COURSE INFORMATION

**Course Description:** This course allows for additional time to discuss the materials covered in lecture and to work on applying what you have learned in lecture through developing a research project. Each week in lab will involve working on a particular portion of your research.

During lab you will begin by developing a feasible research question (grounded in past literature), which can then be tested through conducting experimental research. I will provide you with the 'step by step processes' researchers follow when developing research ideas and conducting experiments. In effect, during lab you will be working on your experimental projects and receiving direct feedback throughout this process. Psychological experimentation is challenging, especially if it is your first time. This lab will hopefully serve as an aid in developing your ability to 1) come up with feasible research ideas, 2) develop appropriate research methods, 3) collect data, 4) conduct appropriate analysis, and 4) produce a quality APA style report which presents your findings.

**Required Materials:** (already required for the experimental class itself)


Work Groups:

During lab you will be working in groups of 2-3 members throughout the semester on your research projects. Group members must all be enrolled in the same lab sections but not necessarily the same lecture class. Team work can be a wonderful experience; however, sometimes individuals do not fulfill their group responsibilities, making it more difficult on the other members of the group (e.g., one member does it all, etc). To help with this issue, you will be required to evaluate each of the individuals you are working with. These evaluations will be taken into consideration when assigning grades on your projects. In other words, you CANNOT rely on others to do all of the work. Evaluations are taken into consideration when assigning the final project grades. For example, if a member of the group does not contribute fairly they may receive deductions on their final project grade.

Research Project:

During lab you will be working on your research projects, which will include two major papers and a presentation. During the first half of the semester, you will be writing a mini literature review (Paper 1) that will include a proposed conceptual replication project. During the middle of the semester and through the end of the term you will actually carrying out the proposed project. In effect, the second paper will be a complete APA style report, which will be an extension of paper 1. In addition to written papers you will be presenting your final project at the end of the semester as though you were giving an oral presentation at a research symposium (i.e., you will give an APA style PowerPoint presentation). More details will be given in lab. Lab time is geared towards helping you complete and improve your overall project. It is extremely important that you complete assignments ON TIME and attend ALL labs, as this course will require you to work hard.

Lab Participation:

Class Participation includes attendance and appropriate engagement during lab activities. Attendance will be taken every class, your grade for attendance will be based on the percentage of class days that you were in attendance, and then that percentage will be transferred into points. For example, if you are in attendance for 75% of the total class days, you will receive an attendance grade of 75 points. However, if documentation is provided for your absence you will be excused.

You will easily get behind if you are not attending, thus I am providing valuable time in lab for you to work in your groups. DO NOT take this for granted.
LAB GRADING POLICY

Where Will Your Grade Come From?
A) Participation (Totaling 100 points)

B) APA Style Exercise (Totaling 100 points)

C) Ethics/IRB Exercise (Totaling 75 points)

D) Defining Project Variables (Totaling 100 points)

E) Method Section Exercise (Totaling 100 points)

F) Results Section Exercise (Totaling 100 points)

G) Discussion Section Exercise (Totaling 100 points)

Your overall grade is based on a point system, with a maximum of 675 possible points. The letter grades are assigned as follows:


COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

What can YOU expect from ME?
My office hours are listed above, but I am relatively flexible if you need to meet outside of those times, I simply request that you email me ahead of time. I will do my very best to have your assignments or assessments graded as soon as possible. If you have any questions at any point during the class, please feel free to ask.

I want you all to succeed and will do my best to make sure that happens, you just need to be willing to put in the required effort.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Student Behavior:
My expectations in this area should be very simple to fulfill. (1) Immaturity will NOT be tolerated! If a student's behavior is disrupting the class, he/she will be asked to stop. (2) To remain in this class, you must be respectful of others and maintain a mature and professional manner at all times. Failure to do so will result in your expulsion from the course. (3) The Student’s Guidebook addresses the issues of academic cheating and plagiarism. These are a breach of conduct, and students are subject to disciplinary actions. It's simple. Do NOT cheat (to cheat is to act dishonestly or unfairly in order to gain an
advantage) or plagiarize (to plagiarize is to take the work or idea of someone else and pass it off as one’s own)!

**Cell Phone Use:**
The use of cell phones is prohibited in my class. If I see that you are on your cell phone during class you will be asked to leave class for the day and will not receive attendance credit for that day.

**Laptop Use:**
The use of laptops in my class is prohibited.

**Tardiness:**
If you are late to class be sure to come up at the end of class to sign the attendance sheet. This is your responsibility, and attendance points will be assigned by strict adherence to the attendance sheet.

**Changes to Class:**
Minor changes may be made to this schedule; modifications will be announced on eCollege or in class.

**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

**University Nondiscrimination Policy:**
Texas A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.
## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (17 weeks, including spring break and finals week)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Starting</th>
<th>Topic:</th>
<th>Assignments:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/19</td>
<td>Asking Good Questions</td>
<td>Discuss &amp; List Group Interests</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/26</td>
<td>Searching for Articles</td>
<td>Topic Brainstorming/Article Searching</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/2</td>
<td>Literature Reviews and APA Style</td>
<td>APA Exercise/Article Searching</td>
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<td>2/9</td>
<td>Ethics in Research/IRB</td>
<td>Ethics Exercise/Online Training</td>
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<td>2/16</td>
<td>Article Assessment/Project Ideas</td>
<td>Work on Developing Project Idea</td>
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<td>2/23</td>
<td>Experimental Variables</td>
<td>Variables Exercise</td>
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<td>3/2</td>
<td>Method Section</td>
<td>Method Section Exercise</td>
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<td>3/9</td>
<td>Materials &amp; Procedure</td>
<td>Method Section cont.</td>
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<td>3/16</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK!</td>
<td>Work on Ethics Training and Paper 1</td>
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<td>3/23</td>
<td>Approval of Final Materials</td>
<td>Ethics Training DUE in LAB</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/30</td>
<td>NO LAB: Data Collection Week</td>
<td>Collect Data!</td>
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<td>4/6</td>
<td>Using SPSS/Data Setup &amp; Analysis</td>
<td>Data Analysis cont.</td>
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<td>4/13</td>
<td>Data Interpretation/Results Section</td>
<td>Data Analysis &amp; Interpretation cont.</td>
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<td>4/20</td>
<td>Oral Presentation Guidelines</td>
<td>Presentation &amp; Final Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/27</td>
<td>Presentation Week (During Class)</td>
<td>Paper 2 Rough Drafts due Friday at noon.</td>
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<td>5/4</td>
<td>Presentation Week cont.</td>
<td>Final Paper due by Friday at noon.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/11</td>
<td>FINALS WEEK!</td>
<td>STUDY FOR FINAL EXAM!</td>
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**PSY 305 Research Participation:**

Dr. Pierce has discussed the following information already, but I wanted to remind you all about this portion of the course as it is very important in developing your understanding of psychological research. The SONA research participation portion of the class is worth 5% of your overall grade and there is only ONE research participation requirement which is applied to the overall course grade.

**SONA Guidelines:** In order to give you a better understanding of the nature of psychology, you will be required to participate in research (or complete alternate assignments pertaining to research). I would like to emphasis that your Participation in research can greatly help students and faculty who are conducting research at TAMU-C. You will be able to sign up for various studies through the SONA system. Instructions on how to do this will be provided in a separate handout either in class or in lab.

**Credits:** This course requires that you complete a total of 6 credit hours of research participation. HOWEVER, if you do not have any unexcused no-shows (i.e. you do not show up for a study) you will be required to complete only 4 credit hours.

**Alternative Assignments:** Participating in research is voluntary. If you do not want to participate in research let Dr. Pierce know and he can assign alternative assignments. In other words you can complete this portion of the course through obtaining research credits and/or completing alternative assignments.