



PSY 695.01W, Research Methodology

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2025

Web-Based

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Shifang Tang, Ph.D.

Office Location: Henderson 209

Office Hours: [Zoom office hours] T/TH: 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

***In-person/Zoom meetings by appointment

Changes to office hours announced on D2L

Email Address: shifang.tang@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email; please allow 2 business days for response.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Class discussions are based on journal articles. The required readings will be announced/accessed on D2L and Gee Library's online database. As such, there are no required textbooks for this course.

Course Description

PSY 695: *Research Methodology* introduces doctoral students to foundational and advanced concepts in educational and psychological research. The course emphasizes critical engagement with scholarly literature through four primary review methods: scoping review, systematic review, meta-analysis, and bibliometric analysis. Students will also engage in rigorous training using the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) Group Design Standards (v5.0), covering both basic and advanced modules. The course culminates in the development of an individual research proposal that includes a literature review, research questions, and a methodological plan aligned with experimental or quasi-experimental designs. This course prepares students to design evidence-based studies that meet federal research standards and contribute meaningfully to the scholarly community.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will:

1. Develop advanced knowledge of four major literature review methodologies and their application to educational and psychological research contexts.
2. Formulate a researchable problem statement and conduct a methodologically sound literature review that supports a research proposal.
3. Interpret and apply WWC Group Design Standards to assess the rigor of experimental and quasi-experimental studies.
4. Demonstrate competence in evaluating threats to internal validity and determining study eligibility according to federal evidence standards.
5. Design a research proposal that integrates literature review, research questions, and a methodological framework aligned with WWC standards.

Student Learning Outcomes (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

1. **Differentiate** among various types of literature reviews (scoping, systematic, meta-analysis, and bibliometric) and **evaluate** their appropriate applications in educational and psychological research.
2. **Construct** a comprehensive literature review using one of the four methodological approaches, demonstrating scholarly synthesis, methodological rigor, and relevance to a specific research topic.
3. **Analyze** experimental and quasi-experimental designs using the WWC Group Design Standards (v5.0), and **apply** these standards to assess the internal validity of published intervention studies.
4. **Demonstrate** proficiency in the WWC Basic and Advanced Group Design Standards through successful completion of the online training modules and exams.
5. **Develop** a research proposal that includes a well-defined research problem, literature review, research questions, and a methodologically sound design aligned with WWC standards (RCT or QED), including proposed instruments and participant recruitment strategies.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Needed Skills include being able to use the learning management system (D2L) to access course materials. Additionally, proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word and PowerPoint) is needed. I will not serve as technical support. TAMUC has multiple professionals (e. g., Instructional Technology, CITE, library) who will be able to help you troubleshoot and/or teach you how to navigate the necessary technical requirements for this course.

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Instructional Methods

Each week, you will be responsible for completing an online module. In the module, you will have Background Information, Assignments, and Discussions. Each week, you will be responsible for completing a module. You are expected to invest six to nine hours for each module. However, you may decide to space out this time over the course of the week as long as deadlines are met. This includes completing the readings, watching brief 30 to 45-minute videos that provide an overview of the readings and participate in the online discussion boards. For each week, you will have Background Information, Assignments, and Discussions. Weekly modules will be released on Monday and will close on Sundays at 11:59 pm (CDT).

The course is conducted through readings, student presentations, and online discussions. Students are expected to fully engage in the asynchronous discussion board conversations (i.e., complete all assigned readings).

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

In general, students are expected to invest six to nine hours for each week's module. To successfully complete the course, students should complete the assigned readings, prepare a quality presentation, and fully engage in online discussion on D2L. Reviewing the course material thoroughly is essential for preparing for the exams. Submitting the exams on time through D2L is critical.

Asynchronous classes can be challenging. If you have any difficulties with completing the readings and assignments in a timely manner, please do not hesitate to reach out to me as soon as possible.

You are highly encouraged to monitor your own progress on D2L. My office hours are listed at the top of the syllabus. Since this is an asynchronous class, I am requiring that students schedule one one-on-one Zoom meetings with me over the course of the semester so that I can check in with you regarding the course and other concerns you might have. Please do not wait until the end of the semester to schedule these meetings

GRADING

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

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Assessments

Literature review	100 points
Discussion posts	450 points (15 discussion posts)
Final paper	100 points
Total Points Possible	650 points

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M 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, an East Texas A&M campus open computer lab, etc.

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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>

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Asynchronous classes can be challenging. Because we will not be meeting face-to-face over Zoom or in person, I highly encourage students to make use of the office hours (listed above). Students are also expected to schedule two one-on-one Zoom meetings with me over the course of the semester. The purpose of these Zoom meetings is to ensure that I stay connected with students and am able to offer guidance and resources as needed. Email is the best way to contact the instructor, and on weekdays please allow 2 business days for a response. If you do not receive a response in 2 business days, please resend the message.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Plagiarism: East Texas A&M University views plagiarism as a serious offense. Plagiarism occurs when individuals take ideas and/or words from another source and claim these ideas as their own without giving credit to the original author(s). This can include copying words from an Internet website, reading an article and taking the authors ideas without giving them credit, or writing work that is remarkably similar to other written work (e.g., Changing words to synonyms is still plagiarism). If any written work contains ideas that are not your own, you need to give credit to the author(s) by including citations. Instructors are obligated to report instances of plagiarism to university officials. Please refer to the American Psychology Association (APA) manual for instructions on citing materials. When in doubt, ask me. Acts of plagiarism on any written assignment, including discussion postings, will result in severe consequences, including the possibility of receiving a zero in the course. Acts of plagiarism will be reported to the department head.

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Writing Assignments: All written assignments (exams and literature critique paper) must be formatted according to the APA Manual (7th ed.), as appropriate. You can access information regarding basic APA formatting style via: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu> or the Learning Center located on the main floor of the library.

Late work: On-time submission of all discussion posts, presentation, and exam are required and expected. The due date and time are provided in the course calendar. However, given the nature of the times we are in, students will have up to 24 hours after the deadline before points are taken off for late submission. Ten points will be deducted from each late submission if submitted after 24 hours after the deadline. Any submissions after 48 hours of the deadline will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made. No make-up exam is allowed unless prearranged 48 hours prior to the actual exam date and time.

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 can be found at <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-code-of-conduct/>.

If you believe someone has engaged in behaviors that do not align with the Code of Student Conduct or you have other concerns, please visit the File a Report page at <https://www.tamuc.edu/office-of-student-rights-and-responsibilities/concerns-incident-reporting/>

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>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M 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:

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Undergraduate student academic dishonesty policy
[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

Undergraduate student academic dishonesty policy
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Graduate student academic dishonesty policy:
<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

Graduate student academic dishonesty form:
<https://inside.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateSchool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

East Texas A&M Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage.

Artificial Intelligence

East Texas A&M 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 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.

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:

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Office of Student Disability Services
Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5930

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Website: <http://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/campusServices/StudentDisabilityServices/default.aspx>

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.



East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M 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.

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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 East Texas A&M 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 East Texas A&M 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 East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Wk	Start Date	End Date	Topic
1	8/25/2025	8/31/2025	Scoping Reviews
2	9/1/2025	9/7/2025	Systematic Review
3	9/8/2025	9/14/2025	Meta-Analysis
4	9/15/2025	9/21/2025	Bibliometric Review
5	9/22/2025	9/28/2025	Topic Proposal for Literature Review Due; Introduction to WWC
6	9/29/2025	10/5/2025	WWC Group Design Standards – Module 1–4
7	10/6/2025	10/12/2025	WWC Group Design Standards – Module 5–8
8	10/13/2025	10/19/2025	WWC Group Design Standards – Module 9–12

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9	10/20/2025	10/26/2025	WWC Group Design Standards Assessment (Basic Exam)
10	10/27/2025	11/2/2025	WWC Advanced Group Design Standards – Modules 1–4
11	11/3/2025	11/9/2025	WWC Advanced Group Design Standards – Modules 5-9
12	11/10/2025	11/16/2025	WWC Advanced Design Standards Assessment (Advanced Exam)
13	11/17/2025	11/23/2025	Literature Review Submission
14	11/24/2025	11/30/2025	Thanksgiving
15	12/1/2025	12/7/2025	Final Proposal Due

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