



PSY/SPED 595

Research Literature Review and Techniques

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2026
Online

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Marcy Louis, Ph.D. Adjunct
Office Location: Virtual
Office Hours: Zoom meetings by appointment
Email Address: marcy.louis@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: Email
Communication Response Time: 24-48 hours on weekdays

Note. Emails without proper salutations or not sent from LEOMAIL will **NOT** be responded to.

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

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 presentation of a completed research report.

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

Be able to use

- the learning management system
- Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint
- Windows system or Mac system.

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.

Ask questions: If there is something you do not understand, ask questions. You may email me directly! Ask questions as early as you can! – The most important!

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*Please feel free to contact me any time you have questions. I make a rule for myself, and I would like for you to follow it. If I spend an hour on something, and really **give it my all, but I still can't get it, it's time to ask for help.** Don't be afraid to ask for help! Don't just sit there getting frustrated!*

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.** 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.

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.

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- ✓ 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 (3)
25%	Quizzes (10)
35%	Peer Review Activities (11)
25%	Research Proposal (1)
5%	Professionalism (introduction video 3% & lounge 2%)

***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

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@etamu.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,

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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. If you would like to set up a Zoom meeting, please email me to schedule a time. My normal email response time is 24 hours but may take up to 48 hours. If you do not hear back from me within 2 business days, please email me again in case I did not receive your message. Your assignments will be graded and returned to you within two week.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

EMAIL POLICY

If you would like to schedule an appointment, the best way is to email. We can then set up a time to chat when it is convenient for both of us. If you email me and do not receive an email response within 48 hours during the weekday, most likely, your email was not received.

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. Louis...”
- 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.

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- 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](#) is described in detail online in the [Student Guidebook](#).

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

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>

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ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#)

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[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Use of 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 learning

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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

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

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

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 University 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 ETAMU 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.

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health – Counseling Services

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to

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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.



As an Institutional Member of the National Association of Schools of Music, East Texas State A&M University supports the Association's commitment to student health and wellness. The following web address provides links to information for resources related to physical and mental well-being, as well as assists in offering preventative measures that students can take to avoid serious and/or chronic conditions: [Musician Health and Safety - East Texas A&M University](#)

Department and Accrediting Agency Statement:

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.

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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.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

PR - Peer Review

A – Assignment

Q – Quiz

	Date	Chapters	PR#	A#	Q#
1	8/20-8/23 Due 8-23 at 11:59 pm	C1: Introduction Introduction Video	PR1		Q1
2	8/24-8/30 Due 8-30 at 11:59 pm	C2: Ethics	PR2	A2a *A2b	Q2
3	8/31-9/6 Due 9-16 at 11:59 pm	C3: Research Problem & Questions	PR3a PR3b		Q3
4	9/7-9/13 Due 9-13 at 11:59 pm				
5	9/14-9/20 Due 9-20 at 11:59 pm				
6	9/21-9/27 Due 9-27 at 11:59 pm	C4: Literature Review	PR4	A4	Q4
7	9/28-10/4 Due 10-4 at 11:59 pm				
8	10/5-10/18 Due 10- 18 at 11:59 pm				
	10/8-10/9	Happy Fall Break			

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9	10/12-10/18 Due 10-18 at 11:59 pm	C5: Sampling	PR5		Q5
10	10/19-10/25 Due 11-1 at 11:59 pm	C6: Measurement	PR6		Q6
11	10/26-11/1 Due 11-1 at 11:59 pm	C7: Data Collection	PR7a PR7b		Q7
12	11/2-11/8 Due 11-8 at 11:59 pm				
13	11/9-11/15 Due 11-22 at 11:59 pm	C9: Experimental Research Design	PR9		Q9
14	11/16-11/22 Due 11-22 at 11:59 pm	C8: Non-experimental Research Design			Q8
15	11/23-11/29	Happy Thanksgiving Break!!!			
16	11/30-12/6 Due 12-6 at 11:59 pm	C10: Statistics Basics	PR10		Q10
17	12/7-12/9 Due 12-9 at 11:59 pm	Final Paper			

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