

Psychology 489, Advanced Research
Spring 2013

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Psychology and Special Education Department

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Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday. 3:45- 5:00 pm, Friday 2 pm 5 pm, and by appointment

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@tamuc.edu

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Respect for Others topics in this course will be emotional and controversial. Loosely quoting Voltaire, I may not agree with what you have to say, but I will fight to the death for your right to say it. I encourage you to disagree with me and other students. However, there is a difference between academic discourse and rudeness. If you cross the line, I will counsel you on the matter. If you make racial, sexist, or non-scholarly comments or derogatory statements about others, I will refer you to Dean of Students. I encourage you to offer your opinion, or disagree with me or other students, or even offer your opinion strongly, be respectful to your classmates and your teacher. At the end of the semester your will be asked, "If you were provided with a safe and caring online "class environment" that was open for learning." I expect all will answer yes, If not, you should contact me during the semester to tell me why you did not see the class environment as safe and caring.

People First Language. In special education and psychology, it is important to refer to individuals in "people first" language as described in the federal special education law, IDEA 2004. We do this to focus on the individual first, not the disability. To do this, always refer to the person first, the disability second. For example, you would never discuss a person as "an ADHD student," but instead would refer to them as "a student with ADHD."

Diagnosis in Special Education We will follow the federal special education law IDEA 2004, to guide our use of use of the various diagnoses in special education. I am aware some individuals do not like this however, I did not write the law! We will follow IDEA to avoid confusion. For example, IDEA used mental retardation and autism. Outside of class, you may use the words you wish.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes. Excused absences fall in the following categories: the student's illness, participation in university functions, death in the immediate family, and legal and

citizenship responsibilities. The instructor will determine excused absences. Unexcused absences will be reported to the Dean of Student Life.

Conduct

"All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). The University regards the following as illustrations of misconduct by individuals or groups, which may result in review by the appropriate disciplinary agencies. Students who interfere with the educational responsibility during class, will be given a memo stating this the first time disorderly conduct occurs. The second time disorderly conduct occurs the instructor will send a letter to the Dean of Students recommending the student be dropped from this course.

Academic cheating and plagiarism.

Cheating unauthorized (unsanctioned) assistance on any assignment or test. Malicious destruction, damage, unauthorized possession or misuse of University property, including library and laboratory materials, or of private property on the campus.

Abuse, whether physical, mental or otherwise, of another person in the University community.

Disorderly conduct

Disorderly conduct, which inhibits or interferes with the educational responsibility of the University community or the University's social-educational activities.

Violation of local, state, and federal laws on or off campus.

Recurring incidents which are in violation of University policies and/or other such persistently irresponsible behavior that brings into question the student's serious intent to pursue an education.

Failure to respond to a summons by letter, telephone call, E-mail or personal messenger from a University administrative official or faculty member.

Sexual or racial harassment.

State law prohibits visitors, including infants and children, to the classroom.

Class Description:

The purpose of this class is to train you to conduct psychological research. This includes all aspects of the research process: development of research materials and/or experimental procedures, how to conduct studies/experiments, data analysis and interpretation, and empirical writing. The class is conducted through informal meetings. During the semester (times to be announced) we will meet to discuss each other's research and examine experimental materials and procedures. Beyond meeting to discuss research, you may be asked to conduct library research (psyinfo is going to be your best friend), conduct research (e.g., run participants), track and maintain studies using the SONA system (participant sign-up system), enter data into the computer, organize and manage databases, and various other tasks. All lab members must complete human subjects training and provide a copy of the certificate of completion to Dr. Masten. The training is online and takes about 10 hours to complete. The training can be found at the website...<http://web.tamu-commerce.edu/research/compliance/responsibleConduct.aspx>

Grading:

Attending scheduled class meetings, while behaving in a professional manner in running experiments, generally results in an 'A' grade. More specifically, this means: 1) do not fail to show up for, or arrive late for, an experiment, 2) conduct experiments in a respectful manner, especially the debriefing process. Failing to conduct an experiment at the appointed time, or not completing assigned class work, may result in a reduction of your grade. I suggest checking your email everyday during the semester.

This class has 3 major parts

1. Complete human subjects training and provide a copy of the certificate of completion to Dr. Masten. The training is online and takes about 10 hours to complete. The training can be found at the website...<http://web.tamu-commerce.edu/research/compliance/responsibleConduct.aspx>

2. Complete a search of psyinfo using the following descriptors DE "Major Depression" OR DE "Depression (Emotion)"and (DE "Computer Assisted Testing") or (DE "Human Computer Interaction" OR DE "Computer Mediated Communication") , then identify all relevant **journal articles** (no books, no dissertations, no test critiques, etc.). Identify journal articles that describe or completed research on computer based or on-line programs designed to assess depression (i.e. major depression; broadly defined) **excluding** bipolar. Omit those that are therapy orientated and that do not actually measure depression (that is, had depressed patients, but did not assess depression). Some of the articles may measure depressive symptoms. Give me a list of the articles. You do not have to print the articles. Finish by March 11, 2013.

3. Put these articles in groups (your choice of categories) submit the groups to me (citations). Examples of groups: minorities, medical disorders (not psych disorders, children, stand-alone measures of depression, (i.e. Beck Depression inventory, CESD) foreign languages.

Example

Group title: minorities
List the references

4. Write a short summary of each article in each of the categories. Due May 6, 2013.