

PSY 3401 INTRO TO RESEARCH METHODS

Spring 2018 Credit hours: 3

**Section 1: Tu, Th 9.30 - 10.50 CHSS 140**

**Section 2: Tu, Th 12.30 - 1.50 LDB 213**

Instructor: T. C. Sim, Ph.D

Office: CHSS Rm 308

Tel: 294-1507

Office hours: Refer to grade policy

Required text:

***Research Design and Methods (9th Edition)*** by Bordens and Abbott. Mayfield

Publishing Company ***Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association***

***(6th ed.)*** (For lecture and lab).

Supplemental text:

*The Elements of Style* by Strunk and White (also available on internet <http://sut1.sut.ac.th/strunk/>).

*Writing with style* by John R. Trimble.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Please take note that this is a proposed schedule. Any changes in the schedule (especially EXAMS) will be announced in class. If a student is absent from class, it will be his/her responsibility to get information on any updated changes from classmates.

TOPIC

Part I	Chapter
Explaining behavior	1
Getting ideas for research	3
Choosing a research design	4

Making systematic observations	5
<b>FIRST EXAM</b>	<b>Feb 15</b>
Part II	
Choosing and using subjects	6
Understanding ethical issues	7
Using Between-subjects and Within-subjects designs	10
Using specialized research designs (ends pg. 330)	11
<b>SECOND EXAM</b>	<b>Mar 22</b>
Part III	
Using Nonexperimental research	8
Survey research	9
Combined Designs (begins pg. 331)	11
Using Single-Subject Design	12
<b>THIRD EXAM</b>	<b>Apr 12</b>
Part IV	
Describing data	
Using inferential statistics	
<b>FINAL EXAM :</b>	<b>Check Finals Schedule</b>

## CLASS OBJECTIVES

Welcome to the world of scientific psychological research. This course is designed to teach you the proper methods of scientific investigation. Particularly important to you, as a student of psychology, will be the basic methods of research in psychology. At the end of the semester, you should become acquainted and comfortable with reading a scientific and scholarly article in a critical manner, and be familiar with the ways of experimental research so often encountered in psychology. This course will provide you with the training to take an idea and develop the idea into a testable hypothesis. You will also learn to design and conduct a scientific study to investigate scientific hypotheses. You will be instructed on a variety of research designs that are most appropriate for examining various topics of interest, and the proper procedures of data gathering. The climax of this class will be the final research proposal. You will take a topic of interest to you and design a study to learn more about that subject, using all the skills and tools that are available. ***Although this proposal will count as one exam score and is equal to approximately 20% of the course grade, all students must complete this project in order to earn a passing grade. Failure to submit a completed proposal will prevent you from earning a passing grade.*** You must also be enrolled in the laboratory class that accompanies this course. If you are not enrolled in a lab because you have previously completed the lab, you will still be required to submit a completed proposal (see me). The lab instructor will announce the due date for this project. All topics must be approved before you begin.

**Grading Policy:**

Instructor: T. C. Sim, Ph.D.

Office: Rm. 308 CHSS

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294-1174

Office hours: Tue, Thu 730-8am; 11am - 12.15pm; 2pm - 3pm. or by appointment.

**Grading Policy:****Class Tests:**

There will be at least four (4) major in-class examinations with approximately 50 multiple-choice questions. There may also be essay questions in certain segments of the course and will be announced prior to the start of that segment. ***No make-up exam will be given, unless there is a a serious illness or a death in the immediate family. Out-of-town travel on the day of the test will not legitimize your request for a make-up or re-scheduled test. Documentary evidence must be provided, and it is your responsibility to contact me within 24 hours or earlier. All make-up tests will be substantially more rigorous as you will have had extra time to prepare for the test. The last class day will be reserved for make-up tests if any has been approved. No one will be allowed more than one make-up test. No make-ups will be given for class quizzes, and late arrivals will not be given extra time. NO EXCEPTIONS***

Absence from a scheduled exam or class quiz will be equivalent to a score of zero. Students are encouraged to take note of exam schedules for all classes. ***All exams*** must be taken on the scheduled day and ***no one*** may ask for a postponement or to take the exam in advance because of multiple exams on the same day (***especially for FINALS***). If you have more than one exam on the same day, give yourself ample time to prepare. The final grade will be based on the total points accumulated from class exams, class quizzes, and class assignment. ***Students who are late on the day of the test will be prohibited from taking the test if a classmate has already completed the test and has left the room. Academic dishonesty (including cheating on exams) will result in a F grade for the course and will be referred to the appropriate disciplinary body .***

**Final Grade:**

The final course grade will be the combined scores from the lecture and the lab sections. The final lab score will count as 25% of the final course grade. This course will count as four credit hours.

The final grade for the lecture section will be based on the accumulated earned points divided by the number of available points for all exams and assignments combined. For example, if you have accumulated 360 points out of 400 possible points, you have earned 90% of the available points, and that will be equal to an **A** grade, and this will count as 75% of the final course grade. Students whose scores are close to the next higher grade (1 point away) may be upgraded upon my discretion. This will be based on your participation/contribution in class discussions and your attendance.

*A = 90% - 100% C = 70% - 79%*

*B = 80% - 89% D = 60% - 69%*

***Attendance Policy:***

**Complete** attendance at all class meetings will be expected. **Students who leave class before dismissal of class will be considered as absent.** Students who are persistently tardy (more than 3 occasions) will be considered as absent upon subsequent late arrivals for class. If your personal schedule will interfere with your coming to class on time, please consider enrolling for this class when it is more appropriate for your schedule. **Students with 5 absences will be dropped a letter grade regardless of your standing. This means that if your course grade is a D, your final course grade will be F.**

**5 absences: Highest possible grade B**

**6 absences: Highest possible grade C**

**7 absences: Highest possible grade D 8 absences: F**

***Class Participation:***

Students will be expected to read assigned text by class time and to be able to participate in class discussions. The exams will include all topics discussed in class, and the assigned text. Students who miss class meetings will be responsible for getting the lecture notes from their classmates. Do not send me an email requesting lecture material. If you anticipate missing class for an extended period (out of town emergency, chronic illness, etc.) it will be to your advantage, as well as good courtesy, to keep me informed. If you have any questions about the class material, please do not hesitate to contact me during my posted office hours. You may also call me at my office outside of the posted hours. If you have any questions concerning any material discussed in class or in the text, I strongly encourage you to raise those concerns in class. If the scheduled time is not convenient, do not hesitate to make an appointment. As long as I am in my office, you are invited to come in and discuss any pertinent issue. I welcome and encourage student visits to my office.

**Research participation:**

Students are required to participate in 4 hours of research projects in the Psychology Department. Please register for this at:

[http://www.shsu.edu/~psy www/ResearchParticipation.html#perp](http://www.shsu.edu/~psy/www/ResearchParticipation.html#perp)

***Failure to complete the research participation will delay the posting of your grade. Your earned grade will be posted only upon the completion of this requirement.***

**Test Scores:**

Test scores will be returned in class and students are expected to stay updated on their test performance. Please contact me for your test scores as promptly as possible if you are not present when test scores are returned in class. All efforts will be made to provide you with the feedback on your test performance as timely as possible.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic exercises both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subjected to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives 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 which is to be submitted as part of the course requirements, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials.

**Students who are guilty of any of the above offences will be given a failing grade for the course.**

**Classroom Rules of Conduct:**

Students who, by being habitually tardy (refer also to attendance policy), sleeping in class, or engaging in any form of behavior that is disruptive/belligerent and detrimental to maintaining a classroom environment conducive to learning will be penalized with a letter grade demotion, and may be asked to leave the classroom for the rest of the semester.

**All cellular phones are to be switched off during class time. At no time will it be acceptable for a student to answer or make a phone call, or to be text messaging during class-time or a test. All forms of phone usage are strictly prohibited when class is in session.** If a student has an emergency family situation that makes it crucial to be able to receive an incoming call during class, please notify me prior to the beginning of class.

The use of laptop/notebook computers, or tablets is solely and strictly restricted to note-taking and activities directly related to class material. Students who are casually surfing the internet for non-class-related activities will be asked to leave the class. Repeated abuse of online access during classtime will result in the suspension of student computer privilege during class. Please respect the learning environment of your classmates and instructor.

**Please respect the learning environment of your classmates. All comments and questions that are course-related are strongly encouraged, but behaviors, verbal or non-verbal, that espouse and promote disrespect, intolerance, or bigotry, and are detrimental to a safe learning environment are strictly prohibited. Offenders will be removed from class. Please keep in mind that learning is a shared responsibility.**

#### **STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY**

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be

penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

#### **DISABLED STUDENT POLICY**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity

*Any student with a disability that affects his/her academic performance should contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities in the SHSU Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786) to request accommodations.*

If you have a disability that may adversely affect your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with *Office of Services for Students with Disabilities*.

**Visitors in the Classroom**

At the discretion of the instructor, visitors to class must present a current official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom. **NO visitors will be allowed in class without prior approval.**

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

### Guidelines for E-mail Communication

1. Grades and test scores will NOT be released through email. This is for the protection of student privacy.
2. The email is NOT a substitute for class attendance. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get the notes from your classmates. DO NOT email me to ask for lecture notes.
3. I may or may not check the mailbox on weekends or holidays, and, consequently, email sent or delivered on weekends and holidays may not receive my attention until the week begins.
4. The email is NOT a substitute for my office hours. If you have questions about the course contents that may require a lengthy response, please see me in my office during my office hours or schedule an appointment with me at a mutually convenient time.
5. All assignments are due in class in hard copies. **No electronic submissions will be accepted.**
6. Proper etiquette is expected in all email correspondence. **An email that does not address the recipient directly will be considered as a massmailing item and will not receive a reply. Good manners should not be compromised for the sake of expediency and brevity.**
7. Acknowledgment of responses to requests and queries will be expected — this is common courtesy and good manners, and this serves as confirmation that my reply has been successfully delivered. Unacknowledged responses will result in the student receiving low priority in subsequent correspondence.
8. Do not forward jokes or non-course-related material.
9. Please identify yourself in your email. Your email address does not necessarily provide clues to your identity. Do not assume that I will always know which class you are in.
10. Please include a SUBJECT in your correspondence. My mailbox is setup to send all email without a SUBJECT to the spam folder.
11. Please adhere to proper grammar and syntax in all email communications. Please refrain from the language and grammar used in chat rooms and Instant Messengers. Your college education and training should strengthen your ability to communicate effectively and professionally, and your language proficiency will reflect on your status as a future college graduate.

11. Please do not expect an immediate response to any last minute requests or queries. Do not expect that I will drop everything just to respond to your email. I will attempt to respond as timely as my schedule permits.

12. Be sure to check with the Computer Services that you have a working mailbox (email address) assigned to you. This will be the address for all email correspondences.