

PSY 5391: Graduate Research Design
Fall 2020, CRN: 13248 (Section 001), 13249 (Section 002)
(August 24th – December 11th)

Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Tooley

Email: ktooley@txstate.edu (this is the best way to contact me)

Office: UAC 248

Phone: (512) 245-4384

Recommended (but not required) Text:

Mitchell, M. L. & Jolley, J. M., (2013). *Research design explained* (8th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning. ISBN-13: 9781133049838 | ISBN-10: 1133049834

Class Web site: Links to this syllabus, readings, video lectures, discussion board, grades, assignments, and class announcements can be accessed through **Canvas**.

Class Meeting Location: Somewhere quiet, with reliable internet.

Section 1 Zoom Meeting link:

<https://txstate.zoom.us/j/95759656796?pwd=ZTFOU0F2QkY6dDNiWVp1VFN1dkx2UT09>

Passcode: 951918

Section 2 Zoom Meeting

link: <https://txstate.zoom.us/j/91372527714?pwd=NjEzMW8weVZNbGRmamw4T2JweUEExUT09>

Passcode: 951653

Class Meeting Times: Mondays/Wednesdays, 9:30-10:50 (Sec. 1) or 11:00-12:20 (Sec. 2)

NOTE: This class will not “meet” every class period. Instead **we will have synchronous (during the scheduled class day/time) Zoom meetings only on specific days marked in the schedule below**. All other class days will be used to complete the asynchronous (whenever works best for you) workflow (lectures, readings, and assignments) in Canvas.

Virtual Office Hours: Thursdays 12-2 PM, over email or by appointment in Zoom (if real time discussion is needed). If you email me during this timeframe, I should be able to get back to you within 15 minutes or so. If you email me outside this timeframe, I will respond within 24 hours.

Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to learn about the process of psychological research in its various forms and to acquire the critical thinking skills necessary to read, think, and write about published research findings. After successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- 1) Understand the ethical issues in research and know what constitutes *ethical* research.
- 2) Understand the various types of research methods used in psychology, and know when each method is most appropriate.
- 3) Properly design a psychological research project.
- 4) Read and think critically about research findings.
- 5) Interpret results and report research findings in APA format.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend all scheduled Zoom class meetings. If there is a scheduling conflict, students will need to work with me for an accommodation ASAP- ideally BEFORE the day of the absence. Class activities (and points associated with these activities) may not be able to be made up, depending on the nature of the activity.

Academic Honesty:

Cheating in any form will not be tolerated. If you are caught cheating, you will receive no points for the exam/assignment. In case you are unclear, academic honesty and cheating are thoroughly covered here: <http://policies.txstate.edu/university-policies/07-10-01.html>

Disability Accommodations:

If you have a documented disability that requires special accommodations, please provide me with the verifying paperwork within the first 2 weeks of class. Information on this can be obtained from: <http://www.txstate.edu/trec/attd/attd.html>

Reading Assignments:

You are required to do the assigned reading listed on the schedule below. In addition to the textbook, we will be reading, discussing, and writing about published research articles throughout the course of the semester. These readings will be available to you on Canvas.

***Graded Work:**

Assignments (35% of overall course grade)

Throughout the semester, there will be several assignments that will be graded. These should be turned in on time for full consideration (late work is only accepted when cleared with the instructor **beforehand**).

Class Participation (10% of your overall course grade)

Some class days will involve an in-class activity/discussion on the topics covered to help you solidify your knowledge. For each activity that you actively participate in, you will earn **full credit**. If you are not in class, or do not fully participate, you will receive **no credit** (unless an accommodation has been reached with the instructor).

Research Talk Attendance (10% of your overall course grade)

You are required to attend **at least 2 research talks** given by the psychology department to help familiarize yourself with the research going on in the department. These can be brown bag talks (at noon on certain Fridays), or invited speakers to the department (dates TBD).

Midterm Exam (20% of overall course grade)

There will be **1 midterm exam** focused on applying the course concepts. This exam will be open note/book (but must be completed independently) and will contain applied, essay style questions.

Research Project (25% of course grade)

The grade for your research project will have two parts: (1) an oral presentation grade and (2) a research paper grade. Specific details about the research paper and presentation (including grading rubrics) will be posted on the course Canvas site.

Project Proposal Presentation (10% of course grade):

Each student will prepare and give a brief (15 minutes) presentation on their proposed project. This can be a live Zoom presentation or a recorded presentation, depending on the student's preference. This presentation must explain the proposed project:

- Background, previous findings, and hypotheses
- Proposed Method/Data Analysis plan
- Explanation of potential results and what they would mean as they relate to your hypotheses and previous findings.

Final Research Paper (15% of course grade):

Each student must also write an APA style research paper, reporting their study. The requirements for the research paper are as follows:

- Must be written according to **American Psychological Association (APA) format**
 - Including content sections: Introduction, Method, Results (with graphs/tables), and Discussion; as well as Title Page, Abstract, and References sections
- Must use at least 5 peer-reviewed (primary-source) journal articles as sources
- 5-10 pages, double-spaced, in 12 point font (not including Title Page, Abstract, or References)
- Must not contain any plagiarism

***NOTE: some graded work will be turned in via uploading documents to TRACS. All such work must be in either Word document (.doc or .docx) or PDF (.pdf) format.**

Your letter grade will be based upon your combined performance in the categories listed above, with the following grade cut-offs:

- A (100% - 90%)
- B (89% - 80%)
- C (79% - 70%)
- D (69% - 60%)
- F (0% - 59%)

My planned schedule for the class is listed on the following page. This schedule **is subject to change**, but I will announce any changes that I make via Canvas/email.

Week	Date	Zoom Meeting/Activity	Homework/ Independent Work	Assignment Due
1	8/24	Welcome Zoom Meeting: Syllabus, Expectations, and answer questions	Online lectures: Methodology Refresher	None
1	8/26	None	Reading: Ch. 1	None
2	8/31	None	Online lectures: Ethics in Research CITI Training	None
2	9/2	None	Online tutorial: TX State IRB Application Process Reading: Ch. 2	<i>CITI certification due</i>
3	9/7	Labor Day- Class Does Not Meet	None	None

3	9/9	Zoom Discussion: Mock IRB Review Session	Reading: Mock IRB Submission (read before Zoom Discussion)	None
4	9/14	None	Online lectures: Theoretical Predictions & Generating Good Hypotheses Reading: Ch. 3	None
4	9/16	Zoom Discussion: Theory & Hypothesis in Research Articles	Ch. 4 & Assigned Articles (Read assigned articles before Discussion)	None
5	9/21	None	Online lectures: Reliability & Validity in Research Reading: Ch. 5-6 & 9	None
5	9/23	None	Readings: Assigned Articles	Online Discussion board: Assigned Articles
6	9/28	None	Online Lectures: Survey Research Techniques Reading: Ch. 8	None
6	9/30	Zoom Activity: Data Set 1	Readings: Data Set 1 Articles; How to Write Method Sections	None
7	10/5	None	Online Lectures: Observational, Correlational, & Quasi-Experimental Methods Reading: Ch. 7 & 14 (pgs. 583-602)	Method and Data Analysis Plan: Data Set 1
7	10/7	Zoom Activity: Analyze Data Set 1	Readings: How to Write Results and Discussion Sections	
8	10/12	None	Online Lectures: Experimental Designs Reading: Ch. 10-11	Results and Discussion: Data Set 1
8	10/14	None	Online Lectures: Factorial Designs Reading: Ch. 12-13	None
9	10/19	None	Online Lectures: Within-Subs, & Mixed Designs Reading: Ch. 12-13	None
9	10/21	Zoom Activity: Data Set 2	Readings: Articles for Data Set 2	Method and Data Analysis Plan: Data Set 2
10	10/26	None	Online Lectures: Drawing Conclusions Online Activity: Peer Review for Data Set 2 Reading: Ch. 15	None

10	10/28	None	Online lecture: Design and Statistics Review	Results and Discussion: Data Set 2
11	11/2	None	Review chapters 3-15 Study Guide for Midterm	Design & Analysis Challenge
11	11/4	None	None	MIDTERM EXAM
12	11/9	Zoom Meeting: Data Set 3	Reading: Articles for Data Set 3	None
12	11/11	None	Online Lectures: Presentation Basics	None
13	11/16	Individual Zoom Meetings as needed	Work on proposal Presentation for Final Paper	Presentation: proposal for Final Paper (Data Set 3)
13	11/18	None	Online Lectures: Writing tutorials (from previous weeks) <i>Work on paper</i>	None
14	11/23	None	Work on Rough Draft	None
14	11/25	No Class- Thanksgiving Break	None	Rough Draft Due 11/29
15	11/30	None	Activity: Peer-Review of Rough Drafts	Peer Reviews
15	12/2	Individual Zoom Meetings as needed	Work on Paper	None
Finals Week	12/7	Final Paper Due: CLASS DOES NOT MEET		<i>Final Paper Due on Canvas</i>