

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY
Introduction to Psychology/BUILD.RDC**

Course Number: PSYC 1305	Instructor: Craig A. Field, PhD, MPH	Co-Instructor: Eden H. Robles, PhD, MSW
CRN: 18382	Office Location: PSYC 116	Office Location: PSYC 119
Class Time: Monday & Wednesday, 3:00-4:20	Office Hours: 30 minutes after class or by appointment	Office Hours: By appointment
Class Location: CCSB G.0706A	Instructor Email: cfield@utep.edu	Instructor Email: erobles9@utep.edu
Semester: Fall 2016	Preferred method of contact: email	Preferred method of contact: email

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This BUILD research driven course is designed to give you, the student, an overall introduction to the science of psychology and quantitative research methods and skills. Specifically, you will learn about: 1) The multiple factors that influence how we think, feel, and behave; 2) The major theories that explain human behavior and motivation and emotion; 3) The basic research methods used by psychologists to learn about psychology and their advantages and disadvantages; 4) How to develop basic research skills; and 5) The experience of being a researcher in a psychological study. The course material will focus specifically on Latino alcohol and health disparities research. The course material will be presented in class through lectures, demonstrations, and videos. All BUILD students taking this course are strongly encouraged to enroll in the Health Psychology research driven course next semester.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

1. Describe and discuss the factors that influence human thought, emotion, and behavior;
2. Critically analyze major theories that explain human behavior and motivation and emotion;
3. Collaborate and complete a psychological research project with their peers;
4. Present research in a written report and orally.

III. SELECTED TEXTS AND ARTICLES

Required

Reeve, J. (2014). *Understanding motivation and emotion*. John Wiley & Sons.

Hockenbury, S., Nolan, S. & Hockenbury, D. (2016). *Discovering psychology*. 7th Edition. Worth Publishers.

Selected readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Optional

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association 6th Edition*. American Psychological Association (APA).

Important tips for the required readings: Keep up with the readings. You are expected to read all of the assigned material. The final exam will cover the material found in the assigned readings.

I. **COURSE REQUIREMENTS** (*Contract of Expectations*)

Active Learning Contract:

Cooperative, Active, Student-Directed Learning

The Research Driven Course is rigorous. It requires a high level of commitment from you with regard to your professional learning. In addition, it requires you to be responsible for asking questions, finding information, and challenging yourself to facilitate your learning. The instructor will award participation points for active learning based upon observation.

Expectations: Active Learning

- Participate in an interactive educational process grounded in course readings. This means you will read assigned course readings to class and contribute to thoughtful discussion with questions, comments, or provide other verbal feedback in response to class lecture or discussion.
- Active, cooperative learning is a requirement of this course. This means you will listen, write, and work together with the other students of the course in response to the course content.
- Exhibit professional behavior with both your peers and instructor. This means you will respect others opinions or experiences by allowing them to fully express themselves in a safe environment. Furthermore, you will respect others by fully expressing yourself in a safe manner. If you have any questions or concerns about this requirement, please speak with me before you continue in the class.

The Active Learning Contract requests that you support an interdependent and reciprocal relationship with all members of the classroom.

Criteria for Evaluation:

- Student frequently contributes to classroom discussion in a manner that reflects evidence of material learned.
- Student is present in classroom discussions. This includes showing up to class on time, putting phone and other electronics away, and actively contributing to discussion or activity.

Communication:

Preferred communication is by email. Please be sure that your UTEP email is working, your mailbox has space and that it is checked daily. Group emails will be sent to that address only. You are responsible for all communications sent via e-mail.

Class attendance and last day to withdraw class

Regular class attendance is expected. The last day for students to withdraw from this class and receive a “W” is October 28, 2016. Students will be responsible for dropping the course; the professor will not drop any student (which will make them earn a grade of “F”).

Due to the format and content of this course, both attendance and contribution are imperative. The other students in your small group are dependent on you for a quality learning experience; if too many students are absent in any one small group, that group suffers. Thus, students are expected to be in class, or in extenuating circumstances, to notify the professor and at least one other group member that they will be absent. Attendance and quality of contribution as demonstrated by student preparation level will determine grades. Students will be allowed two (2) unexcused absences. Role will be taken at the beginning of each class period. In cases where a student misses more than the allotted two absences, the professor reserves the right to lower that student’s final grade by one point for each class missed beyond the two allotted.

Religious holy days

A student who misses class or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day should inform the instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible. Arrangements will be made with that student to complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence. A student who is absent from a class or examination for the observance of a religious holy day may complete the work missed within a reasonable time after the absence, when proper notice has been given. Notice must be given *at least fourteen (14) days prior* to the classes scheduled on dates the student will be absent. For religious holy days that fall within the first two weeks of the semester, notice should be given on the first day of the semester.

Electronic devices and classroom behavior

Please turn off your cell phone on arrival. If you want to ask a question or make a comment, raise your hand and try not to interrupt others as they speak. The use of electronic devices is **NOT ALLOWED** in class (e.g., laptops, smartphones, iPads, others not listed) unless otherwise instructed.

Special accommodations

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email at cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass

Student Conduct

Students are expected to behave in a polite manner in the classroom by respecting their fellow classmates and the professor. The professor reserves the right to either drop a student or ask him/her to leave for inappropriate/disruptive behavior in class. Thus, please be on time for class and do not leave class early (unless there is an emergency). Dishonest behaviors like cheating and/or plagiarism **will NOT be** permitted and appropriate action will be taken according to the UTEP Student Standards of Conduct, which can be accessed at:

<http://admin.utep.edu/LinkClick.aspx?link=HOOP-Section+II.pdf&tabid=30181&mid=63285>

I. COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND COURSE GRADING CRITERIA

Participation – 10 Points

Regular attendance and active participation in classroom activities are factored into the overall participation grade.

Research Participation – 5 Points

This is a research driven course. As part of course, you will have the opportunity to participate in research designed by the course instructors which includes completing a set of questionnaires at the beginning and end of the course, similar to a course evaluation. Your participation is voluntary and your enrollment in this course does not commit you to participating in the research. If you choose not to participate in the research, you may elect to write a report on an article selected from an psychology-specific academic journal.

CITI Training – 10 Points

Each student will be required to complete CITI training in preparation to actively participate in a research project. CITI training includes several modules that provide training on special topics in research necessary for engaging in human subject research. CITI training takes between 4 and 8 hours. CITI training is required of all students and **MUST** be completed by the date indicated on the syllabus.

Informed Consent – 15 Points

Students will work in groups to develop an informed consent form.

Interview – 10 Points

This is a research driven course. It includes research in which you may participate and research in which you will be interviewing participants. As such, each student will be required to complete one interview.

Poster – 15 Points

Students will work in small groups to develop a research poster to be presented at the end of the semester.

Quizzes – 10 pts

Quizzes will be administered at the beginning of class and cover assigned readings.

Final Exam – 15 Points

There will be a final exam. The exam will cover the cumulative course content. The final exam will include material from the textbook and class lectures. The format of the exam will be matching, multiple-choice, and short-answer/essay.

Exam policy

Failure to take any exam or quiz will result in a score of “0” for that exam. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped, and thus make-up quizzes will be administered only in extraordinary circumstances and only when written documentation justifying an absence for a quiz is provided.

Grading

Final grades will be assigned according to the following scale: 90-100% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; and < 60% = F.

IV. Course Schedule: (*May change to accommodate guest presenters & student needs*) **August**

22 – Syllabus, Chapter 1: Scientific Method, Theory, Quantitative and Qualitative Research (Discovering Psychology)

24 – Mixed Methods Chapter:1 (Mixed Methods)

29 – Research Project: CAMBIOS

31-Chapter 12: Health Psychology (Discovering Psychology)

September

5 – Chapter 8: Motivation and Emotion (Discovering Psychology) *CITI Certificate Due*

7 – Research Skills: Informed Consent and CAMBIOS Group Exercise

12 – Chapter 2: Behavioral Neuroscience (Discovering Psychology) & Chapter 3: The Motivated Brain (Motivation and Emotion)

- 14 – Research Skill: Informed Consent (Demo/Mock/Practice)
- 19 – Chapter 5: Learning (Discovering Psychology)
- 21 – Research Skills: Informed Consent (CAMBIOS/Group Practice)
- 26 – Chapter 5: Learning (Motivation and Emotion)
- 28 – Research Skill: Assessment (Demo) ***Informed Consent Due***

October

- 3 – Chapter 6: Extrinsic Motivation (Motivation and Emotion)
- 5 – Research Skills: Assessment (Group Practice)
- 10 – Stress & Social Support: Reading TBD
- 12 – Research Skills: Psychology Measurement
- 17 – Chapter 13: Psychological Disorders (Discovering Psychology)
- 19 – Research Skills: Data (Discovering Psychology: Appendix A)
- 24 – Chapter 9: Lifespan Development (Discovering Psychology)
- 26 – Research Skills: Journal Articles (Begin Poster)
- 31 – Chapter 10: Personality (Discovering Psychology)

November

- 2 – Research Skills: Debrief/Methods ***Interview Due***
- 7 – Chapter 10: Self-Efficacy (Motivation and Emotion)
- 9 – Research Skills: Poster
- 14 – Chapter 14: Therapies (Discovering Psychology)
- 16 – Research Skill: Poster
- 21 – Chapter 1: Motivational Interviewing (Motivation and Emotion)
- 23 – Research Skills: Poster (THANKSGIVING)

28 – Research Skill: MI Demo

30- *Poster Presentations Due*

December

5-9 – Final Exam (TBA)