



## Psy305 51W Experimental Psychology COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2021

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Qingwei Wang, Ph.D.

**Class Time and Location:** Online

**Office Hours:** by email

**Psychology Office Phone:** 903-886-5940

**Psychology Office Fax:** 903-886-5510

**University Email Address:** [qingwei.wang@tamuc.edu](mailto:qingwei.wang@tamuc.edu)

**Preferred Form of Communication:** The primary means of communicating with the instructor during the course will be to exchange emails.

**Communication Response Time:** I typically answer emails within 24 hours, however, please allow 24 to 48 hours for a reply.

**Lab Instructor:** Ms. Marcy Louis

**University Email Address:** [marcy.louis@tamuc.edu](mailto:marcy.louis@tamuc.edu)

### COURSE INFORMATION

#### ***Materials - Textbooks, Readings, Supplemental Readings***

**Textbook Required:**

McBride, D.M.(2019) The Process of Research in Psychology. (4<sup>th</sup> ed) CA: Sage.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

(ISBN-13: 978-1544323497; ISBN-10: 1544323492)

2. McBride, D.M. & Cutting, J. C. (2018) Lab Manual for Psychological Research (4<sup>th</sup> ed).

(ISBN-13: 978-1544323565; ISBN-10: 154432356)

**Optional:**

American Psychological Association (2020). Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7<sup>th</sup> ed). Washington D. C.: American Psychological Association.

(ISBN-13: 978-1433832161; ISBN-10: 143383216X)

***Course Description***

This course is intended as a hands-on introduction to the basic and most common methods of collecting psychological data. We will cover ethics in research, the concepts of reliability, validity, generalizability, and the fundamentals of experimental design. Additionally we will cover observational, survey, and interview methods, among others. Special attention will be given to writing in the style of the American Psychological Association.

The lab allows for additional time to discuss the materials covered in each chapter and to work on applying what you have learned 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. 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) 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)

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4. Analysis of research results, including a basic understanding of SPSS
5. Presentation of experimental results (including verbal, written, and power point presentations)
6. Come up with feasible research ideas.
7. Develop appropriate research methods.
8. Conduct appropriate analysis.
9. Produce a quality APA style report which presents your “findings.”

## COURSE ASSESSMENTS

### ***Course assessments include the following parts:***

1. Class participation (Weekly Discussion Assignments).
2. Article Summaries
3. Completion of quizzes.
4. Completion of a term project.
5. Lab Participation

### ***1. Class Participation (Weekly Discussion Assignments):***

We cover a tremendous amount of information each week, therefore, participation at a high level is very critical to your performance in this course. All students are expected to participate regularly and daily (Monday through Friday, except perhaps the weekends). Throughout the course, the instructor will give several discussion topics each week. Each student is required to respond to at least one topic and post it on the discussion section of that week. Additionally, each student is required to respond in depth to at least one of your classmates' posts. Your Own Discussion Essay Post is worth 10 point each, and your Response to Your Classmates' Post is worth 10 points each. This means that, for each week, you will receive 20 points for your participation (2 posts). We have 15 weeks (excluding Final week), therefore, your class participation will make a total of 300 points toward your final grade.

**Due dates** for your own discussion posts always fall on Friday (11:59PM) of each week, and your responses to other students' posts are due 2 days after the essays are due (Sundays, 11:59PM).

Do not wait until the last minute to post your discussions. Post an assignment early as opposed to the last minute. In addition, grades will be based on quality of responses, not length of responses.

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## **2. Article Summaries:**

You will be provided with 2 empirical articles about our research project topic in the beginning of class. Each summary is worth 20 points.

You will need to read the article thoroughly, and then write 1-2 pages (double-spaced in 12pt Times New Roman font), summarizing the article. I will provide you with detailed instructions in the beginning of this class. But mainly, you will be summarizing what the researchers' main research question was, why they were interested in it, how did they test it, and what did they find based on their results. This article will be utilized and referenced in the research project for this course.

## **3. Quizzes:**

There will be 5 online quizzes, each worth 20 points toward your final grade. Quizzes will contain objective questions over material that is presented in the textbook and online lectures. Multiple choice format will be used.

\* Total of 7 quizzes will be available in D2L and students will be required to take 5 towards their final grades. If students choose to take all the 7 quizzes, 2 of them will be extra credits.

## **4. Term Project:**

Another major graded assignment for the course is a term project. The purpose of this assignment is for you to get experience with the overall process of conducting scientific, experimental research. Each student will complete these 3 parts of the research project:

- 1) Introduction/Literature Review Paper #1 (20 points)** – This paper will be due halfway through the semester. The goal of this paper will be to write the introduction section (also called a literature review) for your final research paper (paper #2), meaning it is technically the first half of your final paper. This will require you to read relevant research on the provided research topic, and then summarize and connect the findings from empirical research studies. In this class, we will learn how critique research articles, and then use them to support an argument for why a study should/needs to be done. The argument you write will need to be organized and concise, while showing competency for interpreting research articles.

Your paper must include 6 or more references; all should be from reputable scholarly sources and at least 4 of your references must primarily contain reports of empirical research. No secondary sources may be included.

Your paper must be double-spaced in MS Word with 12 pt. Times New Roman font and 1" margins on all 4 sides. Your paper must be 5-7 pages long (this includes your title page but reference pages). Some feedback will be provided and you are expected to make changes to the introduction of your final paper accordingly.

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- 2) Final APA Research Paper #2 (30 points) – This paper will be the second half of your final paper, and will be added on to the first paper you turn in. It will include a Methods, Results, and Discussion sections just like a real article would include. This paper will help you learn how to write up an APA research paper on a study/topic. Further information will be provided as the course progresses.
  
- 3) Research Project Presentation (60 points) – You will be required to condense your final research paper into a PPT presentation. This presentation should contain a very brief overview of the topic and general findings in the literature, a description of their methods, results. Detailed requirements regarding this presentation will be sent out as the course progresses.

### **5. Lab Participation:**

The lab allows students to put into practice the material covered in each textbook chapter. 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.

Students may complete their lab project as part of a group (two or three). Students in a group will collaborate to produce ONE literature review, final paper, and research presentation (See Term Project). Student should keep track of who does what on each assignment and for the final paper. The final paper must include a statement indicating how each lab member contributed. As a general rule, students in a group will receive the SAME grade.

\* **Ethical Training** - Students must complete the CITI ethics training in lab. Failure to complete the training on time will result in a loss of 10% on your final grade.

### **Research Participation (Extra Credits):**

Participating in research studies contributes to students and faculty at A&M - Commerce, your understanding of how research is conducted, and human knowledge in general. For this course, participating in research through SONA system will be extra credit. You will have the opportunity to earn up to 20 points depending on the amount of research you participate in. Each credit hour of research will be worth 5 extra credit points that will be added to your total pool of points. So, for example, if you participate in 4 credit hours of research, you will earn the full 20 extra points. For more information, please visit D2L and check the extra credit research participation documents once available.

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**Late Work:**

Students are required to submit each assignment by the close date indicated in the course outline. Late work will not be accepted without a verifiable excuse. Regardless of the reason, points will be deducted on all late work.

<b>GRADING</b>
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Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

**Grading:**

Class Participation	300 points
Article Summary (20x2)	40 points
Quizzes (20x5)	100 points
Term Paper Part 1	20 points
Term Paper Part 2	30 points
Term Paper Part 3	60 points
Total	550 points

Maximum Extra Credits: 2 quizzes (40 points) + SONA (20 points)

A = 550 - 495

B = 494 - 440

C = 439 - 385

D = 384 - 330

F = <330

<b>TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS</b>
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This is an online class. The following technological resources are required:

Internet access (high speed preferred)

Word Processing software (Microsoft Word preferred)

A myLeo email account

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## Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

## Desktop Support

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Microsoft® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

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## Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or <b>point</b> release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or <b>point</b> release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2L supports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version.  Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
  - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
  - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
  - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
  - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
  - Speakers or headphones.
  - \*For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

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Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.

Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
  - [Adobe Reader](https://get.adobe.com/reader/) <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
  - [Adobe Flash Player](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/) (version 17 or later) <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>
  - [Adobe Shockwave Player](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/) <https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/>
  - [Apple Quick Time](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/) <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

**Interaction with Instructor:** Please feel welcome to contact me by email ([qingwei.wang@tamuc.edu](mailto:qingwei.wang@tamuc.edu)). All email should receive a response within 48 hours. If you have not received a response then assume your email did not go through and please try again to make contact. All email should include student's last name, first name, course name and brief description of the reason for contact.

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## Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words “[click here](#)” to submit an issue via email.

## System Maintenance

D2L runs monthly updates during the last week of the month, usually on Wednesday. The system should remain up during this time unless otherwise specified in an announcement. You may experience minimal impacts to performance and/or look and feel of the environment.

# COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### ***Student Conduct and Respect:***

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook). The classroom is a scholarly environment and students are expected to behave accordingly. Expressions of ideas, thoughts, opinions, etc. are encouraged, but have to be done in a scholarly and respectful manner. Email your instructor whenever you have any problems or concerns regarding this course. Your feedback (both positive and negative) is more than welcome. We should strive to respect and value the diversity that exists in TAMUC classrooms (e.g., age, gender, ethnicity, national origin, disability, geographic, backgrounds, political orientation, sexual orientation).

### ***Academic Honesty:***

Scholastic dishonesty may involve, but is not limited to, one or more of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion, use of annotated texts or teacher's editions.

***Plagiarism*** is the use of an author's words or ideas as if they were one's own without giving credit to the source, including, but not limited to, failure to acknowledge a direct quotation.

***Cheating*** is the willful giving or receiving of information in an unauthorized manner during an examination, illicitly obtaining examination questions in advance, copying computer or Internet files, using someone else's work for the assignments as if it were one's own, or any other dishonest means of attempting to fulfill the requirements of a course.

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**Collusion** is intentionally aiding or attempting to aid another in an act of scholastic dishonesty, including but not limited to, providing a paper or project to another student; providing an inappropriate level of assistance; communicating answers to a classmate during an examination; removing tests or answer sheets from a test site, and allowing a classmate to copy answers.

**Academic dishonesty could result in a “zero” grade on the particular assignment or test.**

***Withdrawing from/dropping Psy305:***

Students are responsible for following University procedures to drop a class. If you stop participating in the class for any reason, you must initiate the process of dropping, or you will receive a failing grade. DO NOT wait until the last minute to drop the class. Plan to take care of this several days ahead of time, so that you will have the time required to get the forms signed, submitted, etc.

***The last date for Spring 2021 withdraw is March 19.***

***Syllabus Change Policy***

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

## **University Specific Procedures**

### **Student Conduct**

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/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](#)

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

### **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>

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## **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>

## **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 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@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**

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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.

Also, as we are online, I am not sure whether this applies: you should not come to campus if you are ill, and when on campus you are expected to wear a face-covering.

<b>COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR</b>
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### Course Calendar/Outline

Week	Date	Topic	Notes
1	01/11-01/17	Syllabus/Chapter 1 Psychological Research	
2	01/18-01/24	Chapter 2 Hypothesis Development	
3	01/25-01/31	Chapter 3 Ethical Guidelines	Quiz 1 on Chapter 1&2
4	02/01-02/07	Chapter 4 Data Collection Techniques & Research Designs	Article Summary 1 due by Sunday (02/07) at 11:59PM

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5	02/08-02/14	Chapter 5 Variable and Measurement	Quiz 2 on Chapter 3 & 4
6	02/15-02/21	Chapter 6 Sampling	CITI Training Due
7	02/22-02/28	Chapter 7 Summarizing and Interpreting Data	Quiz 3 on Chapter 5 & 6 Article Summary 2 due by Sunday (02/28) at 11:59PM
8	03/01-03/07	Chapter 8 Reporting Research	Introduction/Literature Review Paper #1 due by Sunday (03/07) at 11:59PM
9	03/08-03/14	Chapter 9 More about Statistics	Quiz 4 on Chapter 7 & 8
10	03/15-03/21	Chapter 10 More about Survey	
11	03/22-03/28	Chapter 11 More about Correlational Studies	Quiz 5 on Chapter 9 & 10
12	03/29-04/04	Chapter 12 More about One-Factor Experiments	
13	04/05-04/11	Chapter 13 More about Multi-Factor Experiments	Quiz 6 on Chapter 11 & 12
14	04/12-04/18	Chapter 14 More about Quasi-Experiments	
15	04/19-04/25	Chapter 15 More about Specialized Designs	Final APA-Style Paper #2 due by Friday (04/23) at 11:59PM Research PPT due by Sunday (04/25) at 11:59PM
16	04/26-04/30	Final Week	Quiz 7 on Chapter 13, 14, & 15 Wrap up

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