

COURSE SYLLABUS

Texas A&M University- San Antonio
College of Arts and Sciences
PSYC 5305: Graduate Thesis (3 credits)

Fall 2025

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Office Hours: T 2-4

Lab meeting 12-1 M with UGs

Phone: 210-784-2206

Office: STEM 237A

Lab : STEM 241G

Meetings in STEM 241D

Grad meeting 1-2 Mondays

Texts:

Make sure you have access to the 7th Edition of the APA Style Manual.

Other Costs: If you are planning to present a poster at either SWPA or SRS, you will have a \$24 poster cost. Power Grafx charges \$24 for poster printing with our university discount. You may incur travel costs to SWPA or other conferences.

Catalog Description:

5305: Graduate Thesis. Thesis hours involve work on a thesis with an advisor. The course will be repeated until the thesis is finished and defended.

Course Objectives:

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- The first semester (Proposal), this course requires settling on a thesis project, collecting preliminary data if necessary, writing and presenting the proposal.
- The last semester (Defense), students will finish collecting data for the thesis project and defend their thesis at the end of the semester. The thesis project will require a paper to be submitted for publication with the advisor.
- If additional semesters of thesis are taken before the last semester, students will be continuing work on their projects.

Assessment of Student Learner Outcomes:

Students will be expected to participate in all aspects of the research group. The grade for the thesis project will involve a grade for the paper

Activities:

Research Projects:

Students are expected to turn in a proposal at the end of their proposal semester, in APA style. Students are expected to turn in a final thesis in APA style, that is suitable for publication, at the end of their thesis semester. The thesis advisor will determine what will be due at the end of any thesis semesters occurring between the proposal and defense semesters. Conference presentations may be expected as well.

Amount of Time Required per Week

This class is taken in place of an in-person class. Therefore, the time typically spent on a class (three hours in class plus about 6 hours out of class) is the minimum students should plan to spend on their thesis per week. It is suggested that students create activity logs so that they can track their own hours spent on the project. This is not done to turn in to the advisor, but to help them plan, so that their final project can be completed before the end of the semester. They should write down how many hours they needed to spend on each activity, so they know when they need to step up the number of hours per week to finish on time. Students who have not finished on time may be required to take (and pay for) additional thesis hours, which will extend their time in the program.

Meetings

Students must attend both the lab meeting and the individual meeting with the advisor each week during the semester.

Conferences

Students will be expected to present research at a conference, if it is safe. If you are concerned about safety, you will not be required to submit to a conference. Conferences include:

SWPA: Southwestern Psychological Association, March 27-29, 2026, Frisco, TX (anyone can present, students or alumni). Call for presentations November 2026.

RISE 2024: Formerly Student Research Symposium, on our campus TBA 2025. (students and December alumni can present)

SPSP: Society for Personality and Social Psychology, February 26-28, 2026, Chicago, IL. (Anyone can present, students or alumni). Call for posters is Sept 18.

If you plan to present next year, SPSP will take place in Philadelphia Feb 11-13, 2027 (deadline for submission early September for posters), and SWPA will be in Houston, TX (submission deadline in October or November).

Citi Training: Please make sure Citi Training is up to date, including Revised Common Rule (included in Social and Behavioral Research), Intro to Responsible Conduct of Research, and Advanced Responsible Conduct of Research. www.citiprogram.org

Psychology Speaker Series

We will have three to five speakers from our search for psychology candidates presenting in March/April. Dates will be announced. There may be a possibility for another speaker later in the semester.

Deadlines

All deadlines given to you must be met if you are taking the course for credit, in order to get an A.

Work Space Rules

I have printed the rules during normal times below.

All students are given access to 241 and 341. You may work in 241G, the control room which is 241F, and the waiting area which is 241A. If no one has reserved 241D, you can use that area as well, but please let Jasmyne know, as it is a popular room. If a confidential meeting occurs in 241D, you may be asked to relocate to 341. It may be crowded, but you can use the waiting room area with computers, and conference room area if there isn't a meeting going on. You can also reserve library study rooms. If you are running participants, please reserve via SONA.

STEM 241 B and C must remain locked at all times because of the equipment stored inside. If B or C has an open door any time you are in the lab, please report it to a psych faculty member immediately.

Do not prop outer door open unless you are INSIDE the lab and waiting for a participant. If you need to run to the restroom, and are leaving no one inside, you must close the door. Participants may not be left in the lab alone, unless they already have access to the lab (but few will have lab access!).

Course Grades

Each student's grade will be based solely on his/her performance. Students will not compete against one another for grades (i.e., the instructor will not limit the number of As, Bs, etc.). An individual's course grade is based on his or her raw score points (i.e., the total number of points earned during the semester). For example, using the table below, a student who earns 850 points during the semester will earn a "B." A student who has a total of 642 points at the end of the semester will earn a "D" in the course.

Letter Grade Cutoff Table

Course Letter Grade

A	All deadlines met, meetings attended, excellent participation, good project, required hours achieved
B	All of the above, but most of the time; good project.
C	All of the above, but only some of the time; average project.
D	Unacceptable work
F	Unacceptable work

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

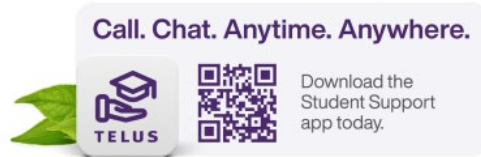
Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120. All mental health services provided by the SCC are **free and confidential** (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit <http://tamusa.edu/studentcounseling>

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331.

Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer-to-peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>. More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found [here](#).

Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended by the published Census Date (the first week of class). Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend prior to the published Census Date (the first week of class) will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on "Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center" to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics>.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE referral (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources.

Office Hours: All faculty with teaching assignments should include regularly scheduled office hours on each syllabus in addition to "by appointment." Please review your appointment letter for the number of weekly office hours you are expected to set. Regularly scheduled office hours should also be posted outside your office door (where applicable).

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots' Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided with an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual on our campus and within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees are to be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or titleix@tamusa.edu.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking based on sex, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related sex-based misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable modifications to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K). Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child

younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Young Jaguars: can support parenting students with daycare who meet this criteria: Must be enrolled in classes at TAMUSA in the current semester. Must be Pell eligible or a single parent. They serve children ages 3 to 12-years-old. Children must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. youngjaguars@tamusa.edu (210) 784-2636

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university students' rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

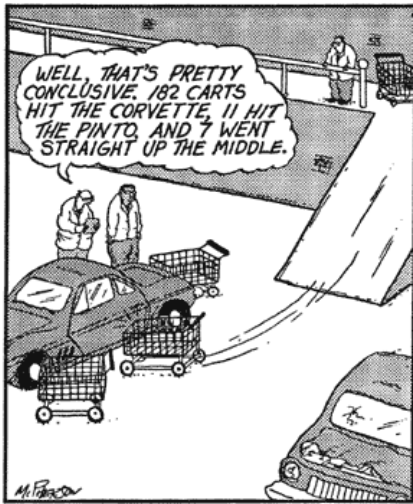
We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct

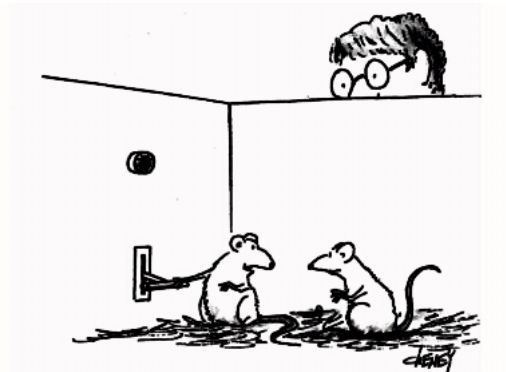
(<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/documents/Student->

[Handbook-2022-23.pdf](#)) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-integrity.html>).

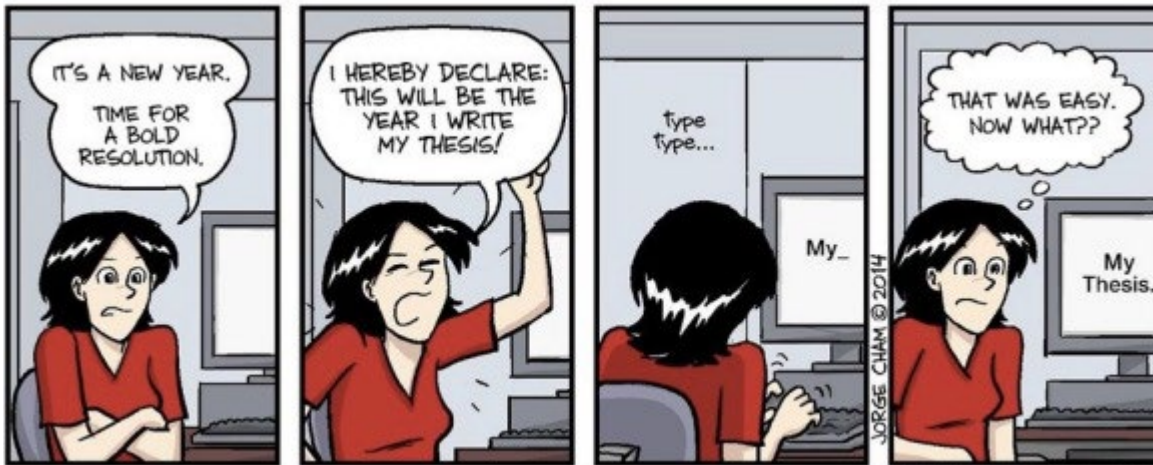
****Any material on this syllabus is subject to change if a compelling situation arises. You will be notified via email and Bb announcement.****



Researchers at MIT prove that rolling shopping carts will almost invariably hit the most expensive car in their vicinity.

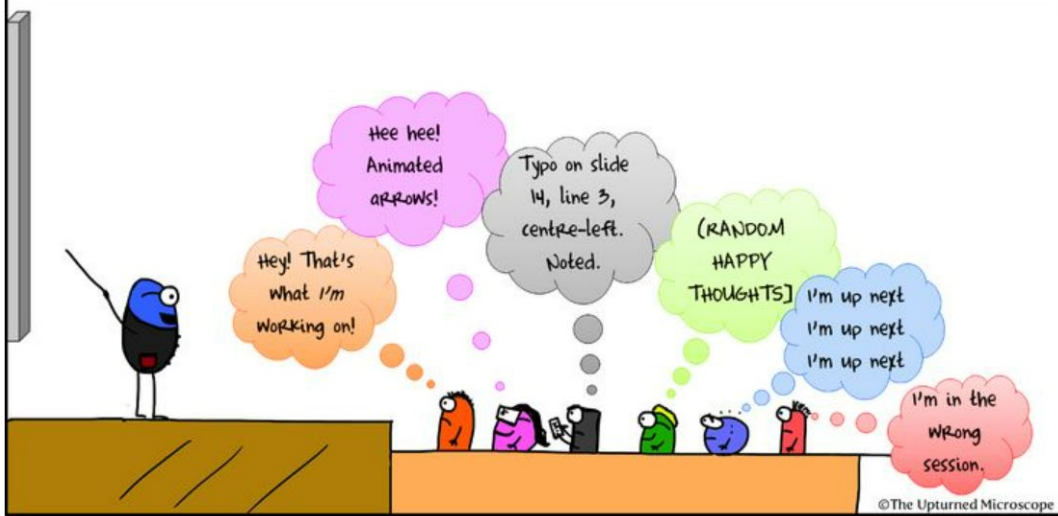


It's a rather interesting phenomenon. Every time I press this lever, that post-graduate student breathes a sigh of relief.



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By Nik Papageorgiou