

PSYCHOLOGY 3101 – FALL 2015
GENERAL EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY LABORATORY
Supervising Professor: Dr. Ashley Bangert (asbangert2@utep.edu)

Teaching Assistants	Lab Meeting Time, Location, & CRN	Office Hours & Email
Karly Schleicher	Monday 8:00 – 9:20 AM LART 305 CRN # 13461	Hours: Thursday 1:30 – 3:30 PM Location: PSYC 310 Email: kmschleicher@miners.utep.edu
Adon Neria	Tuesday 12:00 PM – 1:20 PM LART 101 CRN # 13462	Hours: Tuesday 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM Location: PSYC 117 Email: alneria@miners.utep.edu
Allyson Hughes	Wednesday 9:00 AM – 10:20 AM LART 305 CRN #13463	Hours: Monday 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM Tuesday 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM Location: PSYC 304 Email: asrockhold@miners.utep.edu
Katherine Aguirre	Wednesday 12:30 PM – 1:50 PM LART 107 CRN #17497	Hours: Wednesday 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM Location: Vowell 210 Email: kmaquirre@miners.utep.edu
Mosi Dane'El	Thursday 10:30 AM – 11:50 AM LART 222 CRN # 13464	Hours: Thursday 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM Location: PSYC 304 Email: midaneel@miners.utep.edu
Brock Bollin	Friday 2:30 PM – 3:50 PM LART 101 CRN # 13465	Hours: Tuesday 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM Location: PSYC 203B Email: bcbollin@miners.utep.edu

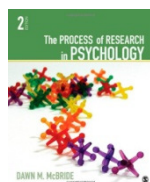
Course Description: The objective of this course is to teach you the methodologies that psychological researchers use to understand the brain and behavior. This course differs from most of your other courses because it focuses on the *processes* that are used to make scientific findings and not what we have learned (*content*) using these processes. The objective of this lab is to give you hands-on experience with several elements of psychological research: generating hypotheses, locating and understanding literature relevant to the hypotheses, designing studies that enable you to test hypotheses, analyzing data and interpreting the findings, and communicating the findings to other researchers or practitioners in written papers. The lab will be broken into two halves. In the first half, you will be assigned some scholarly articles which will serve as a basis to understand the style and content of the different sections of an APA (American Psychological Association) style research paper. You will also be asked to complete several online experiments that will expose you to different study designs intended to answer particular research questions. The classes, handouts, and homework in this first half will help you become familiar with the basics of experimentation and research article organization. The second half of the lab will focus on writing the different sections of a research article which will culminate in a final

paper. You will first write drafts of the individual sections of a research paper based on one of the online experiments that you complete for the lab. You will then revise and compile these sections into your final paper.

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

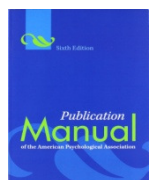
- Be able to understand how psychological research is communicated in scientific journals.
- Know the basics of writing a scientific paper using APA style, including the following sections: *introduction, methods, results, discussion, and references.*
- Be able to understand, critique, and build on published, primary empirical research.
- Gained an understanding of basic experimental methods.
- Be able to use the library, online databases, and other resources to conduct a targeted literature search.
- Honed your critical thinking, information literacy and communication skills through class participation, homework, and writing assignments.

Required Text:



McBride, D. M. (2013). *The process of research in psychology* (2nd ed.). Los Angeles: Sage. ISBN 978-1-4129-9955-7

Recommended Text:



American Psychological Association (2009). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th Ed.)*. Washington, D. C., American Psychological Association. ISBN 978-1433805615

This text is not required for this course, as there are a number of APA guides and resources on the internet that will provide you the necessary guidance for the class requirements. However, if you plan to continue studying psychology, it is highly recommended that you purchase this manual.

Contacting Your Lab Instructor/TA: Your lab instructors are happy to help you and answer any questions you have about the course content, requirements, assignments, etc. If you have a question, you should attend their office hours, speak to them after class, or e-mail them. Note that if you e-mail they will typically respond within 48 hours. Don't expect that if you e-mail your TA a question at 3:00 AM you will receive an immediate response. ***It is your responsibility review the relevant class document(s) BEFORE you ask your TA a question.*** If you e-mail or ask your TA a question that is in the syllabus or another source that was made available in class or on blackboard, they will respond with something like “see syllabus” or “see homework

assignment.” If you still have questions after reviewing the appropriate document or source, please be specific in your questions so your TA knows that you have reviewed the relevant documents in advance.

Reading: On the class schedule, chapters from the class textbook are listed as well as online tutorials or information sources that will help you with your homework and paper assignments in this course. You **MUST** complete these by the date they are listed on the class schedule and calendar.

Blackboard: This course will make extensive use of Blackboard. Most of the materials and assignments will be posted on Blackboard before your weekly lab session, and you are expected to review this material **BEFORE** class. You will need to be vigilant about checking Blackboard so that you do not fall behind. Refer to the syllabus and course schedule to keep track of upcoming deadlines, readings and assignments. You are responsible for understanding and completing all assignments correctly and on time.

For the paper section assignments and the final paper, you need to submit an electronic copy to Blackboard through SafeAssign, in addition to the hard copy you turn in during class. This electronic copy will be analyzed for plagiarism. Please attach your assignment using one of the following file formats: .doc, .docx, .odt, .txt, .rtf, or .pdf. **DO NOT ZIP YOUR DOCUMENT** when you submit it on blackboard. Your instructor will be unable to open the document and may consider that assignment late. Be sure also that when you are ready to submit your assignment that you have actually attached the assignment document **BEFORE** you click submit. You may only have **ONE** attempt to submit your assignment, so **be sure that you have read and followed instructions carefully before clicking submit**. You may have difficulties using Blackboard with certain web browsers like Safari, or Internet Explorer, so use either Firefox or Google Chrome. If you experience problems, you may want to consult some of the FAQs located under the Student Services and Internships Tab on Blackboard. There are links on that page to other help resources as well. To open the links you may have to press the control key on your computer keyboard while also clicking the link. If you still have trouble with Blackboard after checking out these resources, you may contact UTEP’s help desk to get assistance.

UTEP Library Room 300
On-Campus Phone: Dial HELP or (x4357)
Off-Campus Phone: (915) 747-5257
Email: helpdesk@utep.edu

Blackboard sometimes becomes inaccessible. Usually, the problems are resolved within an hour or two. Blackboard outages are **NOT** an acceptable reason for missing assignments except in extreme cases (i.e. outages lasting 24 hours or more). It is **YOUR** responsibility to plan ahead and make sure that your work is completed before the deadlines.

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

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| • Attendance | 10% |
| • Homework (5 assignments worth 6% each) | 30% |
| • Paper Sections (5 worth 6% each) | 30% |
| • Final Paper | 30% |
| • Total | 100% |

The percentage-score-to-letter-grade conversion for this course is as follows:

A = 90% or higher

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = below 60%

Attendance: Attendance is critical because many of the required activities will take place during class time and you only meet once a week. Attendance will be taken at every class meeting. If you arrive more than 10 minutes late or leave before the class is excused by the instructor, you will not receive credit for attending that day. Most sessions are expected to last for the full hour and 20 minutes. If you will not be able to attend regularly, you should either take a different lab section that you can attend regularly or take this course another semester. Failing to come to class will negatively impact your grade.

Online Experiments: You MUST complete the listed online experiments by their due dates. Because of the limitations of the software that we use, these experiment sets cannot be hosted online simultaneously, so you must complete each one by the class date listed in the syllabus. Several of your assignments and activities in class are dependent on your completion of these experiments on time. Moreover, your final paper will report about the methods and results of one of these experiments. You should be able to complete the experiments on your home computer, but note that you will be asked to download a small file that will enable your computer to work in conjunction with the software used to present the experiment. This file will not harm your computer. If you have trouble completing the experiment sets on your own or if you do not have access to a computer, please be sure to e-mail Dr. Bangert to make an appointment as early as possible so that she can work with you to gain access to a computer on campus to complete the experiment.

Homework: There will be five homework assignments that will give you practice applying principles discussed in class and needed for completing the paper section assignments and the final paper. Homework is **due at the beginning of class** on the date listed on the class schedule.

Paper Sections: There will be five paper section assignments throughout the semester. Results of any study are of little value until they are communicated to other

researchers or practitioners. Therefore, a major portion of this lab course is designed to teach you how to write empirical, scientific papers using APA style. Most empirical papers contain five essential sections (abstract, introduction, method, results, & discussion), and you will be writing each of these sections. You will learn to write and format these sections based on the guidelines provided in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th Ed.)*.

Some useful online sites which provide information about APA style include the following:

<http://www.apastyle.org/>

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

The UTEP library also has an online APA style guide with some basic information about APA style:

<http://libguides.utep.edu/content.php?pid=123223&sid=1059045>

You will submit an electronic copy to Blackboard AND will bring a physical copy of your assignment to turn in during your lab section. **If you only submit an electronic copy or only a hard copy, you WILL NOT receive full points on that assignment.**

Final Paper: Your final assignment in this class will be to write a complete scientific paper that contains all five of the sections that have been reviewed during this course. This paper will be based on the paper sections completed earlier. You will be given feedback on these sections and will need to revise and improve them for this final paper. All written assignments (homework, paper sections, & final paper) are due at the ***beginning*** of class on the due date. The final paper is due on the date and time indicated in the syllabus.

You will submit an electronic copy to Blackboard AND will turn in a physical copy of your paper on the due date listed on the class schedule.

Late Assignments: Any assignment that is turned-in late will be graded normally; then its grade will be reduced by 20% for each 24-hour period (up to 3 days) that it is late. For example, if you turn in a homework assignment 4 hours late, you will only receive up to 80% of the total points on that assignment. If you turn in an assignment 36 hours late, you will only receive up to 60% of the total points on that assignment. Assignments more than three days late will not be accepted and will be given a score of zero. If you know that you will miss a class session on which an assignment is due, you should contact your lab instructor and make arrangements to turn-in the assignment ***before*** it is due. If you miss class due to an emergency (hospitalization, death in family), you should let the instructor know immediately. Do not try to turn in an assignment to your TA's mailbox without notifying the TA via e-mail to let them know that the assignment is in their box. TAs are not always able to check their mailbox every day. If they find an assignment in their mailbox, they will count it turned in on the day they found it, which might be several days after you actually turned it in. Therefore, it is crucial that you

notify them by e-mail to let them know they need to check their mailbox so that they will find the assignment the day it was turned in.

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”.

Make-up Work: Make-up homework, paper sections, and final papers will only be given for 2 reasons, 1) absence due to a university-sanctioned activity (e.g. away games for athletes, research conferences) or 2) serious medical circumstances. You must give your lab instructor prior notification of your absence **AT LEAST 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE** of the due date shown on the class schedule so that appropriate accommodations can be made. If prior notification due to medical circumstances cannot be given, you must contact your instructor **WITHIN 24 HOURS AFTER** the due date or have someone else make contact on your behalf. Contact can be made via the instructor e-mail listed at the top of the syllabus. Documentation of your absence must be presented in writing along with any supporting material (e.g., a doctor’s note). If you become seriously ill during the semester or have other unforeseeable events that will cause you to miss out on several class sessions, exams, and other assignments, it is your responsibility to drop the course in order to save your grade point average. If you start having problems, you need to contact your instructor **as soon as possible** so that they can work with you to devise a plan to help you succeed in the course. Do not wait to contact your instructor, because at that point it might be too late to do anything. It is rare for the supervising professor to grant an “incomplete” in this lab course.

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

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/>

All graded work (e.g., homework, paper sections, paper, etc.) that you produce for the course is to be **completed independently and should reflect your own ideas and effort. YOU MAY NOT PRESENT AS YOUR OWN ANY MATERIALS THAT ARE THE WORK OF ANOTHER.** These include, but are not limited to, work produced by another student, materials printed in books or articles, and materials published on the web. If

you share your work with another student and they try to pass that work off as their own YOU are still guilty of collusion.

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

Students who are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty should consult the lab instructor.

Academic dishonesty is unacceptable. Evidence of academic dishonesty or any other violation of the Standards of Conduct **WILL BE REPORTED** to the Dean of Students. 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. Talking or texting on your phone is not only discourteous, it is disturbing to your instructor and to other students. Thus, all cell phones, laptops, and wireless devices must be muted during class. Do not answer or make calls. If there is an emergency, please leave the classroom to talk on the phone. **DO NOT** play games, text, or send e-mails on your phone, laptops, or wireless devices as this may distract others who can see your screen. If you are caught using any of these devices in this manner, you will be asked to put them away immediately or to leave class.

When asking questions or engaging in discussions with the instructor or your classmates, please be sure that any questions, ideas or comments that you make are respectful and considerate.

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 YOUR INSTRUCTOR KNOW BY THE END OF THE 2ND WEEK OF CLASSES AND PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION FROM CASS. Some aspects of this course, the assignments, the in-class activities, or the way your instructor teaches may be modified to facilitate your participation and progress.

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

Resolving Disputes about Grading: If you disagree with a grade you received on an assignment, you must make a *written* request to the lab instructor (TA) to review the grade. This request must contain an explanation for why you think you should have gotten a different grade and be submitted with the original assignment. The instructor will review your request and make a decision in a timely manner but not “on the spot”. If you still have concerns about the decision, you may consult with the supervising professor (Dr. Bangert), but **ONLY** if you submitted a written request to your lab instructor first.

Information In the Syllabus: The instructors reserve the right to modify any information in this syllabus and class schedule provided that, 1) they give reasonable advance warning, and 2) students are not unfairly disadvantaged by the change.

Week	Class Activity	Reading/Pre-class activity	Assignment Due
W1	Syllabus, Course Overview, Plagiarism		
W2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to APA style, Literature Search • Information about how to complete online experiments 	<p>Complete UNIV 1301 Breakthrough tutorial - Module B http://libguides.utep.edu/univ1301tutorials <i>This should take about 15 min.</i></p>	Homework 1: Plagiarism
W3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics Review • Review access to online experiments 	Chapter 14	Homework 2: Literature Search
W4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics Review continued • APA Style Paper: Method & Results Sections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Online Experiment Set 1 (see availability on calendar below) • Chapter 8 	

Week	Class Activity	Reading/Pre-class activity	Assignment Due
W5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APA Style Paper: Introduction & Abstract Sections • Vote on Section Experiment 	Complete Online Experiment Set 2 (see availability on calendar below)	Homework 3: Statistics
W6	APA Style Paper: Discussion & References Sections	Basics of APA Style Tutorial: http://www.apastyle.org/learn/tutorials/basics-tutorial.aspx <i>This should take about 22 min.</i>	Homework 4: Methods
W7	APA Style Paper: Method Writing	Sample APA style papers <i>These will be posted on blackboard</i>	Homework 5: Article Review
W8	APA Style Paper: Introduction Writing		Paper Section Draft - Method
W9	APA Style Paper: Results Writing		Paper Section Draft - Intro
Course Drop Deadline is October 30th!			
W10	APA Style Paper: Discussion Writing		Paper Section Draft - Results
W11	APA Style Paper: Abstract & Reference Writing		Paper Section Draft - Discussion
W12	Final Review		Paper Section Draft – Abstract & References
Thursday Dec. 3			FINAL PAPER DUE BY 4:00 PM IN THE PSYCHOLOGY MAIN OFFICE

Below you will see a more detailed calendar that shows which week's activities you will be responsible for in each meeting of your lab section. Please refer to this calendar to keep up with the readings, activities and assignments that are due each week of your class. You are responsible for knowing this information and all due dates.

AUGUST						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
23	24 No Lab	25 No Lab	26 No Lab	27 No Lab	28 No Lab	29
30	31 W1					
SEPTEMBER						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 W1	2 W1	3 W1	4 W1	5
6	7 No Lab	8 W2 <i>Expt. Set 1 Available</i>	9 W2 <i>Expt. Set 1 Available</i>	10 W2 <i>Expt. Set 1 Available</i>	11 W2 <i>Expt. Set 1 Available</i>	12 <i>Expt. Set 1 Available</i>
13 <i>Expt. Set 1 Available</i>	14 W2 <i>Expt. Set 1 Available</i>	15 W3 <i>Expt. Set 1 Available</i>	16 W3 <i>Expt. Set 1 Available</i>	17 W3 <i>Expt. Set 1 Available</i>	18 W3 <i>Expt. Set 1 Available</i>	19 <i>Expt. Set 1 Available</i>
20	21 W3 <i>Expt. Set 1 Available</i>	22 W4 <i>Expt. Set 2 Available</i>	23 W4 <i>Expt. Set 2 Available</i>	24 W4 <i>Expt. Set 2 Available</i>	25 W4 <i>Expt. Set 2 Available</i>	26 <i>Expt. Set 2 Available</i>
27 <i>Expt. Set 2 Available</i>	28 W4 <i>Expt. Set 2 Available</i>	29 W5	30 W5			
OCTOBER						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 W5	2 W5	3
4	5 W5	6 W6	7 W6	8 W6	9 W6	10
11	12 W6	13 W7	14 W7	15 W7	16 W7	17
18	19 W7	20 W8	21 W8	22 W8	23 W8	24
25	26 W8	27 W9	28 W9	29 W9	30 W9 Course Drop Deadline	31

NOVEMBER						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 W9	3 W10	4 W10	5 W10	6 W10	7
8	9 W10	10 W11	11 W11	12 W11	13 W11	14
15	16 W11	17 W12	18 W12	19 W12	20 W12	21
22	23 W12	24 No Lab	25 No Lab	26 No Lab	27 No Lab	28
29	30 No Lab					
DECEMBER						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 No Lab	2 No Lab	3 <i>Final Paper Due</i>	4	5