Instructor: Devin Pierce
Office location: Binion 221
Office Hours: 11:00am - 12pm (Monday - Thursday) and by appointment
Email: devin.pierce@tamuc.edu

Course Description
This course is designed to familiarize the student with typical methods and techniques employed in psychology research. In addition to attending the classroom instruction, the student attends one laboratory session per week. Psy 302 (psychological statistics) is a prerequisite to this course.

Textbook
Oxford University Press.

Course Assignments and Grading

Exams (40 %)
There will be two exams, each worth 20% of your grade. None of the exams are cumulative (except where the course material itself is naturally cumulative). You are responsible for all lecture and reading materials. Perhaps most importantly: NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN!!!!!!!!!!!! I mean this. Exams may be rescheduled, without penalty, only when arrangements have been made in advance of the testing date. I expect people to come to me within the first week of class if they have conflicts with the exam dates. Make-ups will only be given in the case of verifiable medical or legal excuses. Verifiable means that written documentation is provided (e.g., signed doctors’ notes, court appearance tickets, newspaper obituaries). The final decision concerning make-up exams rests with the instructor. No cell phones are allowed on desks during exam day. In addition, calls may not be received – if you answer the phone your exam will be forfeited (unless arrangements are made with me ahead of time).

Empirical Research Project (30%)
Each student will work in a small group in order to complete a conceptual research project. This will consist of a number of tasks, such as designing, running, analyzing, and presenting your work. Students will also be expected to write up their work in a format that is appropriate for submission to a journal article for publication. To facilitate your write-up, you will complete a number assignments that will involve writing each component of the research report. I will give everyone a separate handout that will provide details of each assignment, due-dates, and scoring rubrics.
**Presentations (5%)**
Each group will do two class presentations. Whereas the first presentation will correspond to the research proposal, the second presentation will correspond to the completed research project. I will provide a separate handout containing the rubric that I will be using to assign grades.

**Lab assignments (15%)**
The lab instructor will give you a number of assignments to complete during the semester. Separate handouts will be given that will contain the due-dates and grading procedures.

**Tentative Schedule of Topics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>(8/28)</td>
<td>Introductions and overview</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(8/30)</td>
<td>The science of psychology</td>
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<td>Getting started in research</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>(9/4)</td>
<td>Psychological measurement</td>
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<td>(9/6)</td>
<td>Experimental research</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>(9/11)</td>
<td>Non-experimental research</td>
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<td>(9/13)</td>
<td>Complex research</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>(9/18)</td>
<td>Method section: participants</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(9/20)</td>
<td>Method section: materials</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>(9/25)</td>
<td>Method section: design</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(9/27)</td>
<td>Method section: procedure</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>(10/2)</td>
<td>Mid-term review</td>
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<td>(10/7)</td>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>(10/9)</td>
<td>Proposal presentations</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(10/11)</td>
<td>Proposal presentations</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>(10/16)</td>
<td>Introduction and reference section</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(10/18)</td>
<td>No class</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>(10/23)</td>
<td>Data analysis: descriptive statistics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(10/25)</td>
<td>Data analysis: descriptive statistics</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>(10/30)</td>
<td>Data analysis: Inferential statistics</td>
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<td>(11/01)</td>
<td>Data analysis: Inferential statistics</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>(11/06)</td>
<td>Results section</td>
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<td>(11/08)</td>
<td>Results section</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>(11/13)</td>
<td>Figures and tables</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(11/15)</td>
<td>No class</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
<td>(11/20)</td>
<td>Discussion section</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(11/22)</td>
<td>Abstract and title page</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Week 14  
(11/27) Submitting your paper for publication  
(11/29) No class  
Week 15  
(12/04) Presentations  
(12/06) Presentations  
Week 16  
Final exam  

Course and University Procedures/Policies

Academic Honesty
Texas A&M University - Commerce has explicit rules and regulations governing academic dishonesty and academic misconduct. As the University states, "All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." These policies are stated in detail in the Students Guide Handbook. Each student is expected to read the documents at the address and abide by the contained policies. These university policies will be followed in this class. The minimum penalty for an act of academic dishonesty will be the assignment of a grade of 0 on the examination.

Assignment Policy
All assigned work must be turned in at the beginning of class on the day it is due. No late assignments will be accepted.

Policy for Assignment of an Incomplete Grade
A grade of Incomplete is reserved for only those special cases where a student has completed a significant portion of the semester's work and an unavoidable circumstance prevents him or her from completing the course. If you have any questions, please contact the instructor.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services  
Texas A&M University-Commerce Gee Library, Room 132  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu
**Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Students Guide Handbook)

Any changes to this syllabus will be communicated to you via email or in class by the instructor.