

# Introduction to Research Methods

PSYC 3401-01

Fall 2017

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**Office Hours:** MWF 11:00 - 12:00

**Class Time:** MWF 12:00 - 12:50 PM  
**Class Location:** CHSS 220  
**Lab Time:** M 3:00 – 4:50 PM  
**Lab Location:** CHSS 242A

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## Course Overview:

This course deals with the principles of research methodology and design in psychological research. Therefore, research approaches and methodologies in a wide range of content areas will be discussed. This course will primarily consist of lectures and reading assignments dealing with research methodology and the applications of these methodologies to various research areas in psychology. This course is designed to accompany the Introduction to Research Methods Laboratory. The lab portion will provide you with hands-on experience with all aspects of psychological research including the collection, analysis, and reporting of behavioral data. Thus, you will learn more about how research methodology works in this course and then apply that knowledge in the lab. As a major part of the lab, you will be required to prepare a complete APA-style laboratory report. The laboratory reports *MUST* be in proper APA-format and *MUST* be typed (reports will not be accepted unless they are typed). See this syllabus for a sample grading sheet for the laboratory reports. The deadline for lab reports is the beginning of the lab period that they are due. Papers that are handed in late will have 10% subtracted for each day (or portion of a day) that they are late. In other words, if a paper is handed in 1 hour after class, 10% will be subtracted from the grade for that paper. There will also be periodic in-class and homework assignments to get you better acquainted with research methodology and design for both the course and lab portions of the course.

## Course Goals:

1. Students should gain an understanding of the scientific process involved in conducting psychological research.
2. Students should be able to conduct and understand research in the discipline of psychology.
3. Students should develop the skills necessary to communicate the results of psychological research.
4. Students should learn to apply the course material to improve critical thinking and problem solving skills.
5. Students should develop specific skills and competencies needed by psychology professionals.
6. Students should develop the skills necessary to find and use scientific resources to answer psychological questions and solve problems.

## Grading:

Your grade in this course will consist of exams, in-class assignments, homework assignments, unannounced quizzes, laboratory reports, and laboratory assignments. Each of the four exams is worth 10% of your grade in this course. If you miss an exam, you will receive a 0 for that exam. However, you may take the *optional* cumulative exam at the end of the semester to replace that grade. All students are given the option of replacing their lowest exam grade by taking this optional cumulative exam. All other assignments (in-class assignments, homework, quizzes, etc.) are worth 10% of your grade in this course. All assignments are expected to be handed in the day that they are due. Assignments will not be accepted late and you will not be allowed to make up any in-class assignment. Thus, if you miss a class day when an assignment is due, you will receive a 0 for that assignment. Quizzes and in-class assignments on the assigned reading material will be given throughout the term. Therefore, be sure that you are current with your reading assignments.

### GRADING

Exams (4 exams)	=	10% each
In-Class/Homework Assignments	=	10%
Lab Draft #1 (Title Page, Intro, Methods, Refs)	=	10%
Lab Draft #2 (Title Page, Results, Disc, Refs, Table)	=	10%
Lab Report (Complete Manuscript)	=	20%
Lab Assignments	=	10%

### GRADING SCALE

89.5 and above	=	A
79.5 - 89.4	=	B
69.5 - 79.4	=	C
59.5 - 69.4	=	D
below 59.5	=	F

*Note:* As of the Fall 2009 semester, only grades of C or better will be counted toward the student's major in Psychology. This is a "W" course, which means that at least 50 percent of your course grade will be derived from writing activities designed to help you master course objectives.

**Required Text:**

- Anastasi, J. S., & Lee, J. R. (2016). *Research Methods in Psychology*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt Publishing Company. ISBN: 978-1-4652-9666-5.

**Strongly Recommended Text:**

- *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6<sup>th</sup> Ed., 2009). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

**Research Participation Requirement:**

Participation in research or practicum experiences conducted by members of the Department of Psychology and Philosophy is a *requirement* of this class. You can satisfy this requirement in several ways: (1) by participating in research studies being conducted in the department, (2) by participating in mock therapy sessions being conducted by graduate students enrolled in PSYC 6391, Practicum I, or (3) by participating in intellectual assessments being conducted by graduate students enrolled in PSYC 5395. Many different choices scheduled at various times will be available to you, but you must complete **4 hours/credits** of participation in these activities before 5:00 PM on the last day of class. Failure to fulfill this requirement will result in a grade of "Incomplete" in this course. Incomplete grades are governed by University policies. You will need to complete the course requirements by the close of the following semester in order to receive a grade of A, B, C, or D for the course; if you do not complete all course requirements by that time, your incomplete grade will become a failing grade. If you believe that you will be unable to devote four hours to these activities - because, for instance, this class is the only time you are on campus during the week - you should discuss your constraints with me. If necessary, an alternative project, which is likely to be written reports on assigned readings, will be arranged to ensure that the course requirements are met. However, if you seek to arrange alternative activities, you must do so before the end of the second week of classes. More details about this requirement, and instructions about how to get started, are available at the departmental website (<http://www.shsu.edu/academics/psychology-and-philosophy/psychology/research-participation.html>). Please read the guidelines for this requirement carefully.

## Class Schedule:

<u>Day:</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Anas tas i &amp; Lee</u>	<u>Lab Activity</u>
8/23 (Wed.)	Introduction to the Course	<i>none</i>	
8/25 (Fri.)	Research in the Media Discussion	Chapter 1	
8/28 (Mon.)	Basics of Experimentation	Chapter 2	Conduct Experiment
8/30 (Wed.)	Basics of Experimentation	Chapter 2	
9/1 (Fri.)	Basics of Experimentation	Chapter 2	
9/4 (Mon.)	<i>No Class – Labor Day</i>		<i>No Lab – Labor Day</i>
9/6 (Wed.)	Basics of Experimentation	Chapter 2	
9/8 (Fri.)	Basics of Experimentation	Chapter 2	
9/11 (Mon.)	<b>EXAM #1</b>	<i>none</i>	Literature Search Lecture (Chp 11)
9/13 (Wed.)	Writing Research Reports	Chapter 12	
9/15 (Fri.)	Writing Research Reports	Chapter 12	
9/18 (Mon.)	Writing Research Reports	Chapter 12	Lit Search, Work on Manuscript
9/20 (Wed.)	Writing Research Reports	Chapter 12	
9/22 (Fri.)	Writing Research Reports	Chapter 12	
9/25 (Mon.)	Writing Research Reports	Chapter 12	Lit Search, Work on Manuscript
9/27 (Wed.)	Data and Measurement	Chapter 8	
9/29 (Fri.)	Data and Measurement	Chapter 8	
10/2 (Mon.)	Analyzing Results	Chapters 9	<b>Lab Draft #1 Due</b>
10/4 (Wed.)	Analyzing Results	Chapters 9	
10/6 (Fri.)	Analyzing Results	Chapters 10	
10/9 (Mon.)	Analyzing Results	Chapters 10	SPSS Lecture (Chp 9 & 10)
10/11 (Wed.)	<b>EXAM #2</b>		
10/13 (Fri.)	Nonexperimental Research Methods	Chapters 4	
10/16 (Mon.)	Nonexperimental Research Methods	Chapters 4	Experiment Data Analysis
10/18 (Wed.)	Nonexperimental Research Methods	Chapters 4	
10/20 (Fri.)	Nonexperimental Research Methods	Chapters 5	
10/23 (Mon.)	Nonexperimental Research Methods	Chapters 5	Experiment Questions
10/25 (Wed.)	Between-subjects Designs	Chapter 6	
10/27 (Fri.)	Between-subjects Designs	Chapter 6	
10/30 (Mon.)	Within-subjects Designs	Chapter 7	<b>Lab Draft #2 Due</b>
11/1 (Wed.)	Within-subjects Designs	Chapter 7	
11/3 (Fri.)	Mixed-factor Designs	Chapter 7	
11/6 (Mon.)	Mixed-factor Designs	Chapter 7	Work on Manuscript/Questions
11/8 (Wed.)	<b>EXAM #3</b>		
11/11 (Fri.)	<i>No Class - Psychonomic Society Conference</i>		
11/13 (Mon.)	Presenting & Publishing Research	Chapter 13	Work on Manuscript/Questions
11/15 (Wed.)	Presenting & Publishing Research	Chapter 13	
11/17 (Fri.)	Presenting & Publishing Research	Chapter 13	
11/20 (Mon.)	Ethics in Research	Chapter 3	Work on Manuscript/Questions
11/22 (Wed.)	<i>No Class – Thanksgiving Break</i>		
11/24 (Fri.)	<i>No Class – Thanksgiving Break</i>		
11/27 (Mon.)	Graduate School	Chapter 14	<b>Final Manuscript Due</b>
11/29 (Wed.)	Graduate School	Chapter 14	
12/1 (Fri.)	<b>EXAM #4</b>		
12/4 (Mon.)	<b>Cumulative Final Exam (1:00 PM)</b>		

## Paper Grading Criteria

Heading	Criteria	Points	Score
<b>Cover Page (10 pts.)</b>	Does it give title, author, affiliation, running head, etc.?	0-10	_____
<b>Abstract (10 pts.)</b>	Is information from all parts of the experiment presented?	0-10	_____
<b>Introduction (60 pts.)</b>	Is there sufficient general background literature?	0-20	_____
	Is the reader guided to the current study with more specific info?	0-10	_____
	Are the basic methods of your study given?	0-10	_____
	Are the hypotheses/predictions specified?	0-10	_____
	Are proper reasons given for the expected results?	0-10	_____
<b>Method (40 pts.)</b>			
Participants	Is all pertinent subject information provided?	0-10	_____
Design	Is the proper design specified?	0-10	_____
Materials	Is there enough information to replicate?	0-10	_____
Procedure	Is there enough information to replicate?	0-10	_____
<b>Results (50 pts.)</b>	Are the ANOVA, DV, and IVs specified?	0-10	_____
	Have the descriptive statistics been given?	0-10	_____
	Have the inferential statistics been given?	0-10	_____
	Is the reader guided through the findings?	0-10	_____
	Are Tables and Figures provided?	0-10	_____
<b>Discussion (60 pts.)</b>	Are the current results discussed?	0-20	_____
	Are the current findings related to other studies or theories?	0-20	_____
	Are applications or theoretical implications of the research discussed?	0-20	_____
<b>References (30 pts.)</b>	Are references in the proper format?	0-10	_____
	Are the citations in the proper format?	0-10	_____
	Do references match citations?	0-10	_____
<b>Total Possible Points:</b>		<b>260</b>	_____
<b>Grade:</b>	(_____/260) x 100 = _____		

### Academic Dishonesty:

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to university disciplinary action (Code of Student Conduct and Discipline, Section 5.3, as printed in Student Guidelines) **AND WILL RECEIVE AN IMMEDIATE FAILING GRADE FOR THE ASSIGNMENT AND/OR THE COURSE.** The university and its official representatives, acting in accordance with Subsection 5.32, may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work that has been submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

- **Cheating** includes:
  - Copying from another student's exam, laboratory report, assignment, computer files, data listings, and/or programs.
  - Using materials not authorized by the instructor during an exam or other assignment.
  - Collaborating with another student during an exam or in preparing academic work without authorization from the instructor.
  - Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test.
  - Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, to take an exam or complete any assignment.
  - Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by another individual or firm.
- **Plagiarism** refers to the use of another individual's work or idea and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work or idea into one's own work offered for credit. If you would like to use someone else's ideas, summarize their work **USING YOUR OWN WORDS and then CITE THEIR WORK** using the accepted American Psychological Association's Guidelines.
- **Collusion** means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit.

### Attendance Policy:

Regular and punctual attendance is expected for this course. However, no course points are linked to class attendance but you must be in attendance to hand in assignments, participate in in-class assignments, or take exams. In-class activities are *only* provided during class, and thus *cannot* be made up at a later time. Although this class will not carry a "failure due to absences" policy, failure to attend class will decrease your grade for each assignment missed. Further, information covered in class will be included in exams. Poor attendance is strongly related to poor grades, so each student is strongly encouraged to attend class regularly. If you must be absent, be sure to arrange for a peer to obtain handouts and/or notes for you. They will not be available from me except on the date initially provided.

### Classroom Rules of Conduct:

According to Section 5 of the Student Handbook, students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who are disruptive to the class may be dismissed from the classroom for their inappropriate behavior and will not be allowed to hand in any assignments due for the remainder of that class. Additionally, students may be withdrawn from the course for repeated disruptive behavior.

### Religious Holy Days:

Students have the responsibility of notifying the professor of each scheduled class day that the student will be absent due to a religious holy day. *This must be done not later than the 15<sup>th</sup> class day.* Students who are absent from class for observance of a religious holy day will be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within one week of returning to class. However, any in-class assignments cannot be made up, but will not count against their other assignment average since the one lowest assignment grade will be dropped.

### Notice to Persons with Disabilities:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no individuals otherwise qualified shall, solely by reason of their disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic program activity. Students with a disability that may affect their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor as soon as possible. This is done so that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired since there will be no retroactive accommodation. Furthermore, accommodations will be made **only** to those people who have documented the disability with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Office in the Lee Drain Annex (phone: 936-294-3512). Their web address is [www.shsu.edu/disability](http://www.shsu.edu/disability).

For more information please visit: <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

### Instructor Evaluations:

Towards the end of the semester, students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form. I encourage you to be complete and honest in your evaluations. I particularly encourage you to provide constructive feedback in the open-ended section of the evaluation form. IDEA is the faculty evaluation system used at SHSU.