



**PSY 595 | COUN 595 | SPED 595
SECTION 01W
RESEARCH LITERATURE & TECHNIQUES**

COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2025
ONLINE

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Kevin Diegel
Office Location: Henderson Hall Room 226
Office Hours: By Appointment for Zoom or Binnion Hall 210
University Email Address: Kevin.Diegel@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: **Email PUT (PSY595) IN THE TITLE!**
Communication Response Time: Within 24 Hours (Excluding Weekends)

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required:

Research in Psychology: Methods and Design 8th Edition
[AMAZON](#) | ISBN: 1119386152

Optional Textbook:

APA Manual 7th Edition
[AMAZON](#) | ISBN: 143383216X

Software Required

[G*Power](#)

Optional Software:

[ChatGPT and the ChatGPT+ Plan](#) (\$20 a month)
[SciSpace and the SciSpace Premium Plan](#) (\$12 a month)

A.I. IN THIS COURSE

Like it or not, AI is here to stay—and in this course, we embrace its potential. You are encouraged to use AI tools (such as ChatGPT) as writing assistants. For example, you

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may use AI to help clean up grammar, fix typos, improve clarity, adjust tone, or make your writing sound more academic. However, there are two important limitations:

1. Do not use AI to write your whole paper for you. Submissions generated **entirely** by AI will be flagged using detection tools, and academic integrity policies will apply.
2. Do not use AI to find or generate sources. AI tools often fabricate references or cite non-existent materials.

Later in the course, I will introduce a far better tool for finding high-quality sources (arguably better than the library or google scholar) so there's no need to worry about that now.

Course Description

Emphasizes research in the student's major field, basic statistics, literature review, proposal and report development, research implementation, needs assessment, program development, and ethical and legal considerations regarding research through the presentation of a formal research proposal and/or completion of presentation of a research report.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Find and utilize reputable academic sources
2. Develop research from an idea into a tangible endeavor
3. Apply the appropriate type of research based on sample or analysis method
4. Understand the limitations of many research methods
5. Appreciate the ethical limitations surrounding many methodologies

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

TECHNICAL SKILLS NEEDED:

Using the learning management system (D2L)
Using MS Word and PowerPoint or Google Docs and Slides
Using general internet search engines
Using the ETAMU library electronically

Instructional Methods

This course is entirely online in D2L. All slides or other instructional materials will be provided on D2L. All work assignments will be submitted on D2L. There are no face-to-face meetings for this class.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

To succeed in this course I recommend that you:

- a) Read and take good notes of all materials

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- b) Email me if you have questions. Don't be afraid to ask!
- c) Use all the resources available
- d) Keep a calendar/be aware of important dates
- e) Be aware of all the relevant policies in this syllabus

GRADING

Assessment	Percentage	Point Value
Syllabus Quiz	5%	25
Discussion (x3)	15% (5% per)	75
Paper		
Proposal Outline	10%	50
Frame & Sources	10%	50
Literature Review	10%	50
Method	10%	50
Final Paper	40%	200
Total	100%	500

I will round decimals. 89.5% will become 90%. But 89.4% will be 89%.

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

- A = 90%-100%
- B = 80%-89%
- C = 70%-79%
- D = 60%-69%
- F = 59% or Below

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

- A = 451- 500 Points
- B = 401- 450 Points
- C = 351- 400 Points
- D = 301- 350 Points
- F = 300 & > Points

Assessments

SYLLABUS QUIZ:

During the first week of class, you'll complete a brief 10-question quiz based entirely on the syllabus. All questions are multiple choice or true/false. The purpose of this quiz is

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to ensure that everyone has read the syllabus and to provide a helpful boost at the start of the semester. You will have **unlimited attempts** while the quiz is available.

DISCUSSIONS:

There will be three discussion assignments during the semester. For each one, you'll respond to a topic prompt and also reply to two of your classmates. The initial post is worth up to 15 points, and each reply is worth up to 5 points. While you're welcome to reply to more than two posts, only the first two will count toward your grade.

All posts and replies must be meaningful. Responses like "I agree" alone will not earn credit. Your classmates put thought and effort into their posts, and your replies should reflect that. You're welcome to agree but be sure to explain why in detail.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL PAPER:

This will be the main project for the course. Over the semester, students will develop a full research proposal in five parts:

Part 1 – Proposal Outline: Students will brainstorm potential research ideas and submit a one-page outline answering the question "What topic do I want to research, and why?" The goal is to clearly explain the proposed relationship or phenomenon of interest.

Part 2 – Framework and Sources: Students will submit a formatted outline of the full paper, including a cover page, section headers for the Introduction and Method, and a References page. The cover page should be complete, while the Introduction and Method should include section headings only (as placeholders). The References section must contain at least **10 valid sources** formatted in the correct **APA style**, representing the materials students intend to use.

Part 3 – Literature Review: Students will expand their draft by fully writing the **Introduction** section. This should provide theoretical background for the research topic, explain why the research is important, and include at least one clear, testable hypothesis. It should also contain proper in-text citations where appropriate and those citations should be reflected in the references section.

Part 4 – Method: Students will write the full **Method** section of their draft, including (1) a description of the target sample and recruitment strategy (if applicable), (2) a planned sample size determined using G*Power (*which requires knowing what type of statistical analysis will be used – if doing a quantitative study*), (3) descriptions of at least three measures or instruments, (4) a step-by-step **Procedure** section describing how the study will be conducted, and (5) a **Data Analysis Plan** outlining how the data will be analyzed.

Final Submission – Revised Proposal: In the final stage, students will revise their paper based on feedback or choice. The final version must include a complete and polished **Cover Page, Introduction, Method, and References** section. Revisions may involve substantial rewriting or smaller edits, depending on feedback received.

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LATE/MISSED WORK POLICY

Late work will not be accepted, and missed work will not be reopened. The only exception is a **university-approved absence** that verifies the reason for missing the deadline. It is your responsibility to stay informed of all important dates and deadlines throughout the semester.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

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.

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

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor.

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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. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

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.

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

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

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

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

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

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](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

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Graduate Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Student Disability Services](#)

<https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

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.

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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.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>

AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware

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of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week	Reading	Activity Due
1 – August 25 to 31	Syllabus	Syllabus Quiz Discussion 1
2 – Sept 1 to 7	Ch 1: Scientific Thinking	
3 – Sept 8 to 14	Ch 2: Ethics	
4 – Sept 15 to 21	Ch 3: Developing Ideas	Paper Part 1
5 – Sept 22 to 28	Ch 4: Sampling	
6 – Sept 29 to Oct 5	Ch 5: Experimental Research	Paper Part 2
7 – Oct 6 to 12	Ch 6: Methodological Control	Discussion 2
8 – Oct 13 to 19	Ch 7: Experimental Design 1	
9 – Oct 20 to 26	Ch 8: Experimental Design 2	Paper Part 3
10 – Oct 27 to Nov 2	Ch 9: Non-Experimental Design 1	
11 – Nov 3 to 9	Ch 10: Non-Experimental Design 2	
12 – Nov 10 to 16	Ch 11: Quasi-Experimental Design	Paper Part 4
13 – Nov 17 to 23	Ch 12: Small N Designs	Discussion 3
14 – Nov 24 to 30	Thanksgiving Break	
15 – Dec 1 to 7	Just focus on writing your final paper!	
16 – Dec 8 to 12	Final due by Midnight on December 12	

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