

PSYCHOLOGY 3401 Section 04
Research Methods
SHSU COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES
Department of Psychology and Philosophy
Spring 2018

Class Time: 8:00-8:50am Mon/Wed/Fri
Lab Time: 3:00-4:50 Wed
Instructor: Danielle Langlois
Office: CHSS 305

Class Location: CHSS 220
Lab Location: CHSS 242A
Office Hours: M/Wed 10-11am
*also by appointment

E-Mail: dk1012@shsu.edu

Required Materials:

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

APA. *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.)

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. The course will include two primary components. The first component involves lectures and reading assignments dealing with research methodology and the applications of these methodologies to various research areas in psychology. The second component, deals with hands-on experience with all aspects of psychological research including the collection, analysis, and reporting of behavioral data. The research lab portion of this class will require you to prepare APA-style laboratory reports. The laboratory reports **MUST** be in proper APA-format and **MUST** be typed (reports will not be accepted unless they are typed). All lab reports must be turned in both in person (printed and stapled) and online through Blackboard using TURNITIN by the deadline.

Goals include:

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

Course Website: A Blackboard website will be maintained for this course. Enter your SHSU username and password in order to log in to the system. Course announcements, documents, assignments, quizzes, and other relevant information will be posted on this website. Check it frequently for important information! However, **please do NOT message me via Blackboard, as I am not checking it regularly. If you need to reach me I recommend email or seeing me in person!**

Course Requirements:

Exams: There are three exams covering the reading and lecture content. The lowest exam grade will be dropped, so only two exams will count toward your final grade. Each of these three exams will be worth 20% of your final grade and count for 40% total. Each exam will be closed-book, and you all are expected to abide by the Honor Code and with Academic Honesty at all times. If you are late to an exam, I will allow you to take the exam, *as long as you arrive in class before the first person to finish leaves*. Once a person has finished and left the classroom, you will not be allowed to take the exam. You are expected to be prepared for these exams (do your readings in advance, attend each class, utilize any/all resources provided by the instructor, and STUDY). **You are responsible for your own success.**

Exam Structure: Each exam will be comprised of two portions: Fill-in-the-blank/short answer and Multiple Choice. The Fill-in-the-blank/short answer portions will be first, with the multiple choice questions afterward.

Policy on Make-up Exams: There are no makeup exams. If you miss an exam it will become your dropped exam grade. In order to be fair to all students I cannot make exceptions. If you are going to miss an exam, please speak to me BEFORE the exam date. In this case I will permit you to take the exam **before** the rest of the class. You will not be allowed to take it after the official exam date. **No exceptions.**

Assignments: In-class assignments & homework will count for 10% of your final grade. These assignments **MUST** be turned in on time, either at the **beginning** of class (for homework), or **before the end of class** (for an in-class assignment). **I do not take late work.**

Lab Report: The research lab portion of this class will require you to prepare APA-style laboratory reports. The laboratory reports **MUST** be in proper APA-format and **MUST** be typed (reports will not be accepted unless they are typed). **All lab reports must be turned in both in person (printed and stapled) and online through Blackboard using TURNITIN by the deadline. The deadline for lab reports is the beginning of the lab period (3 pm) that they are due.** See this syllabus for sample grading sheets for the laboratory reports.

Extra Credit: There is no extra credit.

Grading:

A = 450-500 points
B = 400-449 points
C = 350-399 points
D = 300-349 points
F = 299 points or fewer

Grade:

Exam	100 pts
Exam	100 pts
Lab Report	250 pts
Assignments	50 pts

Grading cutoffs are firm. *In order to be fair to everyone I cannot “bump” your grade no matter how close you might be.*

Research Participation: Participation in research or practicum experiences conducted by members of the Psychology Department is a **requirement** of this class. You can satisfy this requirement in several ways by using the PeRP system (<http://shsu.sona-systems.com/>): (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 3 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 the course by then, your incomplete grade will become a failing grade. If you believe that you will be unable to devote three 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 first 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/~psy_www/ResearchParticipation.html). Please read the guidelines for this requirement carefully.

General Policies:

Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism:

If I believe that you have copied from another student or allowed a student to copy your work, you will receive a grade of ‘0’ on that assignment or exam and the dean will be notified of the offense. For more detail see the: the “Academic Honesty” section. **CHEATING IN ANY FORM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!**

Attendance and Timeliness:

Please make an effort to attend every class and be punctual. You are expected to come to class prepared (e.g., read the appropriate pages, completed any assignments, and have noted any questions that you want answered or discussed) and on time. Attendance will not generally be taken, though regular attendance is related to class performance.

If lateness becomes an issue, I reserve the right to lock the classroom doors shortly after the beginning of class.

If you must leave early, please alert me beforehand and seat yourself near one of the doors in order to minimize distraction.

Late arrival/leaving early is VERY DISRUPTIVE, so avoid it if you can.

Professional Conduct:

As part of your general college training, it is expected that you learn how to function well in the professional world. I expect you to always communicate appropriately (in person and in writing), be respectful of your classmates and instructors, and contribute to class discussions. I also expect you to be able to write using correct grammar. You are an intelligent adult and in

college so this is not an unfair request. I will subtract points from your written work if there are pervasive mistakes or if the work lacks clarity due to improper grammar.

Students with Disabilities Policy:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities 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 the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/7ff819c3-39f3-491d-b688-db5a330ced92.pdf>

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. Section 51.911(a)(2) defines religious holy days as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20..." 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). The instructor will notify the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

Academic Honesty:

The Faculty of Sam Houston State University expects students to conduct their academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the University. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit), the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the college. The University's policy on academic honesty and appeal procedures can be found in the manual entitled Student Guidelines, distributed by Division of Student Services. (Reference Section 5.3 of the SHSU Student Guidelines).

To receive credit for any assignment in this class, all products should be generated after the class began and the task was assigned. In other words, nothing from another class should be used for credit in this class, even if the author is a student currently enrolled

in this class. Failure to use proper citations for work could result in no credit for the assignment.

Classroom Visitors: Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

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

Additional Important Course Information:

- **Cell phones, i-phones, and similar devices** are permitted in class on the condition that they are silent and are not causing disruption. I reserve the right to ask you to leave class immediately should behavior become disruptive. **THESE DEVICES ARE NOT ALLOWED DURING EXAMS**
- **Laptop computers:** Laptops are allowed; however, they must not cause disturbance. Laptops must also be quiet- no loud mechanical keyboards. I reserve the right to ask you to leave class and not bring your laptop again should it prove disruptive. **THESE DEVICES ARE NOT ALLOWED DURING EXAMS**
- **Response Time:** Please give me adequate time to respond to messages and to grade assignments. I try to maintain a quick turn-around, however, with so many students what is “quick” to me may feel slow to you. For instance, please give me 1-2 full business days to respond to your email before sending more. Also, **give me at least one to two weeks to post your exam grades to Blackboard.** If your grade is still not posted two weeks after the exam day and I haven’t mentioned the delay in class, PLEASE let me know.
- When taking exams, you are required to remain in the classroom unless you have submitted your exam as completed.
- As instructor, I reserve the right to drop students for inappropriate behavior.
- The course outline that follows is subject to change.
- Should you require any additional information, please contact me or come to my office hours. If you want to come see me in person but have a scheduling conflict with my office hours, email me and we can try to set up a time.

Paper Grading Criteria

<i>Heading</i>	<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Score</i>
Cover Page (10 pts.)	Does it give title, author, affiliation, running head, etc.?	0-10	
Abstract (10 pts.)	Is information from all parts of the experiment presented?	0-10	
Introduction (60 pts.)			
	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	
Method (40 pts.)			
	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	
Results (50 pts.)			
	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	
Discussion (60 pts.)			
	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	
References (30 pts.)			
	Are references in the proper format?	0-10	
	Are the citations in the proper format?	0-10	
	Do references match citations?	0-10	

Total: _____