

Psychology 2950.002
Experimental Methods in Psychology
Summer Session II 2018
M-TH 12:00-1:50pm
Terrill Hall 120

Instructor: Lee Bedford, M.S.
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Office Hours: By appointment
Email: LeeBedford@my.unt.edu

Contacting the Instructor:

E-mail is the best way to get in contact with me, and I generally will reply within 36 hours (often more quickly). **DO NOT contact the instructor or TA via Blackboard! We will not respond.**

TA: Cameron Davis
Email: CameronDavis4@my.unt.edu
Office: Terrill Hall #215, Cube 52
Office Hours: Tuesday by appointment; Thursday 8-10am

Course Description:

This course will introduce basic experimental procedures and designs and treatment of experimental and non-experimental data. Design, methodology, and statistical treatment(s) of research outcomes will be covered. For the laboratory portion of the course, experiments and experimental reports will be required of each student.

Course Prerequisite: PSYC 2317 Quantitative Methods

Learning Objectives for this course, including lecture and lab:

After completing this course, students should be able to:

- Describe the nature of scientific inquiry in Psychology.
- Discuss issues related to evaluating research in Psychology, including but not limited to: causal inference, sampling, reliability, validity, and statistical analysis.
- Think critically about and evaluate the validity of conclusions in the scientific literature.
- Read and critically evaluate psychological research.
- Engage in collaborative, scientific discussions.
- Express and develop scientific ideas through group discussion.
- Articulate scientific questions, comments, and research evaluations in writing.

Required Texts:

Research Methods, Design, and Analysis (12th Edition)

Larry B. Christensen, R. Burke Johnson, and Lisa A. Turner

Exams:

We will have 5 classroom exams (including the Final Exam). **You will be allowed to drop your lowest exam grade.** The format of the exams may include multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, and short essay/application questions we discuss in class. The exams will cover material in the text as well as material presented in class. **Students will need Scantron sheets (the green ones with 100 questions) and #2 pencils for all exams unless otherwise specified.**

Exams will be handed out at the beginning of the class session. If you arrive late YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED EXTRA TIME.

- Makeup exams are only permitted in extreme circumstances under the following conditions:
 1. *Documented emergency* (written approval from the Dean of Students).
 2. *Documented UNT event* (i.e. sports team away game documented by the Dean of Students).
- If you miss an exam for any other reason, you will not be allowed to take a make-up exam. You will receive a grade of zero for that exam.
- Students must obtain the instructor's permission to make up the exam via email and then make arrangements to make up the exam with the TA. Exams must be made up within 1 week of the original exam date; otherwise, a grade of zero will be assigned.
- The instructor reserves the right to determine what qualifies as an extreme circumstance warranting a make-up exam.
- The lowest exam grade will be dropped; 4 exam grades will count toward the final course grade. This means that if a student misses an exam, that grade will be dropped. Furthermore, if a student is pleased with his/her exam grade average after Exam 4, he/she may choose not to take the final exam.

Reading Quizzes: Reading quizzes will be assigned for each chapter and may also cover additional readings assigned throughout the semester (this will be announced for each quiz). All reading quizzes will be administered via Blackboard Learn and will be timed (20 minutes) such that a student will need to have completed the reading before taking the quiz. **The dates and times when each quiz is available are outlined in the course schedule. No late or make-up quizzes will be allowed.** The purpose of reading quizzes is to ensure that students complete assigned readings outside of class and are prepared for discussion and learning additional topics during class time. Additionally, recent research in cognition and learning suggests that one of the most successful learning strategies is frequent testing or quizzing over material, so students can think of reading quizzes as a learning strategy as well!

Article Critiques: There will be two research articles assigned that will be located on Blackboard Learn. Students will be required to read each article, answer questions about the research methods, and critique the articles using the assigned template.

Laboratory Portion of the Course:

Your laboratory grade will count as 25% of your final grade for this course. **You must pass the Laboratory portion of the course in order to pass the course; failing the laboratory portion of the course will result in a failing final grade for the course.**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/GRADES

Grade Breakdown:

Exams - 4 exam grades. 100 pts each; lowest of the 5 exam grades will be dropped

Reading quizzes - on Blackboard Learn; 15 quizzes. 10 pts each

Article Critiques – 2 Articles. 25 pts each.

Laboratory – 200 pts.

Exams: 50% (4 exam grades—lowest grade of the 5 given exams will be dropped)

Assignments: 25%

Laboratory Grade: 25%

Grading Scale:

A = 90-100% 720-800 points

B = 80-89% 640-719

C = 70-79% 560-639

D = 60-69% 480-559

F = 0-59% < 480

Extra Credit (20 max. points):

Experimental participation is allowed for up to 20 points via faculty run experiments during the duration of the course. Students who do not wish to volunteer may be provided an equivalent alternative (such as a paper or written review of research articles) for an equal number of extra credit points that substitute for research participation credit. Also, no student under 18 can participate as a subject in research unless a parent or legal guardian signs the consent form.

Students may also submit a 3rd article critique by 8/7/18 and a poster critique by 7/16/18 for 10 extra credit points each. Students will need to select a peer-reviewed article from PSYCinfo for the 3rd article critique. The poster options can be found hanging on the second and third floor walls of Terrill Hall.

****Words of advice**:**

You cannot expect to do well in this class if you are not here. Throughout the semester you are expected to attend class, arrive on time, and stay for the duration of the class. If you do miss class, it is **your responsibility** to obtain notes/handouts and find out about any schedule changes that may have been made. It is not my responsibility to get you the notes that you missed so **please do not email me asking for notes.** Out of courtesy to both your instructor and TA, please refer to your fellow classmates for such information.

Grades are not given or assigned to you by an instructor, you **earn** them. It is your responsibility to study, attend class, come to office hours, complete extra credit, etc. to earn the grade you want!

Cell Phones and Laptops:

Cell phone ringers must be turned off during class. Laptop computers are allowed for note taking purposes, as long as their presence does not disturb other students in the class. Try to avoid Facebook, Twitter, email, etc. – remember, the people behind you can see everything you do ☺

UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Academic honesty: Cheating and plagiarism will NOT be tolerated.

Any student caught cheating or misrepresenting the origins of assignments will be subject to University Policy, which may include expulsion from the class and/or the University. Students are directed to read the Student Code of Conduct and Discipline section in the Undergraduate Catalog. Please refer to UNT's full policy for more details regarding student academic misconduct, penalties, and disciplinary action: <http://vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm>

Reporting Grades:

It is **against** University policy for me to divulge grade information via e-mail or telephone. If you have concerns about your grade at any point in the semester, please schedule an appointment to meet with me. It is also **against** University policy for me to discuss your grades with anyone other than you, the student, unless a signed waiver is on file.

University ADA Policy—Students with Disabilities:

The University of North Texas is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 – The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As an instructor, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.unt.edu/oda/apply/index.html. Also, you may visit the Office of Disability Accommodation in the University Union (room 321) or call (940) 565-4323.

Please present your written request for accommodations as soon as possible to allow for making arrangements in a timely manner.

University Policy on Student Behavior in the Classroom:

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr

Incompletes:

Per university policy, if you take a grade of "I" (Incomplete) in any course, you must complete the work and have the "I" removed within one year or you must re-enroll in the course again.

*****Any student caught cheating will receive an "F" for the course.*****

Semester Schedule*

***NOTE:** Schedule is subject to change as the class develops.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE*

Date	Day	Class Topic (begins on date indicated)	Reading Due	Assignment Due
7/9	M	Introduction/Syllabus		
7/10	T	Introduction to Scientific Research	Ch. 1	Syllabus Quiz
7/11	W	Research Approaches/Methods of Data Collection	Ch. 2	Quiz (Ch. 1, 2)
7/12	TH	Problem Identification and Hypothesis Formation	Ch. 3	Quiz (Ch. 3)
7/16	M	Exam 1 – Chapters 1-3		Poster Critique - EC
7/17	T	Ethics	Ch. 4	Quiz (Ch. 4)
7/18	W	Measuring Variables and Sampling	Ch. 5	Quiz (Ch. 5)
7/19	TH	Research Validity	Ch. 6	Quiz (Ch. 6)
7/23	M	Exam 2 – Chapters 4-6		Critique #1
7/24	T	Control Techniques in Experimental Research	Ch. 7	Quiz (Ch. 7)
7/25	W	Experimental Research Design	Ch. 8	Quiz (Ch. 8)
7/26	TH	Descriptive Statistics/Inferential Statistics	Ch. 14-15	Quizzes (Ch. 14, 15)
7/30	M	Exam 3 – Chapters 7-8, 14-15		Critique #2
7/31	T	Quasi-Experimental Designs	Ch. 10	Quiz (Ch. 10)
8/1	W	Single-Case Designs	Ch. 11	Quiz (Ch. 11)
8/2	TH	Survey Research	Ch. 12	Quiz (Ch. 12)
8/6	M	Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research	Ch. 13	Quiz (Ch. 13)
8/7	T	The Experimenter		Critique #3 - EC
8/8	W	Exam 4 – Chapters 10-13		
8/9	TH	Final Exam Review Day		
8/10	F	Final Exam – Comprehensive		

***** This syllabus is not a contract. With the exception of the Final Exam, I reserve the right to alter the semester schedule and policies as dictated by the needs of the class. I will announce changes should the need arise. *****