

Psychology 3201: General Experimental Psychology CRN: 22059

Professor: Ashley Bangert, Ph.D.
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Email: asbangert2@utep.edu (This is the preferred way to contact me.)
Office Hours: Monday 3:00-5:00 PM (or by appointment)

Class Schedule: Monday 12:30-2:20 PM Undergraduate Learning Center (UGLC) 128

Office Hours: My office hours will be in Prospect Hall, Room 215 on Mondays from 3 – 5 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.

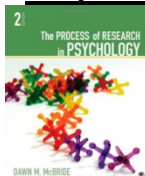
Course Description: This course will introduce you to the critical methods and steps that are used to conduct research in psychology. The major focus of this course is on the **processes** of research and how we go about trying to acquire knowledge about behavior, not on what we have learned using these 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. To facilitate your learning, you will engage in team-based learning exercises designed to help you gain a deeper understanding of the critical concepts in this course.

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. To achieve this, you need to do more than simply memorize information you learn in class. You also need to apply the knowledge you have gained to relevant examples and be actively engaged in team-based problem solving and communication exercises with your fellow students. You will be assigned to teams at the start of the course that you will work with throughout the entire semester and will engage in a series of team-based exercises and assignments to develop these skills. Since many of these activities will occur during class, attendance is critical (see the section on team-based learning below).

Required Text:



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

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, speak to me after class, or e-mail me. Note that if you e-mail I will typically respond within 48 hours. Don't expect that if you e-mail me a question at 3:00 AM you will receive an immediate response. ***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 paper 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. Bangert or Professor Bangert, NOT as Miss, Mrs. or Ms. Bangert. This is an important point to be aware of when addressing any of your professors.

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

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|--|-------------|
| • 10 Pre-Class Quizzes (2 lowest grades will be dropped) | 24% |
| • Team Based Learning | 20% |
| • Paper | 15% |
| • Mid-Term Exam | 16% |
| • Final Exam | 25% |
| • 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%

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.

Pre-Class Quizzes: Throughout the semester, 10 quizzes will be administered via **Blackboard** which you are required to complete prior to class. These quizzes are meant to assess your understanding of the readings assigned for each class period. The quizzes will be on Blackboard and will be available starting approximately 48 hours prior to class. The quizzes are open-book, but be aware that you are only given a limited time to take each quiz. **Each quiz must be completed PRIOR TO CLASS ON THE ASSOCIATED DATE LISTED ON THE CLASS SCHEDULE.** Quizzes should be taken **on your own without help from others.** Gathering around a computer with your friends to take the quiz, taking screen shots or writing down the correct answers and sharing them with others does not help with your learning and is a form of academic dishonesty known as collusion (see in the academic dishonesty section below). Your two lowest quiz grades will be dropped, meaning that your final quiz grade will be based on the average of the remaining 8 quizzes. **THEREFORE, THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UPS FOR QUIZZES. IF YOU MISS A QUIZ YOU WILL RECEIVE A 0 ON THAT QUIZ AND WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE IT UP.**

Team-Based Learning: A large amount of each class period will require you to work in teams to answer questions and solve problems related to the concepts and ideas we are covering. At the very beginning of the semester, you will be sorted into a team that you will work with through the remainder of the semester. **Groups will not be rearranged once they are created,** so you must figure out a way to work with your group. During each class period your team will work together on a task during class and will turn in ONE team-based assignment at the end of class that will be graded. All team members that worked on the assignment will sign their names to it and will receive the same grade based on the quality of their work. If you are absent the day your team works on an assignment, your name will NOT be included, and you will not get points for that assignment. It is critical that you work as a team on the assignments. At the end of the semester, each of you will be graded by your teammates on how well you worked in the team environment, how helpful and engaged you were during team assignments, and how actively you engaged in class activities. This assessment will comprise your peer-review grade. The Team-Based Learning portion of your final grade will be based

on two parts: 1) a team grade based on the quality of your team-based learning exercises, and 2) a peer-review grade based on reviews of your team work by your team-members.

Paper: You will be asked to write a short paper in which you analyze and evaluate a scientific finding related to psychology that was reported in the popular press. You will be required to find and read the original scientific article upon which the popular press report was based and evaluate that article as well. The due date for the paper is listed in the class schedule. Additional details about the paper will be provided in a handout later in the course. Late papers will NOT be accepted.

Exams: There will be two exams in this course, a mid-term and a final exam. These exams will consist primarily of multiple-choice style questions. The dates for each exam are shown on the class schedule. **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. The team-based assignments will help prepare you for the exams. 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.

- The mid-term exam will cover all of the lectures, readings, team-based exercises and other class content covered up to the date of the mid-term exam.
- The final exam will primarily cover material following the mid-term. However, there are many concepts covered in the first half of the semester that are fundamental for understanding concepts covered later, and several concepts will be addressed throughout the entire semester. This information will also be covered on the final exam.

Class Attendance: While attendance will not be graded for this course it is VERY important. We will be completing team-based activities in class that will help you apply concepts you are learning, and you will need to do this to do well on the exams. Furthermore, you will not get credit for team-based projects and activities that you miss and your teammates may evaluate you poorly at the end of the semester if you have missed class sessions and team-related activities. Therefore, if you miss class sessions it will negatively affect your grade.

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. Quizzes will be administered through blackboard and should be completed prior to class. You can find the course blackboard site by going to

<https://blackboard.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. Blackboard outages are NOT an acceptable reason for missing online quizzes or assignments except in extreme cases (e.g. outages lasting a day or more). It is YOUR responsibility to plan ahead and make sure that you complete all online quizzes and work BEFORE the deadlines listed on the class schedule.

It is critical that you have a reliable computer and Internet access in order to take your quizzes. No makeup quizzes will be allowed due to technical problems that prevent you from accessing or completing a quiz. **DO NOT TRY TO TAKE YOUR QUIZ ON A PHONE.**

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: There will be no make-up opportunities for missed quizzes. Make-up exams, papers, and other assignments 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 me 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 me WITHIN 24 HOURS AFTER the due date or have someone else make contact on your behalf. Contact can be made via my e-mail or by leaving a telephone message with me at the contact phone number listed above. 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 me **as soon as possible** so that we can devise a plan to help you succeed in the course. Please do not wait to contact me to devise a plan, because at that point it might be too late to do anything. It is rare for me to grant an “incomplete” in my courses.

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/>

Except for team-based group assignments, all graded work (e.g., quizzes, tests, papers, 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 professor.

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 me 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 professor 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 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.**

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

Psychology 3201: General Experimental Psychology Class Schedule				
Week	Day/Date	Assignment/Quiz	Reading	Topic
1	Monday, Jan. 26			Syllabus, Course Overview, Introduction
2	Monday, Feb. 2	Quiz 1	Chapters 1 & 2	Why take this class?; Scientific Method; Hypothesis Development
3	Monday, Feb. 9	Quiz 2	Chapter 3	Types of Research Designs
4	Monday, Feb. 16	Quiz 3	Chapters 4 & 9	Measurement; Survey Research
5	Monday, Feb. 23	Quiz 4	Chapter 7	Measurement & Analysis
6	Monday, Mar. 2	Quiz 5	Chapter 6	Research Samples
7	Monday, Mar. 9	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS		
8	Monday, Mar. 16	MIDTERM EXAM		
9	Monday, Mar. 23	Quiz 6	Chapter 5	Ethical Considerations in Research
10	Monday, Mar. 30	Quiz 7	Chapter 10	Ethical Considerations in Research; Correlational Research

11	Monday, Apr. 6	(Course Drop Deadline)	Chapter 10	Correlational Research
12	Monday, Apr. 13	Quiz 8	Chapter 11	Experiments
13	Monday, Apr. 20		Chapter 11	Experiments
14	Monday, Apr. 27	Quiz 9	Chapter 11	Experiments
15	Monday, May 4	Quiz 10 <i>Class Paper Due Tuesday, May 5 by 4:00 PM in the Psychology Main Office</i>	Chapters 12 & 13	Quasi-Experimental & Specialized Designs
16	Wednesday, May 13	Final EXAM 4:00 PM - 6:45 PM		