

Time: M 4:30-7:10pm
Lab time: M 7:30-8:30pm
Location: CHEC (Collin Higher Education Center); Room TBD
Instructor: Mei Jiang, Ph.D.
 Jamie Snider
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Office hours: TBA and by appointment

Course Description:

This course is designed to familiarize the student with typical methods and techniques employed in psychological research. In addition to the three hours per week of classroom instruction, the student attends one laboratory per week and performs experiments in psychology.

This course is intended as a hands-on introduction to the basic and most common methods of collecting psychological data. To start, we will cover ethics in research, the concepts of reliability, validity, generalizability and the fundamentals of experimental design. Then we will work with experimental designs, survey, and interview methods primarily, but will discuss a variety of other techniques. Special attention will be given to writing in the style of the American Psychological Association.

Required Texts:

Sommer & Sommer, A Practical Guide to Behavioral Research (fifth edition)
ISBN-10: 0195142098
ISBN-13: 978-0195142099

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.
ISBN: 9781433805622.

Supplementary Material (Recommended but not required)
Stanovich, K. E., (2010). How to think straight about psychology. (9th ed.). Boston:
Allyn & Bacon.

The Basics:

Keep in mind that a syllabus sometimes shifts a little as the course gets underway. You will be held responsible for any change in plans announced in class. The other basic admonition every syllabus must include is that cheating (broadly defined) is not allowed. If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating please see me. Or, as the university says: "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)." If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating please see me. Also, note that "Students requesting accommodations for disabilities must go through the Academic Support Committee. For more information, please contact the Director of Disability Resources & Services, Halladay Student Services Bldg., Room 303D, (903) 886-5835."

Course Format:

In general, I will lecture - Class discussions are always welcome. Please read chapters before class so that you could get the most out of lectures. At the end of the class, I would like for you to make a brief presentation over your final project.

Grades:

Take home tests (2)	50each	100
Discussion papers (5)	10each	50
(You'll be discussing your research interests, your experimental design, your survey project, your interview project, and your final project before you get started on it.)		
Small projects (4)	50each	200
(Literature Review, Experimental Design, Survey, and Interview)		
Final project (with IRB 10pts)	100	100
Presentation	50	50
Total		500

Extra Credit - I am a believer in extra credit. At this point however it is unclear as to what our range of options will be here (e.g., taking part in studies, doing extra papers). I will provide more information subsequently.

Final Grades - Final grades will be based on total points and any extra credit earned. The distribution will be as follows:

A	450 or greater
B	400 – 449
C	350 – 399
D	300 – 349
F	299 or below

About the Projects: Since a major component of this course will be learning to write in APA style, I will not discuss the format of the projects in much detail here. But, I imagine the first four projects will average about 10 pages each, and the final one ought to be around 20. I am not a word counter, so these are very general guides.

Working in Groups: You are free to work in groups for any, and/or, all projects. Groups cannot be larger than four. If you are interested in forming a group for one or more of the assignments the entire group needs to meet with me first so we can go over some ground rules.

Late Penalties and Make-Ups: Take-home tests and Projects will not be accepted late without prior arrangement. You are welcome to turn them in early.

