



PSY 305.02L, .03L Experimental Psychology Lab  
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2018

Instructor: Mr. Adam Ray

Class Location: Sowers Education South (EDS) 122

Class Times: T 12:30pm - 01:20pm (02L), W 1:00pm – 01:50pm (03L)

Office Location: Binnion 212

Office Hours: T/R 2:00pm - 5:00pm, and by appointment

Email Address: [aray6@leomail.tamuc.edu](mailto:aray6@leomail.tamuc.edu)

Preferred form of communication:

Communication Response Time:

**NOTE:** I will NOT be available to answer emails between the hours of **10pm and 8am**. If you attempt to contact me during that timeframe, please do not expect a response until after that timeframe has ended.

<b>COURSE INFORMATION</b>
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**Course Description:** This course allows for additional time to discuss the materials covered in lecture and to work on applying what you have learned in lecture through developing a research project. Each week in lab will involve working on a particular portion of your research.

During lab you will begin by developing a feasible research question (grounded in past literature), which can then be tested through conducting empirical research. I will provide you with the 'step by step processes' researchers follow when developing research ideas and conducting studies. In effect, during lab you will be working on your projects and receiving direct feedback throughout this process. Psychological research can be challenging, especially if it is your first time. This lab will serve as an aid in developing your ability to 1) come up with feasible research ideas, 2) develop appropriate research methods, 3) collect data, 4) conduct appropriate analysis, and 4) produce a quality APA style report which presents your findings.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Learning to review the primary literature (improving library research skills, increasing familiarity with scientific writing, and reading journal articles)
2. Learning how research ideas are developed, including the formulation of testable hypotheses
3. Development and execution of a research plan (choosing appropriate research method to test specific hypotheses, ethical guidelines, and how to collect data)
4. Analysis of research results, including a basic understanding of SPSS
5. Presentation of experimental results (including verbal, written, and power point presentations)

**Required Materials:** (already required for the experimental class itself)

1. McBride, D. M. (2010). *The process of research in psychology*. (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.) Sage. ISBN-13: 978-1483347608

2. American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. (6th ed.). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association. ISBN: 9781433805615

3. (Optional) Stanovich, K. E. (2010). *How to think straight about psychology*. (9th ed.). Boston; Allyn & Bacon. Note that the 10th edition is fine if the 9th edition is unavailable.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### **Assignments:**

As part of your lab grade you will be required to complete a series of exercises tied to the topic covered in lecture each week. The aim of these exercises is to test your comprehension of the lecture material and to put what you learn in class to the test.

All assignments will be due via D2L by 11:59pm the Sunday following Lab that week.

### **Research Component:**

During lab you will be working on your TWO research project components, including the following:

- A) Literature review (Paper 1)
- B) APA Style Research Report (Paper 2)

You will also be required to complete a final research presentation that is the culmination of all of your research work throughout the year.

More details will be given in lab regarding the requirements and procedures involved with completing each of these tasks. Lab time is geared towards helping you complete and improve your research work. It is extremely important that you complete assignments **ON TIME** and attend **ALL** labs, as this course will require you to work hard.

### **Lab Participation:**

Class Participation includes attendance and appropriate engagement during lab activities:

- A) **Attendance** will be taken every class, your grade for attendance will be based on the percentage of class days that you were in attendance, and then that percentage will be transferred into points. For example, if you are in attendance for 75% of the total class days, you will receive an attendance grade of 75 points. However, if documentation is provided for your absence you will be excused.

You will easily get behind if you are not attending, thus I am providing valuable time in lab for you to work on your projects. DO NOT take this for granted.

### **Peer Review:**

Over the course of the semester you will be required to work with your group members to successfully complete your research projects. In an effort to ensure quality work from ALL group members, your group will be required to complete a peer review at the end of the semester to anonymously rate each group member for their contributions to the research. This review makes up 25 points of your grade.

<b>LAB GRADING POLICY</b>
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### **Where Will Your Grade Come From?**

- A) Participation (100 points)
- B) Completion of Ethics Training (50 points)
- C) Ethics Exercise (25 points)
- D) Lit. Review Exercise (25 points)
- E) Method Section Exercise (25 points)
- F) Results Section Exercise (25 points)
- G) Discussion Section exercise (25 points)
- H) Peer Review (25 points)
- I) Lit. Review (100 points)
- J) Research Report (100 points)

Your overall grade is based on a point system, with a maximum of 500 possible points. The letter grades are assigned as follows:

**A** = 500-400pts. **B** = 399-300pts. **C** = 299-200pts. **D** = 199-100pts. **F** = 99 pts. or Less

### **Extra Credit**

I am a firm believer in extra credit and will be offering opportunities throughout the course of the semester. I will offer a maximum of **100 points** worth of extra credit, which is essentially worth a full letter grade for the lab. PLEASE take advantage of these opportunities as they arise, and PLEASE do not look for extra credit opportunities to fall into your lap at the end of the semester.

<b>COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT</b>
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**What can YOU expect from ME?**

My office hours are listed above, but I am relatively flexible if you need to meet outside of those times, I simply request that you email me ahead of time or make arrangements with me in class. I will do my very best to have your assignments or assessments graded as soon as possible. If you have any questions at any point during the class, please feel free to ask.

I want you all to succeed and will do my best to make sure that happens, you just need to be willing to put in the required effort.

**NOTE:** I will NOT be available to answer emails between the hours of **10pm and 8am**. If you attempt to contact me during that timeframe, please do not expect a response until after that timeframe has ended.

<b>COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES</b>
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**Student Behavior:**

My expectations in this area should be very simple to fulfill. (1) Immaturity will NOT be tolerated! If a student's behavior is disrupting the class, he/she will be asked to stop. (2) To remain in this class, you must be respectful of others and maintain a mature and professional manner at all times. Failure to do so will result in your expulsion from the course. (3) The Student's Guidebook addresses the issues of academic cheating and plagiarism. These are a breach of conduct, and students are subject to disciplinary actions. It's simple. Do NOT cheat (to cheat is to act dishonestly or unfairly in order to gain an advantage) or plagiarize (to plagiarize is to take the work or idea of someone else and pass it off as one's own)!

**Cell Phone Use:**

The use of cell phones is prohibited in my class. If I see that you are on your cell phone during class you will be asked to leave class for the day and will not receive attendance credit for that day.

**Computer Use:**

While we will be having our lab periods in a computer lab, I understand that it may be easier/more convenient to use your own personal computer to complete the classwork. Therefore, you may use your personal computer in lab for **CLASS RELATED ACTIVITY ONLY**. If I see or suspect that you are using your computer for outside purposes, you will be asked to leave class for the day and will not receive attendance credit for that day.

**Tardiness:**

If you are late to class be sure to come up at the end of class to sign the attendance sheet. This is your responsibility, and attendance points will be assigned by strict adherence to the attendance sheet.

**Changes to Class:**

Minor changes may be made to this schedule; modifications will be announced on D2L and/or in class.

**Students with Disabilities:**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

**University Nondiscrimination Policy:**

Texas A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

***Campus Concealed Carry Statement***

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedure/s/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

<b>COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR</b>
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**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS** (16 weeks, including Thanksgiving Break and Finals week)

<b><i>Week Starting:</i></b>	<b><i>Topic:</i></b>	<b><i>Assignments:</i></b>
(1) 8/27	Introduction to the Lab	Research interests/Ethics Training
(2) 9/3	Ethics in Research	Topic Brainstorming/ Ethics Exercise
(3) 9/10	Literature Reviews and APA Style	Topic Solidification/Lit. Review Exercise
(4) 9/17	Article Assessment/Write-up	Work on Lit. Review
(5) 9/24	Experimental Variables	Work on Lit. Review
(6) 10/1	Method Section	<b>Lit. Review DRAFT to the Dropbox by Noon Friday</b>
(7) 10/8	Method Section cont.	<b>Lit. Review FINAL to the Dropbox by Noon Friday</b>
(8) 10/15	<b>DATA COLLECTION WEEK</b>	<b>NO LAB/Go into Classrooms</b>
(9) 10/22	Results Section	Results Section Exercise/Method Section Exercise
(10) 10/29	Results Section cont.	Work on Data Analysis (*see note*)
(11) 11/5	Discussion/Write-up	Discussion Section Exercise
(12) 11/12	Write-Up cont.	Work on Final Report
(13) 11/19	<i>Thanksgiving Break.</i>	<i>No Lab</i>
(14) 11/26	Research Presentations	<b>Final Report DRAFT to the D2L folder by Noon Friday</b>
(15) 12/3	<b>LECTURE PRESENTATIONS</b>	<b>Final Report to D2L folder by Noon Friday</b>
(16) 12/10	<b>FINALS WEEK</b>	<b>STUDY! STUDY! STUDY!</b>