

**PSY 5391: Graduate Research Design**  
**Fall 2015, CRN: 17062 (Section 1), 17063 (Section 2)**  
**(August 25<sup>th</sup> – December 11<sup>th</sup>)**

---

**Syllabus**

---

**Instructor:** Dr. Tooley  
**Email:** [ktooley@txstate.edu](mailto:ktooley@txstate.edu)  
**Office:** UAC 248  
**Phone:** (512) 245-4384

**Class Meeting Location:** UAC 206

**Class Meeting Times:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00-12:20 PM (Sect. 1) or 12:30-1:50 PM (Sect. 2)

**Office Hours:** Mondays & Wednesdays 10:00-12:00 and Wednesdays 2:00-3:00

**Recommended Text:**

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

**Class Web site:** Links to this syllabus, readings, grades, assignments, and class announcements can be accessed through **TRACS**.

**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 class every day. Students are responsible for learning any material that they miss on their own time. Students who miss class, and do not provide a timely and warranted excuse (determined at the discretion of the instructor), will not be allowed to make up missed work. Any in-class activities (and points associated with these activities) cannot be made up, regardless of the reason for the absence.

**Academic Honesty:**

Cheating in any form will not be tolerated. If you are caught cheating, you will receive no points for the exam/assignment. You may also be turned over to the student disciplinary officer. In case you are unclear, academic honesty and cheating are thoroughly covered in the student handbook.

**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. Your midterm exam **will be based on the lecture material**, so make sure you keep up with the reading. 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 TRACS or in class.

## **\*Graded Work:**

### Midterm Exam (15% of overall course grade)

There will be **1 midterm exam** over the assigned readings and lectures. This exam will be open note/book (no internet, though) and be applied, essay style questions.

### Assignments (20% of overall course grade)

Throughout the semester, there will be several assignments and paper rough drafts 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 (25% 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**.

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

You are required to attend at least 3 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, job candidate talks, or invited speakers to the department.

### Research Project (30% of course grade)

The grade for your research project will have two parts: (1) an oral presentation grade and (2) a research paper grade.

#### Oral Presentation of Research (10% of course grade):

Each student will have **10 minutes** to present their research project and findings, including:

- An explanation of the topic of interest, background theory, and previous research findings
- An explanation of the specific hypothesis/hypotheses
- An explanation of your Methodology including participants, design & operational definitions of variables, materials, and procedure used
- An explanation of the descriptive, graphical, and inferential statistical results
- An explanation of your interpretation of the results as they relate to your hypothesis, larger theory, and past research findings
- Thoughtful responses to questions from your instructor and peers

#### Individual Research Paper (20% 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**
- Must use at least 8 peer-reviewed (primary-source) journal articles as sources
- 8-12 pages, double-spaced, in 12 point font (not including Title Page, Abstract, or References)

- Must not contain any plagiarism

Details about and a grading rubric for the research paper and presentation will be posted on the course TRACS site.

**\*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 in class.

Date	Topic	Assigned Reading	Assignment Due
8/25	Intro & Syllabus; Activity: Finding Research Articles & Reading Tips	Primary-Source Article	<i>Talk to advisor about project</i>
8/27	Lecture: Scientific Study of Psych & Methodology Refresher	Ch. 1	<i>See above</i>
9/1	Lecture: Ethics in Research	Ch. 2	<i>See above</i>
9/3	Activity: Mock IRB Review Session	CITI Modules	<i>*Should have talked to advisor about project ideas by today</i>
9/8	Lecture: Theoretical Predictions & Generating Good Hypotheses	Ch. 3	<b>CITI Training Certification due</b>
9/10	Discussion: Theory & Hypothesis in Research Articles ( <b>Read assigned articles before class</b> )	Ch. 4 & Assigned Articles	<i>Meet with advisor about project ideas</i>
9/15	Lecture: Reliability & Validity in Research	Ch. 5-6 & 9	<i>see above</i>
9/17	Discussion: Critiquing Reliability and Validity of Published Articles ( <b>Read assigned articles before class</b> )	Assigned Articles	<i>*Should have met with advisor to finalize project topic</i>
9/22	Lecture: Observational, Correlational, & Quasi-Experimental Methods	Ch. 7 & 14 (pgs. 583-602)	<i>Work on proposal</i>
9/24	Lecture: Survey Research Techniques	Ch. 8	<i>Work on</i>

			<i>proposal</i>
9/29	Activity: Generate Survey on Qualtrics		<i>Work on proposal</i>
10/1	Activity: Implement survey		<b>(advisor approved) Project Proposal due</b>
10/6	Activity: Analyze survey data (tutorials in R and Xcel)**		
10/8	Lecture: Experimental Designs	Ch. 10-11	<b>Survey Data Write-up due</b>
10/13	Feedback on proposals and materials plan		<i>Materials</i>
10/15	Lecture: Factorial, Within-Subs, & Mixed Designs	Ch. 12-13	<i>Materials</i>
10/20	Activity: Design & Analysis Challenge		<i>Materials</i>
10/22	Materials check (all materials and consent forms must be approved by today)		<b>Materials due</b>
10/27	Activity: Data Collection		<i>data collection</i>
10/29	Activity: Data Collection		<i>data collection</i>
11/3	<b>MIDTERM EXAM (CH. 3-13)</b>		
11/5	Data Coding/Scoring & Creating Databases & Visualizing Data <b>MEET IN LAB</b>		<i>Work on paper</i>
11/10	Data Coding/Scoring & Analysis <b>MEET IN LAB</b>		<i>Work on paper</i>
11/12	Data Analysis <b>MEET IN LAB</b>		<i>Work on paper</i>
11/17	Lecture: Drawing Conclusions & Paper Formatting (Help w/Papers)	Ch. 15	<b>Paper Rough Draft Due 11/18</b>
11/19	Activity: Peer-Review of Rough Drafts		
11/24	Activity: Peer-Review of Rough Drafts		<i>work on presentation</i>
11/26	<b>No Class- Thanksgiving Break</b>		<i>work on presentation</i>
12/1	<b>Project Presentations</b>		<b>Presentation Due (Revise paper)</b>
12/3	<b>Project Presentations</b>		<i>Revise paper</i>
12/8-12/10	Finals Week- Class does not meet		<b>Final Paper Due 12/10 (TRACS)</b>