University of North TexasText

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College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Department of Psychology

PSYC 3650.501

Experimental Methods

Welcome to PSYC 3650, Experimental Methods! This is a face-to-face course meeting on Tuesday and Thursdays from 8:00 AM to 9:20 AM in the Frisco Campus FRLD 310. This syllabus will go over university policies, grading structure for the class, and tentative schedule for the course.

Instructor Contact

**Name***:* **Qingwei Wang Ph.D.**

**Office Location***:* TBD

**Office hours***:* Before/After class; or Virtual by appointment

**Email***:* [Qingwei.Wang@unt.edu](mailto:Qingwei.Wang@unt.edu)

**Course Overview:** 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. Topics will include reliability, validity, measures of central tendency; independent and dependent variables; survey development; correlational and experimental designs; classic psychological experiments; ethical experimentation; data collection; interpreting results; and writing in the sciences. There is a required lab section that accompanies this course, which emphasizes applications of the information presented in this course.

**Course** **Objectives, including lecture and lab**:

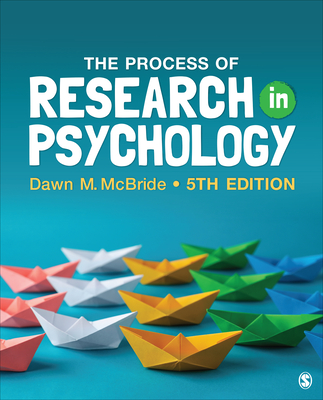
*After completing this course, students should be able to:*

* Describe the nature of scientific inquiry in Psychology.
  + Achieved via reading quizzes, exams, and research review papers
* Apply scientific inquiry skills to the process of psychological science.
  + Achieved via reading quizzes, exams, and research review papers
* Articulate scientific questions, comments, and research evaluations in writing.
  + Achieved via research review papers
* Apply research design techniques to various research questions
  + Achieved via reading quizzes, exams, and research review papers

**Corequisite: PSYC 3650 Lab**

**Required Materials**

Textbook: *The Process of Research in Psychology* (5th Edition) by Dawn M. McBride (pictured below)



**Technical Support**

Student UIT Helpdesk:

Sage Hall 130 940-565-2324 helpdesk@unt.edu

**Technical Support Hours:**

Monday- Thursday: 8:00am-9:00pm (Walk-in: 8:00am-5:00pm)

Friday: 8:00am-5:00pm

Saturday-Sunday: 11:00am-3:00pm

**Technical Skill Requirements**

For this course you will need to be able to:

* Use software including MS word, PowerPoint, Adobe
* Navigate Canvas ([Canvas Navigation Link)](https://online.unt.edu/canvas-basics-unt-students)
* download and upload files
* send and receive emails

**Course Expectations**

As the instructor in this course, I am responsible for

* Providing course materials that will assist and enhance your achievement of
* the stated course goals.
* Providing timely and helpful feedback within the stated time range.
* Assisting in maintaining a positive learning environment for the class

As a student in this course, you are responsible for

* Reading and completing all requirements of the course in a timely manner.
* Working to remain attentive and engaged in the course and interact with your
* fellow classmates.
* Assisting in maintaining a positive learning environment for the class.

**Course Requirements**

**Attendance:**

Attendance is required for this course**.** Conscientious attendance is critical to your success in this course. In fact, a substantial portion of the final grades includes in-class attendance and participations.

**Grades:** Your final grade in this course will be determined by:

**Table 1. Grading Scale Point System**

| ***Assignment*** | ***Points Possible*** |
| --- | --- |
| ***Reading Quizzes (10 pts each x 14 out of 15)*** | *140 points* |
| ***Exam (100 pts each x 4 highest out of 5)*** | *400 points* |
| ***Class Attendance and Participation (10pts each x6 out of 7)*** | *60 points* |
| ***Article Critique (100 pts each x 2)*** | *200 points* |
| ***Lab*** | *100 points* |
|  |  |
| ***Total Points Possible*** | *900* |

Grading Scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 0-59%

**\*I do not round up grades. However, there are extra credit opportunities (see below Extra Credit section).**

**Exams:** There will be a total of five exams which will consist of four mid-semester exams and a cumulative final exam. **We will drop your lowest exam grade**. The format of the exams will consist of 25 multiple choice questions and 5 short answer questions. The exams will cover material in the text as well as material presented in class. **Each exam is worth 100 points**.

Each exam will have a time limit of 60 minutes, be available 100 minutes online during the exam day (from 8:00AM to 9:20AM). These exams are open-book and open-note; however, it will be extremely difficult to finish them in the time allotted if you are not familiar with the material, so I strongly encourage you to read and study PRIOR to starting. You are NOT allowed to use materials outside of the textbook and your notes (e.g. no Google, no Wikipedia, no Alexa, etc.). If I suspect academic dishonesty, I reserve the right to retest individuals and to move to more rigorous testing methods (proctored online exams, set times to test, recorded exam sessions, etc.)

**No late or make-up exams will be allowed, with the very rare exceptions below.**

* 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).

* Students must obtain the instructor’s permission to make up the exam via email and then make arrangements to make up the exam. 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.
* 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.
* The lowest exam grade will be dropped; 4 exam grades will count toward the final course grade. If a student misses an exam, that grade will be 0. Furthermore, if a student is pleased with his/her exam grade average after taking all of the four mid-semester exams, he/she may choose not to take the final exam.

**Reading Quizzes:** There will be a total of 15 Reading Quizzes. **We will drop your lowest quiz grade**. 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). The quizzes are open note and open book. Each quiz will consist of **5** multiple choice questions and is worth **10** points. All quizzes will be completed on CANVAS. Once students begin the quiz, students will have 10 minutes to complete the quiz. Reading quiz will be open for three days after each chapter (most on Friday). **No late or make-up quizzes will be allowed,** with the very rare exceptions listed under Exams**.** 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!

**In-Class Attendance and Participations**: There will be numerous in-class activities that are meant to engage you and keep you interested in the material. Completion of these in-class assignments, often done in groups, will earn you these points. These activities will be unannounced, could be administered during any of the class sessions over the semester. The format of the activities may be quizzes, critical thinking examples, group discussion, or mini projects, etc. In other words, you must attend class to get points for these activities. Any unverifiable before- and after-class excuses will not be accepted. Each activity will be worth 10 points, a total of seven in-class participation/attendances will be taken during the semester, however, only six attendance will be counted for a grade. Therefore, there will be a total of 60 points built up to your final grades.

**Article Reviews:** There will be two research articles assigned that will be located on CANVAS. Students will be required to read each article, answer questions about the research methods, and critique the articles using the assigned template. **Each review is worth 100 points.**

**Laboratory Portion of the Course:** Your laboratory grade is a major part 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.

**Grading Table 2**

The grading scale for this course is A – F and based on Table 2.

**Table 2. Point Scale to Letter Grade**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Point Range** | **Letter Grade** |
| **810-900** | A |
| **720-809** | B |
| **630-719** | C |
| **540-629** | D |
| **539.5 and below** | F |

**Important:** Grades will not be rounded or curved for this course. If you earn 629 points, that is a D and will not be rounded to a C, no exceptions. Any emails requesting this will not be answered.

**Extra Credit**:

There are various opportunities to earn bonus points for this course. Possible bonus opportunities include but are not limited to the following:

**10 MCs Part 1 and Part 2:** The 10 MCs (multiple choice questions) Parts 1 and 2 are posted on our course CANVAS page (learn.unt.edu). These two quizzes are not graded because we simply want to see what you know about psychology at the beginning and end of the semester. You get full credit for simply completing both parts, regardless of how many questions you answer correctly. Part 1 can be completed any time before 8/29 at 11:59 pm. Part 2 is available at a specific time in the last few weeks of class, with at least one week to complete Part 2. You will get 10 bonus points total for completing both Part 1 and Part 2. No bonus points will be awarded if only one part is attempted.

**SONA Research Credit:** Additional extra credit may be earned through participation in psychology research through the use of the SONA system. Credits are earned at a rate of 1 credit for every 30 minutes of research. Each SONA credit is worth 2 extra points, Students may apply up to 5 SONA credits towards the class as points of extra credit (i.e., 10 points). Slots for research participation tend to fill-up quickly and may not be available throughout the entire semester, so it is strongly suggested that students participate early in the semester. It is the student’s responsibility to enroll, participate, complete, and assign the credits through the SONA system.

Students will choose what research studies they wish to participate in by going to the

[UNT SONA System](http://unt.sona-systems.com/) at [http://unt.sona-systems.com](http://unt.sona-systems.com/).. If you are not 18 years of age or older, you can get parental consent to participate, or you can complete a research article summary. The summary is a review of a peer-reviewed journal article of your choice. Instructions for the summaries can be found on the [UNT SONA Systems Help website.](https://sites.google.com/site/sonasystemshelp/summary-instructions) Summaries are due to the UNT SONA coordinator by the due date located in the course calendar. Summaries can be submitted to the UNT SONA coordinator via email at untsonarep@yahoo.com.

**Course Communication and Messaging Forums Policy**

As students who are strongly encouraged to form friendships and study groups, I understand that you might develop and join messaging forums to discuss course material. This can result in misinformation or disinformation about course content or requirements. Your right to free speech and my requirements to abide by FERPA and security policies require that I not acknowledge, become involved in, or be held responsible for any communication that occurs or is sent by anyone other than my team of TAs and myself outside of any other medium than UNT Canvas, UNT Zoom, or UNT Outlook. Therefore, any misinformation that you, are delivered by or, personally deliver to, other students concerning any aspect of this class is not under my control.

All course requirements and contents are my intellectual property and thus, will be strictly contained within Canvas and the classroom. As a result, communication with me and my educational team about course content, assessments, and deadlines will only be delivered by me and my team in the following modalities: UNT Outlook, UNT Zoom, UNT Canvas, and the classroom. You are ultimately responsible for knowing course requirements as they are depicted in the syllabus. If you believe the syllabus, course requirements, or course content is erroneous, communicate with us directly and we will address the error. Any grade or deadline disputes must be individually delivered to me no later than 7 calendar days after the grade has been entered or the deadline has passed.

**Incomplete Grades**

“I” is a non-punitive grade given only during the last one-fourth of a term/semester and only if a student (1) is passing the course, (2) has completed 60% of the coursework, and (3) has justifiable and documented reason, beyond the control of the student (such as serious illness or military service), for not completing the work on schedule. The student must arrange with the instructor to finish the course at a later date by completing specific requirements. These requirements must be listed on a Request for Grade of Incomplete form signed by the instructor, student, and department chair and must be entered on the grade roster by the instructor. See also “Removal of I” policy in the Academics section of undergraduate catalog. *(The UNT Catalog generally allows up to 1 year to remove an “I” grade.).* Grades of "I" assigned to an undergraduate course at the end of the Fall 2007 semester and later, will default to "F" unless the instructor has designated a different automatic grade.

**Withdraw**

Students are responsible for following University procedures to withdraw or drop a class. If you stop participating in the class for any reason, you must initiate the process of dropping, or you will receive a failing grade. DO NOT wait until the last minute to drop the class. Plan to take care of this several days ahead of time, so that you will have the time required to get the forms signed, submitted, etc.

**Respect in the Classroom.** I expect you to treat me, your classmates, and all of the people you encounter during all course activities with professionalism and respect. This includes the use of only professional and courteous discourse in this class. It is my intention that all students from diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives be heard and respected in this course as a strength. With this in mind, it is my goal to present materials and facilitate discussion in ways that are respectful of diversity, including: race, nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation, class level, age, gender identity, religion, accessibility, and socioeconomic status. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color, or national origin, and therefore as the instructor, it is my intention to be committed to social justice and inclusion.

If you encounter sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, sexual assault, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability please contact the Office of Equal Opportunity at https://edo.unt.edu/equal-opportunity or contact UNT’s Title IX Coordinators, who can be found at: <https://edo.unt.edu/title-ix>. If you do not feel comfortable contacting the above resources, I am always available to meet and discuss options to address concerns (see above for contact information).

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***UNT Policies***

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-generated information, such as ChatGPT content, requires that you include the following in your assignment submission:

* properly [cite that information in APA format](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fapastyle.apa.org%2Fblog%2Fhow-to-cite-chatgpt&data=05%7C01%7CQingwei.Wang%40unt.edu%7C61e75b4239ab484bbf6208db9ffc5d6b%7C70de199207c6480fa318a1afcba03983%7C0%7C0%7C638279678493993398%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZZ%2FyBkeN8rPY%2BYPHeXV6SILbgf0Dy29MteEK%2BSPLHdM%3D&reserved=0);

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* submit a document in .pdf format that contains the references in APA format and screenshot(s) of the generated content including:
  + the date of the generated material
  + your prompt
  + the AI program’s response
* no more than 20% of AI-generated information is allowed in any assignment.

**You are responsible for the integrity and correctness of what you submit in your assignments. AI is known to fabricate information and sources, so use AI with caution as any information present in your work is your responsibility.**

ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the [ODA website](https://disability.unt.edu/) (<https://disability.unt.edu/>).

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student’s records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University’s policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Acceptable Student Behavior

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 Dean of Students 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. Visit UNT’s [Code of Student Conduct](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) to learn more.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Students’ access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: [my.unt.edu](https://my.unt.edu/). All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student’s Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail [Eagle Connect](https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect) (https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect).

Student Evaluation Administration Dates

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 [insert administration dates] of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" ([no-reply@iasystem.org](https://myunt-my.sharepoint.com/personal/adriel_boals_unt_edu/AppData/jdl0126/AppData/Local/Temp/OneNote/16.0/NT/0/no-reply@iasystem.org)) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the [SPOT website](http://spot.unt.edu/) (http://spot.unt.edu/) or email [spot@unt.edu](https://myunt-my.sharepoint.com/personal/adriel_boals_unt_edu/AppData/jdl0126/AppData/Local/Temp/OneNote/16.0/NT/0/spot@unt.edu).

Grade Appeals

If you think you should have received credit for something that was scored as incorrect, you may appeal in writing. Only written requests will be considered. You should e-mail your rationale – this rationale should include references to specific page numbers in your text, lecture dates, the syllabus, etc. to support your appeal. All appeals must occur within 7 days after a grade is posted on Canvas Gradebook. In addition, remember that despite our best attempts to present an appearance of infallibility, we actually are not. If you are concerned that I have made a recording error, it is always fine to reach out with any questions you have. If you reach out past the 7-day period, no action will be taken.

The university grade appeal policy can be found here: [Grade Appeals | University Policy Office (unt.edu)](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-040)

Sexual Assault Prevention

UNT and I are committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. If you use me as a resource, please know that I CANNOT keep your information confidential if you report to me a case of sexual assault or if I believe you are in danger. Therefore, if you desire a confidential source, you can ask me for resources and I will gladly help you! Remember, the UNT CARE Team is always ready to assist. Their website is located HERE or by going to http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care. UNT CARE has an email address, which is careteam@unt.edu. UNT’s Survivor Advocates can also assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim’s compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

Schedule

This is the tentative schedule for the course. The instructor reserves the right to modify the course schedule as the needs of the course become apparent. Some assignments may be taken away and new assignments may be added. I will always let you know with plenty of time on Canvas, so make sure to check back regularly.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Weeks** | **Dates** | **Content** | **Assignments** |
| **1** | 8/19  8/21 | * Syllabus |  |
| * Chapter 1: Psychological Research:   The Hows and Whys | Chapter 1 Quiz |
| **2** | 8/26  8/28 | * Chapter 2: Hypotheses Development |  |
|  | Chapter 2 Quiz |
| **3** | 9/02  9/04 | Chapter 3: Ethical Guideline | Chapter 3 Quiz |
| * Exam 1 Review |  |
| **4** | 9/09 | * Chapter 4: Data Collection Techniques and Research Designs |  |
| 9/11 | * Exam 1 (Chapter 1-3) | Chapter 4 Quiz |
| **5** | 9/16  9/18 | * Chapter 5 Variables and Measurement | Chapter 5 Quiz |
| Article Review 1 |  |
| **6** | 9/23  9/25 | * Chapter 7: Summarizing & Interpreting Data | Chapter 7 Quiz |
|  | Article Review 1 Due Sunday 9/28, 11:59PM |
| **7** | 9/30  10/02 | * Chapter 6 Sampling | Chapter 6 Quiz |
| Exam 2 Review |  |
| **8** | 10/07 | * Chapter 8: Reporting Research |  |
| 10/09 | * Exam 2 (Chapter 4-7) | Chapter 8 Quiz |
| **9** | 10/14  10/16 | * Chapter 9: More about Using Statistics |  |
|  | Chapter 9 Quiz |
| **10** | 10/21 | * Chapter 10: Survey Research |  |
| 10/23 | Article Review 2 | Chapter 10 Quiz |
| **11** | 10/28  10/30 | Chapter 11: Correlational Studies | Chapter 11 Quiz |
| Exam 3 Review |  |
| **12** | 11/04 | * Chapter 12 One Factor Experiments |  |
| 11/06 | Exam 3 (Chapters 8-11) | Chapter 12 Quiz  Article Review 2 Due Sunday 11/09, 11:59PM |
| **13** | 11/11  11/13 | * Chapter 13 Multi-Factor Experiments | Chapter 13 Quiz |
| **14** | 11/18 | * Chapter 14: Quasi-Experiments * Chapter 15: Other Specialized Design | Chapter 14 & 15 Quiz |
| 11/20 | * Exam 4 Review |  |
|  | 11/25  11/27 | No class | Thanksgiving Break |
| **15** | 12/02 | * Exam 4 (Chapters 12-15) |  |
|  | 12/04 | * Review for Cumulative Exam 5 |  |
| **16** | 12/09 | * Exam 5: Cumulative Final Exam   (available from 12/09 to 12/10) |  |