

Research Methods in Psychology

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| Code | PSYC 2331.001 |
| Term | Spring 2024 |
| Instructor | Dr. Lauren Kirby |
| Department | Psychology and Counseling |
| Institution | University of Texas at Tyler |
| Format | Face-to-Face |

Instructional Team Information

| | Preferred name and pronouns | Full name | E-mail | Phone | Office hours |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--|--------------|--------------|
| Instructor | Dr. Kirby; she/her | Lauren Kirby | LKirby@uttyler.edu | 334-703-5635 | TBA |
| GTA | Jake; he/him | Jacob Hardin | JHardin@uttyler.edu | NA | TBA |

Course and Meeting Information

This course is face-to-face, meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 to 3:20pm in HPR 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). The login will be embedded in Canvas automatically and you can purchase it through that link. There is a 14-day free trial available, so sign up as soon as you can.
- APA Academic Writer (Online enhanced version of APA style manual). Its purchase is bundled with APA PsycLearn, so you only have to make one purchase. However, you will need to create a login for APA Academic Writer. Please use your UT Tyler Patriot e-mail account for this.
- CITI Program Account. This process will be done in class.
- Microsoft Office Products (free for UT Tyler students at <https://www.uttyler.edu/it/office365/365-proplus-students.php>)
- UT Tyler Psychology and Counseling SONA account (optional: for research study participation for extra credit)
- Zoom (UT Tyler account)
- Earphones and microphone

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. 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 not worth any points, but it is crucial to complete them and take my feedback forward to future assignments. Students who fail this course almost always do so because they skip these assignments or do not respond to feedback on them. Performing these assignments to the best of your ability is paramount to performing well on the large projects.

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.

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).

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 Presentation | 1 | 40% |
| Survey Project Paper | 1 | 40% |
| Reflection | 1 | 10% |

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| 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 |
|-----------------|----------|---|--|
| 01/16/24 | 1 | Psychology as Science | |
| 01/18/24 | 1 | Psychology as Science | Group Coordination |
| 01/23/24 | 2 | Research Questions (RQs) | Group RQ |
| 01/25/24 | 2 | Research Questions | Survey RQ |
| 01/30/24 | 3 | Reading Research Articles | Article Assignment |
| 02/01/24 | 3 | Study Designs | Group Project Sources |
| 02/06/24 | 4 | Ethics | Hypotheses |
| 02/08/24 | 4 | Ethics | |
| 02/13/24 | 5 | Sampling and External Validity | CITI Training; Data Collection Plan |
| 02/15/24 | 5 | Sampling and External Validity | |
| 02/20/24 | 6 | Correlational Design and Construct Validity | Collect Data |
| 02/22/24 | 6 | Correlational Design and Construct Validity | Collect Data |
| 02/27/24 | 7 | Analyzing and Interpreting Data | Group Data Analysis |
| 02/29/24 | 7 | Analyzing and Interpreting Data | |
| 03/05/24 | 8 | Group Project Presentations | Presentations |
| 03/07/24 | 8 | | |
| 03/12/24 | 9 | SPRING BREAK | |
| 03/14/24 | 9 | SPRING BREAK | |
| 03/19/24 | 10 | Measurement and Reliability | Survey Questions Draft |
| 03/21/24 | 10 | Measurement and Reliability | |
| 03/26/24 | 11 | Reviewing the Literature | Survey Bibliography |
| 03/28/24 | 11 | Reviewing the Literature | |
| 04/02/24 | 12 | Experimental Design | Survey Paper Outline |
| 04/04/24 | 12 | Experimental Design | |
| 04/09/24 | 13 | Between- and Within Group Designs | |
| 04/11/24 | 13 | Between- and Within Group Designs | |
| 04/16/24 | 14 | Reporting Results | Survey Analysis Plan |
| 04/18/24 | 14 | Reporting Results | |
| 04/23/24 | 15 | Work on Paper | |
| 04/25/24 | 15 | Work on Paper | Survey Paper |
| 05/03/24 | 16+ | Finals Week; Due @ 11:59pm | Reflection |