



PSY/SPED 595

Research Literature Review and Techniques

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2026
Online

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Kelly M. Carrero, Ph.D., BCBA, LBA-TX; Associate Professor

Office Hours: Mondays, 12:30 pm-5:30 pm CST [via Zoom](#) or by appointment

Office Fax: 903.886.5510

University Email Address: Kelly.Carrero@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Virtual Office Hours (VOH) for general course questions; Email for questions and/or information specific to individual students

Communication Response Time:

Using VOH through D2L = within 36 hours Monday – Friday, weekends and holidays may take longer

Using University Email = within 48 hours Monday – Friday, weekends and holidays may take longer.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

American Psychological Association (APA). (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. (7th Ed.). Cengage.

McMillan, J. H. (2022). *Educational Research: Fundamental Principles and Methods* (8th ed.). Pearson Education.

ISBN-13: 978-0-13-577014-6 (eTextbook)

ISBN-13: 9780135770092

***Additional required readings will be provided on D2L.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Course Description

This course introduces students to fundamental research concepts, methods, and practices to address problems in the students' field of interest. Emphasis is placed on review and critique of the literature and the role of research in applied settings.

Student Learning Outcomes

The student will demonstrate an understanding of:

- the importance of research, opportunities, and difficulties in conducting research in the psychology, counseling, and special education professions
- research methods such as qualitative, quantitative, single-case design, action research, and outcome-based research
- technological competence and computer literacy
- principles, models, and applications of needs assessment, program evaluation, and use of findings to affect program modifications
- use of research to improve program effectiveness
- ethical and legal considerations related to research and program evaluation

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

To be successful in this course, you will need to know how to access and navigate (a) Desire2Learn, (b) ETAMU's Waters Library OneSearch, (c) Microsoft Word, and (d) Microsoft Excel. If you use the program **PAGES**, you will need to convert your file to a Word document or PDF before submitting it. I will not serve as technical support. TAMUC has multiple professionals (e.g., Instructional Technology, CITE, librarians) who will be able to help you troubleshoot and/or teach you how to navigate the necessary technical requirements for this course.

Instructional Methods

This is an online course, which is not to be interpreted as self-paced. Rather, you are required to log on regularly (preferably every day) in order to succeed. You may consume the material at a more rapid pace than set by the below schedule, but assignments, quizzes, and exams will still take place according to the schedule. Quizzes and Exams will be open for 2-3 days. If you are unable to complete the exam in this time frame, you must contact me ahead of time to re-schedule.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Read the text: Read the chapter we are covering when it is assigned. This prepares you to complete the assigned work.

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Access your resources: To be successful in this class, I recommend you access your resources fully, frequently, and without timidity.

- Ask your peers questions in the Virtual Office Hours (VOH) discussion board.
- Email the instructor if you have any questions or concerns that are specific to you.
- Contact the ETAMU librarians (they have provided multiple ways to contact them) for assistance in accessing available resources.
- You are ENCOURAGED to come to my Zoom office hours and/or schedule appointments with me if you cannot make it during my office hours. I AM YOUR PROFESSOR—therefore, **you and I have the SAME goal**—for you to learn in my course and BE SUCCESSFUL! It is my actual job and my profound pleasure to TEACH you and work with you so you can master the content in this course. Don't wait until you are drowning or lost to reach out to me. I am willing to work with you so we can achieve our shared goal.

Take notes: Take GOOD notes while you read. It is a good study habit to go over your notes at the end of each week, filling in the blanks from the supplemental video(s) and assignment. It is also a good idea to make friends in the course and get the phone numbers of a couple of people who you can clarify notes with.

Utilize D2L: All instructions, due dates, and submission of graded material are to be completed in D2L. **Email submission will not be accepted and I DO NOT review ANY work that is sent to me via email.** If you would like for me to give you feedback about your work PRIOR to submitting it, you will need to attend my office hours and/or schedule a meeting with me. Please take some time to familiarize yourself with the system and contact me or IT with questions in advance.

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

The instructor reserves the right to make subjective judgments about the quality of student participation and products. In other words, quantity does not equate to quality, nor does effort equate to quality. Moreover, a grade of A will be reserved for only the highest achieving students. If you need to receive an A in this course, I suggest you work hard to submit stellar products. Contact me anytime if you need help. Please do not wait until the semester is over to discuss grades.

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In both undergraduate and graduate school, grades are earned according to individual student performance on described activities. Effort is important but the outcome of your effort is the product upon which grades are based. Final grades are assigned as follows using a weighted percentage points earned scale:

- ✓ Grades of A are *reserved* for students whose products are consistently exemplary and commensurate with the work of an accomplished graduate student. A products provide clarity of thoughts and ideas with no grammatical, structural, or spelling errors.
- ✓ Grades of B are earned by students whose products are good but not outstanding. B products provide detail and explanation; may have a few grammatical, structural, or spelling errors.
- ✓ Grades of C are earned by students whose products are limited but display sufficient understanding; may have major grammatical, structural, or spelling errors.

Assessments

Percentage toward final grade	Assignment/Activity
10%	Assignments
25%	Quizzes
35%	Peer Review Activities
20%	Research Proposal
10%	Professionalism

***See D2L course for grading details.

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

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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 East Texas A&M campus open computer lab, etc.

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

I am here to support you. My office hours are hosted via Zoom and listed on the top of the syllabus. If you would like to set up a Zoom meeting with me outside of my office hours, please email me to schedule a time. Office hours are subject to change, and I will inform students via D2L if there are any changes. I will make every effort to respond to emails within 48 hours on Mondays-Thursdays, but it may take longer on weekends and holidays. If you do not hear back from me within 2 business days, please email me again in case I did not receive your message. I will make every effort to grade and return student assignments within one week of the due date.

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COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

1. Professionalism: It is expected that you demonstrate professionalism. For the purposes of this course, professionalism will be exhibited by the student: (a) completing all assigned readings, (b) submitting assignments by the deadline, and (c) adhering to the university student code of conduct (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) and any explicitly stated course-specific expectations (e.g., parameters around the use of generative artificial intelligence to complete assignments).

2. Writing Assignments: Prepare all written assignments according to the APA Publications Manual (7th ed.), as appropriate.

a. ***ALL WRITTEN WORK WILL BE SUBMITTED TO TURNITIN TO CHECK FOR PLAGIARISM (Turnitin will provide a score of the percentage of the paper that has been directly lifted from other sources). SCORES OF 30% OR MORE WILL BE IMMEDIATELY RETURNED TO THE STUDENT FOR REVISIONS. AFTER SECOND SUBMISSION, IF THE SCORE REMAINS 30% OR MORE, THE PAPER WILL AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE A ZERO. The BEST way to avoid any potential confusion is to get very good at stating things in multiple ways--but most importantly, in a way that is different than the original source(s). Papers in this class will likely not require direct quotes. We will discuss when it is appropriate to use direct quotes in a paper (and it isn't very often).

b. I STRONGLY encourage you take advantage of the student resources ETAMU offers you. I will reward students with bonus points if you can provide documentation that you have utilized the Writing Center to help you improve the quality of your written work. Here is information about the ETAMU Writing Center:

The Writing Center offers free, one-on-one assistance. We currently offer 45-minute, face-to-face or online sessions that you can book from our website.

We welcome all writers, majors, and disciplines—undergraduate and graduate students alike (faculty and staff too!). Research shows that all workers benefit from sharing their work with a focused reader. The Writing Center staff is trained to support writers in any stage of the writing process (from the blank page to polishing sentences), and we work with writers to verbalize writing goals and to stay on track with larger writing projects. We work with any form of writing (academic and nonacademic). The writers with whom we work usually bring projects like important emails, weekly writing assignments, midterm and final essays, and theses and dissertations. Contact us with any questions here: WritingCenter@etamu.edu

3. On-time Submission of Assignments: The information in this course builds on itself. Therefore, it is critical that assignments be completed in a timely manner. Course

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assignments and projects will receive 2 points off for each day that they are late; after 3 days, it will go down by a letter grade for each day that it is late.

EMAIL GUIDELINES

In an attempt to provide a framework for professional communication, emails must contain the following:

- Subject Line: Course and section # (e.g. PSY 595-01W); additional information if desired (e.g. Research Question)
- Address the Reader: Open with “Dr. Carrero...”
- Use good grammar and avoid acronyms (i.e., do not write like you text)
- Ask good questions; a good question is specific and show me the effort you’ve made.
 - If asking for assistance with an issue, please list how you have attempted to remediate the issue prior to contacting me (these should probably include looking at the syllabus/ course rubrics/ D2L, contacting a colleague, and checking your textbook, etc.)
- Close with your name and CWID.
- Please send emails from your University Leomail account.
- The instructor will NOT discuss grades over email. If you would like to discuss your grade, please make an appointment during office hours.

If you are reading this, email me a photo of your pet (or favorite animal) based on the above email guidelines for 2 extra credit points (available up till the end of the first week (Sunday midnight ☺)).

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>

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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:

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 University 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

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learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

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. 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

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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.

Professional Standards

National Association Of School Psychologist Standards

Data Based Decision Making (1)
Consultation and Collaboration (2)
Academic Interventions and Instructional Supports
(3) Mental and Behavioral Health Services and
Interventions (4) Research and Evidence-Based
Practice (9)
Legal, Ethical, and Professional Practice (10)

Texas Special Education Teaching Standards

Domain I Standard V- The special education teacher understands formal and informal

assessment procedures and knows how to evaluate student competencies to make instructional decisions.

Domain III Standard XI- The special education teacher promotes students' performance in English language arts and reading.

Domain III Standard XII- The special education teacher promotes students' performance in mathematics.

Texas Educational Diagnostician Standards

Educational Diagnostician Standard IV- The educational diagnostician understands and applies knowledge of student assessment and evaluation, program planning, and instructional decision-making.

Educational Diagnostician Standard IX- The educational diagnostician addresses students' behavioral and social intervention skills through appropriate assessments, evaluations, planning and instructional strategies.

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week	Chapters	Peer Review PR#	Assignment A#	Quiz Q#
1	C1: Introduction Virtual Meeting with Dr. Carrero	PR1		Q1
2	C2: Ethics	PR2	A2a *A2b	Q2
3	C3: Research Problem & Questions	PR3a PR3b		Q3
4				
5				
6	C4: Literature Review	PR4	A4	Q4
7				
8				
9	C5: Sampling	PR5		Q5
10	C6: Measurement	PR6		Q6
11	C7: Data Collection	PR7a PR7b		Q7
12				
13	C9: Experimental Research Design	PR9		Q9
14	C8: Nonexperimental Research Design			Q8
15	C10: Statistics Basics	PR10		Q10
	Final Paper Due by or Before 11:59 pm on the Monday of Finals Week			

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