

Psychology 3201: General Experimental Psychology SPRING 2017

Professor: Ana I Schwartz, Ph.D.
Office: Vowell Hall 203
Email: aischwartz@utep.edu (This is the preferred way to contact me.)
Office Hours: Thursday 10-12PM (or by appointment)

Class Schedule: Monday 3:00-4:50 PM Undergraduate Learning Center (UGLC) 116

Office Hours: My office hours will be in Vowell Hall, Room 203 on Thursdays from 10 to 12 PM. If you need to meet but cannot attend my established office hours, please e-mail me to set up a different time. See information about contacting me in the section below.

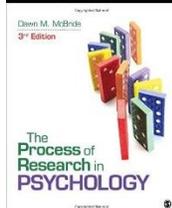
Course Description: This course will introduce you to the critical methods and steps that are used to conduct research in psychology. The major focus of this course is on the **processes** of research and how we go about trying to acquire knowledge about behavior, not on what we have learned using these methods. We will discuss why it is important to have an understanding of research methods and how it can help you evaluate the strength of published research in scholarly articles and the popular media. You will apply the scientific method and learn the appropriate steps to develop research questions and hypotheses, design well-crafted experiments to test those hypotheses, acquire and analyze data, and communicate research findings. Additionally, you will learn how to identify different types of studies (e.g. experimental, quasi-experimental and correlational) and recognize the strengths and weaknesses of each. You will also learn about other potential weaknesses in study design. Further, you will review basic descriptive and inferential statistical techniques. The course will also address critical ethical guidelines and concerns when conducting research in psychology.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course you should have achieved the following:

- Learned the critical research methods used in psychology and become skilled at articulating and executing the steps required to conduct research.
- Be able to read scholarly articles or descriptions of research in the popular press, identify what type of study was conducted, and deconstruct it into its different critical components (e.g. independent variable, dependent variable, etc.).
- Be able to identify the strengths and weakness of different study designs and articulate different possible sources of error.
- Be able to summarize research findings that you read or hear about and understand why the researchers made the choices they did regarding study design, sampling technique, choice of statistical analyses, etc.
- Learned how to communicate about research findings and become proficient in the use of APA (American Psychological Association) style.

- Honed your critical thinking, information literacy and communication skills through class participation and team-based exercises.

Required Text:



McBride, D. M. (2016). *The process of research in psychology* (3rd ed.). Los Angeles: Sage. ISBN 978-1483347608

It is best to acquire the physical copy of the book so that it will be easily accessible for in-class activities and the Blackboard quizzes.

Contacting Me: I am happy to help you and answer any questions you have about the course content, requirements, assignments, etc. If you have a question, you should come to my office hours or e-mail me. Note that if you e-mail I will typically respond within 48 hours. ***If you want to make an appointment to see me to discuss something more in-depth and are unable to attend my office hours***, e-mail me to request a meeting and include at least 4 dates and times when you would be available to meet. I will then respond with the option that will work for me. ***It is your responsibility review the relevant class document(s) BEFORE you ask me a question.*** If you e-mail or ask me a question that is in the syllabus or another source that was made available in class or on Blackboard, I will respond with something like “see syllabus” or “see assignment.” If you still have questions after reviewing the appropriate document or source, please be specific in your questions so I know that you have reviewed the relevant documents in advance. Please be thoughtful about what you want to ask before e-mailing me. Also, when you contact me, you should refer to me as Dr. Schwartz or Professor Schwartz, NOT as Miss, Mrs. or Ms. Schwartz. This is important to be aware of when addressing any of your professors.

Grading: Your grade in this class is based on the components listed below.

Quizzes 25% (10 regular quizzes worth 2% and 1 stats quiz worth .5%

Exams (3) 75%

Total 100%

Reading: On the class schedule, chapters from the class textbook are listed. You MUST complete the chapter readings by the date they are listed on the schedule.

PURCHASE A PACKET OF GREEN SCANTRONS. YOU WILL NEED A SCANTRON FOR EVERY WEEK.

Quizzes: Just about every week there will be an in-class quiz. This will be based on information covered in class and in the readings. The lowest quiz grade is dropped, thus there are no make ups for missed quizzes, the 0 gets dropped. Quizzes will be 10- 20 multiple choice items.

Exams: Altogether there will be 4 exams given, your grade will be based on the 3 highest exam grades, thus the lowest exam grade gets dropped. 3 of these exams will be given during the regular semester and 1 of these will be given on the day of our scheduled final. This last exam will be cumulative. If you took the other 3 exams it is optional. Don't be frightened by the word "cumulative". Students typically do well on this last exam, and it often replaces a previous lower graded exam.

Exams cannot be made up unless it is due to a university sanctioned event. If you have a university sanctioned event that will prevent you from taking any of the exams you need to **notify me by the end of the second week of classes.**

Note that the exams will be much harder than the quizzes. While the quizzes assess whether you can recognize and define key concepts from the book chapters, the exams will focus more on whether you can apply these concepts and understand their significance. You will need to provide your own scantron for each exam. These can be purchased either in the campus bookstore or in the copy center on the first floor of the library.

E-mail Access: You need to be sure to regularly check your UTEP e-mail for any class announcements, as I often send reminders and announcements to the class. The only way these will reach you is via your UTEP e-mail address. I will not accept excuses that you didn't see these messages because you never check your UTEP account.

Blackboard & Online Access: I will use the course Blackboard website to post a version of my lecture notes to help you study more efficiently. These are not meant to

be complete or to serve as a substitute for attending class. Instead, they should be used as a study guide and to provide structure for taking and interpreting your own notes. Other resources will be available through Blackboard as well, such as announcements or exam reviews. You can find the course Blackboard site by going to

<https://blackboardlearn.utep.edu>

Once you log in to the blackboard site you should be able to navigate to the course blackboard page: General Experimental Psychology - PSYC-3201

If you have trouble accessing the site, please let me know within the first 24 hours of the first class session.

Sometimes Blackboard becomes inaccessible for some reason. Usually the problem is resolved within a few hours.

Withdrawal/Drop Deadline: The deadline to drop this course is listed on the class schedule. You **MUST** withdraw by this date to receive a “W”.

Academic Honesty & Integrity: Each student has a responsibility to understand, accept, and comply with the University’s standards of academic conduct.

<http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/>

<http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/student-conduct/student-conduct-process-appendix/>

Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to the following:

- cheating – use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, student aids or information in any academic exercise
- fabrication – falsifying or inventing information or data in an academic assignment
- collusion – aid or attempt to aid another student in committing academic misconduct
- plagiarism – use of ideas, words or statements of another person without giving credit to that person

Academic dishonesty is unacceptable. Evidence of academic dishonesty or any other violation of the Standards of Conduct **WILL BE REPORTED** to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR). Students may be suspended or expelled and may have permanent notes included in their records.

UTEP’s code of student conduct and discipline may be found at the following locations:

<http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=73922>

<http://admin.utep.edu/LinkClick.aspx?link=docs%2fStudent+Conduct+and+Discipline.pdf&tabid=71896&mid=163588>

Classroom Etiquette: When you are in class, you and your classmates are here to learn. It is important that you respect your fellow classmates and do not disrupt class or prevent them from listening and asking questions.

Do not talk or text on a mobile device

Laptop and tablet use is allowed, turn off wireless/internet/data connection

Arrive promptly. Timeliness is an essential component of professionalism and indicative of respect. Quizzes will often be administered at the start of class as an extra incentive to be on time.

Classroom Accommodations and Disabilities: If you feel that you may have a disability that requires accommodation, contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) Office (<http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>) at 747-5148, go to Room 106 Union Building East, or email cass@utep.edu. If you need accommodations, please **LET ME KNOW BY THE END OF THE 2ND WEEK OF CLASSES**. Some aspects of this course, the assignments, the in-class activities, or the way I teach may be modified to facilitate your participation and progress. If you need me to make an accommodation for you, it is your responsibility to contact me **AT LEAST ONE WEEK BEFORE** any quiz, exam or assignment for which you need accommodations. If you will be taking your exams at CASS, it is **YOUR** responsibility to provide me with a completed copy of the CASS form at least 2 working days before the quiz or exam (e-mailing me an electronic form with your information is fine and preferred). You are also responsible for contacting CASS to make sure they will be expecting you at the date and time arranged for taking the exam.

Grade Inquiries: If you wish to inquire about your grade, you must personally see me. **I cannot discuss grades or tell you your grade over the phone or via e-mail.**

Class Schedule: Below is a schedule detailing the plans for this course. You are responsible for keeping track of this schedule and completing the readings, quizzes, assignments and exams on the day they are due

Week	Day/Date	Reading/Assignment	Topic
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1	Mon., Jan. 23		Syllabus, Course Overview, Scientific Method
2	Mon. Jan 30	Chapter 1 Complete pretest Stats quiz	Scientific Method; Hypothesis Development
3	Mon., Feb. 6	Chapter 4	The scientific method in psychology
4	Mon., Feb. 13	Chapter 4	The scientific method in psychology
5	Mon., Feb. 20	EXAM 1	
6	Mon., Feb. 27	Chapter 6	Research Samples
7	Mon., March 6	Chapter 5& 7	Measurement & Analysis
8	Mon., March 20	Chapter 5& 7	Measurement & Analysis
9	Mon., March 27	EXAM 2	
	Thurs., March 30 th	DROP DEADLINE	
10	Mon., April 3	Chapter 10	Correlational Research
11	Mon., April 10	Chapters 11	Experiments
12	Mon., April 17	Chapters 11	Experiments
13	Mon., April 24	Chapters 13 & 14	Quasi-Experimental & Specialized Designs
14	Mon., May 1 st	EXAM 3	
	Mon., May 8 th	FINAL EXAM 4:00 PM	