



PSY 305.51E & 51L
Experimental Psychology
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2020

Instructor: Alyssa R. Jones, M. A.
Experimental/Cognitive Psychology Ph.D. Candidate
Carlson Applied Cognition Lab Coordinator

Office Location: Binnion 208 (i.e., Applied Cognition Lab)
Office Hours: T/TR – 11AM-2PM
OR by appointment

Class Location: Collin Higher Education Center (CHEC)
Class Time: Tuesday @ 4:30PM – 7:10PM
Lab will be held @ 7:20PM – 8:20PM right after lecture

Instructor's Email: ajones80@leomail.tamuc.edu

***** NOTE***** *I will only respond to emails send to me at the above email address.*

Preferred Form of Communication: Email
Communication Response Time: Within 24hrs – 48hrs

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description: This laboratory course is designed to introduce students to the philosophy of scientific inquiry, with an emphasis on experimental methodology. We will accomplish this objective by combining traditional lectures with an application of principles through laboratory experimentation and demonstration. The main course objectives include:

- Learning to review the primary literature (improving library research skills, increasing familiarity with scientific writing, and reading journal articles)

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

- Learning how research ideas are developed, including the formulation of testable hypotheses
- Development and execution of a research plan (choosing appropriate research method to test specific hypotheses, ethical guidelines, and how to collect data)
- Analysis of research results, including a basic understanding of SPSS
- Presentation of experimental results (including verbal, written, and power point presentations)

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Required:

- 1) McBride, D. M. (2010). *The process of research in psychology*. (3rd ed.) Sage.
ISBN: 978-1483347608
- 2) American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. (6th ed.). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association. ISBN: 9781433805615

Supplementary Materials: Stanovich, K. E. (2010). *How to think straight about psychology*. (9th ed.). Boston; Allyn & Bacon.

Software Required: None

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignments:

- Each student will be evaluated on several exams, exercises, and a two-part research project that will be presented in class. There will be two exams given during the semester, plus a final exam that will be cumulative. These three exams will be worth equal points.

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- During this course, you will work on **TWO** components of your research project. These components will include the following:
 - Literature review (Paper 1)
 - APA Style Research Report (Paper 2)
- More details about the research project will be provided in time 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 to complete assignments **ON TIME** and attend **ALL** labs, as this course will require you to work hard and understand advanced material.
- The lab portion of this course will account for 10% of your grade. In addition, assignments such as your APA style research report will be extensively discussed in this course, so it is vitally important that you attend class. During lab, you will have the opportunity to get some hands-on practice in applying the theoretical aspects of the course material. You should take advantage of the lab time, your lab instructor, and your classmates to ask questions.
- The lab allows students to put into practice the material covered in the lectures. You will be expected to learn how to think scientifically, and an important part of this scientific thinking is practice. By doing exercises and developing research ideas, you will be able to acquire a clear understanding of what comprises scientific research in psychology.

Lab/Class Participation: Class participation includes attendance and appropriate engagement during the activities we do in lab together.

- Attendance will be taken every class and included in your final grade for lab. Your attendance grade will be based on the percentage of class days that you were in attendance, and then this percentage will be transferred into points (e.g., You attend 75% of class days = 75pts). However, appropriate documentation may allow excused absences for dire circumstances.

Attendance is **VERY IMPORTANT**. You will get behind if you are not in class, which is your opportunity to gain valuable time to ask questions and work on your research projects. **DO NOT** take this for granted or lightly.

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Participation in Research (extra credit):

- You will need to complete a total of 3 credit hours of research participation for extra credit. Please note that participation in research is voluntary. Should you elect not to participate, please see me and I will assign alternative assignments to satisfy this portion of your grade.
 - You will be able to sign up for various studies through the SONA system. Instructions on how to do this will be provided in a separate handout. Studies are worth different amounts of credit depending upon how long it takes to complete the study. You may sign up for any combination of studies you wish as long as you complete the required number of credits.
 - A pre-screening questionnaire is required before participating in many of the studies. You may earn .5 credits by completing the pre-screening within the first two weeks of the semester.
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GRADING

See below for a breakdown of grades for this course:

Exams = 100pts each (300pts total)

Research Project = 250pts

(Lit review = 100pts; research paper = 100pts; final presentation PPT = 50pts)

Exercises = 25pts each (100pts total)

Participation = 50pts

Total Points Possible = 700pts

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Grades: Final grades in this course will be based on the following point scale:

A = 630 – 700 points

B = 560 – 629 points

C = 490 – 559 points

D = 420 – 489 points

F = 419 points or below

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, you will be expected to know the following:

- The basic principles of experimental psychology, including the scientific method, ethical principles in conducting research, hypothesis development, and experimental design.
- How to read original research articles in psychology and improve your skills in scientific writing.
- How to design and conduct a research study, including methods for collecting data.
- How to choose the appropriate statistical tests for a given experiment and how to interpret the statistical results
- How to present research findings in written and visual form.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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.

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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 **11pm and 8am**. If you attempt to contact me during that timeframe, please do not expect a response until after that timeframe has ended.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy: The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary that I modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in as much in advance as possible.

Student Conduct: My expectations in this area are not difficult to fulfill. First, and foremost, disruptive behavior will NOT be tolerated. If you are disrupting the class in any way or form, including distracting the instructor, you will be asked to stop before being asked to leave if the behavior continues.

I expect my students to conduct themselves in a respectful, mature, and professional manner AT ALL TIMES. No exceptions, or you will be asked to leave. If such behavior is a habit, I reserve the right to drop you from the course.

MOST IMPORTANTLY though, the Student's Guidebook addresses issues of academic dishonesty. The link is provided below if you have not yet had a chance to read The Code of Student Conduct.

If you are caught committing an act of academic dishonesty in my course (e.g., plagiarism, cheating, using someone's words without proper citation, etc.), you will receive a zero for that assignment AND second acts of academic dishonesty will result in you being removed from the course and turned into the university for further consequences. DON'T DO IT. DON'T CHEAT. It's that simple. I WILL NOT tolerate academic dishonesty in my course.

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf).
<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>

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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.

University Specific Procedures

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

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- **ADA Statement**

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

Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-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/rulesProcedures/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.

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