

PSYC 4850: Research in Psychology
Department of Psychology
University of North Texas, Fall Semester – 2023

Instructor Information

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Pronouns: he/him/his
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Office Hours: By appointment only
Email: Ryan.Olson@unt.edu
Class Day and Time: Monday-Friday (times TBD)
Class Location: Physical Education Building (PEB), room 101

Primary Undergraduate Textbooks (optional)

American College of Sports Medicine. (2022). *ACSM's guidelines for exercise testing and prescription* (11th ed.). Philadelphia, PA: Wolters Kluwer.

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association 2020: The official guide to APA style* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Berntson, G. G. (2014). *Heart rate variability and bioimpedance assessment manual*.

Luck, S. J. (2014). *An introduction to the event-related potential technique* (2nd ed.). Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

Leong, F. T., & Austin, J. T. (2005). *The psychology research handbook: A guide for graduate students and research assistants*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

Meltzoff, J. (1998). *Critical thinking about research: Psychology and related fields*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Strunk, W., & White, E. B. (1999). *Elements of style* (4th ed.). New York, NY: Macmillan.

Note. Additional readings may be posted on Canvas throughout the semester. You will be expected to read these materials for discussions, quizzes, and exams.

Primary Topics

| | |
|----------|--|
| Part I | Introduction to the lab |
| Part II | Research methods, study design, and ethics |
| Part III | Lab methods and procedures |
| Part IV | Recruitment and data collection |
| Part V | Data processing and analysis |
| Part VI | Professional development |

Course Description

The primary purpose of this course is to provide students with an opportunity to complete guided independent research in a lab setting. The secondary purpose is to prepare students for careers in industry, government positions, and academia.

Course Objectives

1. To gain proficiency in lab methodologies including EEG, ECG, questionnaires, cognitive testing, and metabolic testing.
2. To read, synthesize, and critique existing scientific literature; and to discuss the status and ramifications for future research.
3. To become acquainted with contemporary theory, research design, methodology, and analytical techniques.
4. To collect, process, analyze, and interpret psychophysiological data from multiple study types.
5. To develop transferable skills and generate professional materials; and to learn about the job market, interview process, and graduate school opportunities.

Course Expectations

1. This course offers you the flexibility to work in the lab based on your personal schedule; however, such a structure requires self-discipline and motivation to ensure you are attending lab during your scheduled hours and performing your best throughout the semester.
2. If you have special learning needs, inform me immediately.
3. If at any point during the semester you are unhappy with your performance in lab, contact me immediately.
4. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated (e.g., copying, plagiarism, cheating) and will result in a failing grade for the semester.

Course Structure

Both in-person and online (Canvas/Teams) platforms will be used to enhance the delivery of this course. Students must check the Canvas and Teams sites regularly for course updates.

Technical Support

For any technical issues that you may encounter during the duration of this class, contact the UNT Student Helpdesk at:

UIT Helpdesk

Location: Sage Hall, 130

Phone: 940-565-2324

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Technical Skill Requirements

Students will be required to understand how to download and upload files, send and receive emails, navigate the Canvas online learning platform, and interact on Teams.

Lab Expectations

- 1) Communication: First and foremost, communication is key to a successful research team. When any member of lab contacts you, it is your job to get back to them as soon as possible via email, group text, or phone call. Please keep all messages in the group text professional. Create a new group or contact that person directly if you have personal or non-lab related issues to discuss.
- 2) Dependability: Whether you scheduled a participant or signed up to be in lab, it is your job to be punctual. Research, especially when we get overbooked, cannot take place when members are no longer dependable. You will be responsible to show up for all participants that you schedule as well as designated times you sign up for with Dr. Olson. There is plenty of work to be done, even on days where we only have a few participants in lab.
- 3) Diligence: The data we collect is highly sensitive and requires your consideration at all times. It is in your best interest to come to lab ready to devote all attention to the participant and assessments. Being careful and persistent now will prevent delays at the end of the year when we begin to analyze data and prepare presentations and manuscripts. Furthermore, the equipment is very expensive, so being conscientious may prevent any unforeseen damages and major delays.
- 4) Flexibility: Human research takes time, so we ask that you are patient. Submitting proposals, manuscript drafts, and IRB applications takes a great deal of time and effort to design, read, and provide meaningful feedback. It is your job to send reminders and setup meetings (i.e., be proactive). This work also requires the ability to multi-task when called upon. There will be days where you collect data all day, days where you do nothing, and others where you enter questionnaire data, work on figures, post flyers, and edit manuscripts.

Out of Classroom Etiquette (emails and scheduled appointments/office hours)

Information about this class and updates will be posted on Teams and Canvas and sent via email to your UNT account. If you do not use your UNT account on a regular basis, then forward your e-mail messages to an account that you check on a regular basis.

Send emails to Ryan.Olson@unt.edu and NOT through Canvas. Students are expected to write professional emails carefully and thoughtfully. For example, use a meaningful and specific subject line (e.g., PSYC 4850: Lab Meeting), a greeting (e.g., Hello Dr. Olson), and a signature with your name at the end (e.g., Best regards, John Doe). *Note.* Writing professional emails is an important skill for all students so avoid using abbreviations, all lower/upper case lettering, and please proofread emails before sending.

If you need to speak with me and have a conflict with a scheduled appointment/office hours, I will be happy to make a separate appointment at a time that is convenient for us both. Be punctual when we have a scheduled appointment/office hours. For example, showing up 20 minutes after a scheduled appointment/office hours may result in my door being closed, the remote session being deactivated, and cancellation of the meeting. Additionally, come to scheduled appointments/office hours focused and ready to talk about your ideas, questions, and concerns.

Rules of Engagement

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. Here are some general guidelines:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis 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 will not be tolerated.
- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.
- Speak from personal experiences. Use “I” statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individual’s experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as “YELLING!”

- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
- Avoid using “text-talk” unless explicitly permitted by your instructor.
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

See these [Engagement Guidelines](https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) (<https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips>) for more information.

Americans with Disabilities Compliance (Policy 04.015)

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable 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 reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the [Office of Disability Access](http://www.unt.edu/oda) website (<http://www.unt.edu/oda>). You may also contact ODA by phone at 940-565-4323.

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. This policy can be reviewed online at <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/16-004>.

Ethical Standards and Academic Dishonesty (Policy 06.003)

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the University's status as an institution of higher education. In the class setting, students shall follow their instructors' directions and observe all academic standards and requirements published in course syllabi and other course materials. A student is responsible for responding to an academic dishonesty report issued by an instructor or other University authority. If a student fails to respond after proper attempts at

notification, the University may take appropriate academic actions in the absence of the student.

UNT policy will be followed in cases of academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating, plagiarizing, copying, etc.). Students caught cheating during an exam/quiz or plagiarizing a written assignment will be charged under the University's Code of Student Conduct. Among other punishments, students found guilty run the risk of having their score changed to a zero, receiving a grade of F for the course, and/or dismissal from the University. Students should be familiar with the Student Standards of Academic Integrity. Please review the student rights and responsibilities information online at <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Information (Policy 07.018)

Students have the right to expect their grades will be kept confidential. Every attempt will be made to keep your information confidential. Neither your course grades nor grades for any assignment will be posted in a way that could result in you being identified by other students or faculty members. The FERPA policy can be reviewed online at <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-018>.

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 (Policy 04.008)

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 04.008, Records Management and Retention](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/04-008) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/04-008>) 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. 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](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 the end of the semester 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) 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.

Survivor Advocacy

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as 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. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648.

Attendance Standards

It is vital that students attend class in-person and online (i.e., check Canvas) to improve understanding of course content and stay up to date with course requirements, as the course calendar is subject to change. In the event of illness, students are responsible for notifying the instructor in advance and for making up any missed work. All university excused absences must be accompanied by appropriate documentation.

Course Evaluation

Final grades will be determined based on the total number of points that you accumulate during the semester. Final letter grades will be determined using the grading scale provided below:

| ACTIVITY | PERCENT (%) | POINTS | YOUR POINTS |
|---------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| Lab Meeting Attendance | 10 | 10 | |
| Research Proposal | 30 | 30 | |
| Abstract | 20 | 20 | |
| Training & Certifications | 10 | 10 | |
| Lab Assessment | 30 | 30 | |
| TOTALS | 100 | 100 | |

Grading Scale

A: 89.5-100% (89.5-100 points)

B: 79.5-89.4% (79.5-89.4 points)

C: 69.5-79.4% (69.5-79.4 points)

D: 59.5-69.4% (59.5-69.4 points)

F: 0-59.4% (0-59.4 points)

Late Work

Late work will not be accepted.

Incompletes

Students will not be allowed to take an Incomplete in this course due to poor planning on their part. However, if you find you do have a legitimate reason for an Incomplete, talk with me as soon as possible to discuss the situation and to identify the documentation that will be required to support your request. Consult the UNT catalog or Office of the Registrar (<https://registrar.unt.edu/grades/incompletes>) to review conditions under which an Incomplete may be granted.

Lab Meeting Attendance

Lab members are required to attend regularly scheduled lab meetings. Lab meeting attendance represents 10% of your final grade.

Research Proposal

Lab members will complete a research proposal on a topic of interest (with the approval of Dr. Olson). You will be given an opportunity to submit a revised version of your research proposal. Assignment details will be provided during your beginning of the semester individual meeting. The research proposal represents 30% of your final grade.

Abstract

Lab members will complete an abstract summarizing their work throughout the semester. Assignment details will be provided during your beginning of the semester individual meeting. The abstract submission represents 20% of your final grade.

Training and Certifications

Lab members must gain proficiency in lab techniques and complete all required CITI certifications. Links to required certifications will be provided at the beginning of the semester. Training sessions will be scheduled throughout the semester. Training and certifications represent 10% of your final grade.

Lab Assessment

Working in a research lab is a privilege, thus you will be evaluated each semester to determine eligibility to remain in the lab. Evaluations are based upon *successful* completion of the outlined criteria below. Being present for your hours does not constitute completion of hours unless the work completed during that time is lab related to achieving lab objectives. The lab assessment represents 30% of your final grade.

Evaluation Criteria:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Excellent (A): | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dress and act professionally at all times• Regularly attend weekly lab meetings• Active participation in lab discussions and scientific dialogue• Demonstrate the ability to be a good team player• Respond in a timely fashion to all lab correspondence• Attain proficiency in all laboratory techniques• Actively participate in recruitment and data collection• Remain engaged during meetings/trainings (e.g., no phones)• Complete a minimum of 12 hours/week |
| Very Good (B): | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Failure to meet 2 or more of the criteria listed above |
| Good (C): | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Failure to meet 3 or more of the criteria listed above |
| Fair (D): | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Failure to meet 4 or more of the criteria listed above |
| Poor (F): | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Failure to meet 5 or more of the criteria listed above |

Academic Support & Student Services

Student Support Services

Mental Health

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- [Student Health and Wellness Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- [UNT Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)
- [UNT Psychiatric Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry)
- [Individual Counseling](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling)

Chosen Names

A chosen name is a name that a person goes by that may or may not match their legal name. If you have a chosen name that is different from your legal name and would like that to be used in class, let the instructor know. Below is a list of resources for updating your chosen name at UNT.

- [UNT Records](#)
- [UNT ID Card](#)
- [UNT Email Address](#)
- [Legal Name](#)

**UNT eulDs cannot be changed at this time. The collaborating offices are working on a process to make this option accessible to UNT community members.*

Pronouns

Pronouns (she/her, they/them, he/him, etc.) are a public way for people to address you, much like your name, and can be shared with a name when making an introduction, both virtually and in-person. Just as we ask and don't assume someone's name, we should also ask and not assume someone's pronouns.

You can [add your pronouns to your Canvas account](#) so that they follow your name when posting to discussion boards, submitting assignments, etc.

Below is a list of additional resources regarding pronouns and their usage:

- [What are pronouns and why are they important?](#)
- [How do I use pronouns?](#)
- [How do I share my pronouns?](#)
- [How do I ask for another person's pronouns?](#)
- [How do I correct myself or others when the wrong pronoun is used?](#)

Additional Student Support Services

- [Registrar](https://registrar.unt.edu/registration) (https://registrar.unt.edu/registration)
- [Financial Aid](https://financialaid.unt.edu/) (https://financialaid.unt.edu/)
- [Student Legal Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)
- [Career Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center)
- [Multicultural Center](https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center) (https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- [Pride Alliance](https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance) (https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance)
- [UNT Food Pantry](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry) (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry)

Academic Support Services

- [Academic Resource Center](https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources) (https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources)
- [Academic Success Center](https://success.unt.edu/asc) (https://success.unt.edu/asc)
- [UNT Libraries](https://library.unt.edu/) (https://library.unt.edu/)
- [Writing Lab](http://writingcenter.unt.edu/) (http://writingcenter.unt.edu/)

Tentative Class Outline and Schedule

| WEEK | TOPIC |
|---------|---|
| Week 1 | Overview of course expectations & syllabus EEG and Metabolic Training – Part I |
| Week 2 | Lab meeting IRB submissions EEG and Metabolic Training – Part II |
| Week 3 | Lab meeting Study design/research methods EEG and Metabolic Training – Part III |
| Week 4 | Lab meeting Discuss research proposal Manuscript review Professional Development Workshop – Part I CITI Training Due |
| Week 5 | Lab meeting Participant recruitment and data collection |
| Week 6 | Lab meeting Participant recruitment and data collection |
| Week 7 | Lab meeting Participant recruitment and data collection |
| Week 8 | Lab meeting Professional Development Workshop – Part II Research proposal due |
| Week 9 | Lab meeting Participant recruitment and data collection |
| Week 10 | Lab meeting Participant recruitment and data collection |
| Week 11 | Lab meeting Participant recruitment and data collection |
| Week 12 | Lab meeting Manuscript review Professional Development Workshop – Part III Research proposal revisions due |
| Week 13 | Lab meeting Data processing and analysis |
| Week 14 | Lab meeting Data processing and analysis |
| Week 15 | Lab meeting Data processing and analysis |
| Week 16 | Lab meeting Data interpretation Professional Development Workshop – Part IV Abstract due |

***** This schedule is tentative and will more than likely change throughout the semester. It is your responsibility to adhere to any changes. *****