitted more than a few days late because I need to give you feedback on them before the next assignment is due and in order for you to complete your research projects. Additionally, late work on your observational research project affects your group members, so there is less flexibility with those. If you fail to submit one of the research projects by the deadline, or believe ahead of time that you may not meet the deadline, please contact me as soon as possible. The observation project presentation could be uploaded a day or two late without affecting much of the rest of the semester's work, but the survey research paper is due during the last week of class. Thus, that project does not have much flexibility in submission time. Please contact me as soon as possible to arrange a revised submission plan in the event of any barriers to timely submission of any components of the research projects (besides the final paper). Because of the turnaround time needed for feedback, project components

cannot have very long extensions after the due date. **Incomplete policy:** If some crisis prevents you from finishing the semester but you had a passing grade in the class before that, I can give you an "incomplete" as your final grade. You would then have one year to finish the remaining assignments. Please contact me ASAP if you think you may need to use this option. It's a great way to avoid getting a failing grade on your transcript.

**Contacting Me**

- Email at any time (I respond during business days). I answer most messages around 8am, around lunch, or during afternoon office hours. I do not check email on the weekend, holidays, or evenings.
- Zoom office hours (no notice needed; just drop in)
- Zoom meetings by request if you're not available during office hours
- Telephone: My posted Google Voice phone number is unreliable at times and I have no control over this. Many students have called and texted me with no problems. Others find it does not work for them.
  - Calls work best during office hours (when I have the ringer on); you can text to ask for a call at a different time
  - You can text at any time. You will not disturb me if you message late, but you may have to wait until the morning if it's after 8:30pm as I go to bed and wake up very early.

Note: I work 8am-5pm and respond best during those times if I am not in another meeting.

**Diversity Statement**

Embrace the diversity among course-takers. In this course, you will be part of a community of learners that benefits from the exchange of diverse perspectives and experiences. We expect that all course-takers are respectful of these differences. We all come to the table with differing experiences and viewpoints, which means that we have so much to learn from each other! In order to get the most out of this opportunity, it is important that we don't shy away from differences. Rather, we should show respect for differences by seeking to understand, asking questions, clarifying our understanding, and/or respectfully explaining our own perspective. This way, everybody comes away with new perspectives on the issue and respecting others with different values or beliefs. If someone says something that bothers you for any reason, assume that your peer did not mean to be offensive and ask your peer to clarify what he or she meant. Then explain the impact it had on you. If your classmates tell you that something you said or wrote bothered them, assume that they are not attacking you, but rather that they are sharing something that might be important for you to know.

**Group Work**

You will be sorted randomly into groups of around four students. You are responsible for coordinating with your group members to complete all portions of the Observation Research Project. You will first be able to contact your teammates using the Canvas Groups page: beyond that, you may continue contacting each other using any method you wish. Group assignments are graded overall based on the total package of the product: each team member receives this grade. Exceptions apply if some team members did not contribute a fair amount. For the Observational Research Project Presentation, there is one section of the rubric for "group collaboration" that by default will receive full points. You will report anonymously in a Canvas survey how the group cooperated and if there were any members who did not "pull their weight." Offending members' "group collaboration" portion of the grade will be reduced by an amount proportional to the reduced contribution percentage estimated by the other group members. For example, if you are one of four group members but did only 15% of the work instead of 25%, I will remove 10% of your "group collaboration points" on the assignment (but not for your other team members). Speak up and let your team members know your concerns early: this is just as much your project as theirs, so you are responsible for advocating for your research topic preferences and scheduling requirements. You may also ask me at any time if you have any questions about how to best work with a team. Communicate early and often: schedule your group meetings as early in the week as possible.

**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.

## Assignment and Grading Details

**Participation Assignments**

This course requires a high level of engagement: it is difficult if not impossible to pass the course if you skip the readings and lectures and do the assignments last-minute. If this were a face-to-face course, I would count attendance by giving small participation assignments. This would reward you for attending class. Because we have no timed meetings in this fully online course, I encourage your participation throughout the week by having some assessments in PsycLearn and Academic Writer due on Wednesday night. They help you practice concepts before you apply them on the research project assignments typically due on Sunday nights. 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. PsycLearn assessments are worth 30% of your grade: your scores get fed into Canvas from their system.

**Project Development Assignments**

There are 12 assignments throughout the semester that serve as smaller pieces of the two projects described below: they are worth 20 points 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 instructor and TA 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. A full description of the project, including a rubric, can be found in the Assignments section of Canvas. The project is worth 200 points, 20% of your final grade.

**Survey Research Proposal Paper**

You will be asked to write an 8-10 page, 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. A full description of this project, including a rubric, can be found in the Assignments section of Canvas. The project is worth 200 points, 20% 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 500-1000 words in response to a reflection prompt provided during the final exam week. A completed reflection is worth 100 points, 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.

**Grading Policy**

You get the grade you earn. I grade transparently by posting answer keys for objective assignments. I use detailed rubrics (available to students ahead of submission) for the more

"subjective" grading of writing and presentations. Students with excellent performance in my classes are those who read and watch the lectures earlier in the week, who visit office hours or ask me questions often, who work early to correct assignments based on my feedback, and I do not round up grades for any reason. You will end the semester with a percentage based on your total earned points divided by 1000, even if that leaves you right on a threshold between letter grades. At any time if you feel something has been graded in error, contact me. The grading scale for this course is as follows:

A = Excellent, ≥ 900+ points
B = Good, ≥ 800, < 900 points
C = Fair, ≥ 700, < 800 points (the lowest possible passing grade if this is a course for your major)
D = Poor, ≥ 600, < 700 points
F = Fail, < 600 points
I = Incomplete: Assigned if you stop participating due to some crisis and agree to finish the remainder of assignments within one year.

Note: this document is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Changes will be announced.