
Course Description:

Individual instruction course for advanced and qualified undergraduates to obtain supervised research experience in psychology. Student will assist with a research project by working under the individual guidance of a psychology faculty member. Requirements may entail library research, data collection, data entry, statistical analysis and or assistance in planning and conducting parts of a research project. A paper on the research experience is required. Consent of instructor required. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 semester credit hours. Prerequisites or corequisite: PSYC 2301 and PSYC 3488.

COURSE GOALS:

1. Using Research Skills

Locate relevant research, theory, and information necessary to plan, conduct, and interpret results of research studies.

2. Formulating Hypotheses

Formulate a testable hypothesis.

3. Designing Experimental Studies

Design basic studies to address behavioral or psychological questions using different research methodologies.

4. Managing Data

Under appropriate supervision, collect, analyze, and report data designed to answer a behavioral or psychological question.

5. Applying APA Guidelines

Apply APA ethical guidelines in the design, data collection, analysis, interpretation, and reporting of behavioral or psychological research.

6. Understanding Different Research Methodologies

Demonstrate knowledge of different research methodologies employed by psychologists, including an understanding of the appropriate use of various research designs for addressing different types of questions and hypotheses.

COURSE STRUCTURE: This is not a typical course. This is a research lab and you will be helping to run experiments. You are expected to attend lab meetings once a week, meet with your research group, run participants, and enter data. You may also be asked to perform several activities involving the creation of stimulus material. You are expected to commit 3 weekly hours for every one credit of research experience over a 15 week period (or 15 hours/credit overall, regardless of number of weeks in term).

INTERNET SUPPORT: You are expected to check your email frequently and stay in contact with your lab members.

GRADING POLICY: A substantial portion of the class revolves around participating in running research. As a result, all grades are related to such. All students will start with As, however, failure to participate will result in a lowering of grades. Failure to participate is defined as such:

Missing more than one session (unexcused): -1 letter grade per session

Missing more than three lab meetings (unexcused): -1 letter grade per meeting

Failure to turn in lab work on time: -1 letter grade

INDIVIDUAL GOALS AND TIMELINES: As a student in this course, your lab work and session times will be determined by a timeline crafted by the professor and student in the beginning of the term, revisited and possibly refined in the middle of the term, and completed by the end of the term. Each student is expected to develop specific objectives, deliverables, and experiences that align with the overall goal of their project and professional development (e.g., graduate school preparation). This timeline will serve as an addendum to this document extend the contract in those specific ways.

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 disability. If you believe you have a disability that may require accommodations, please contact Disability Support Services for the coordination of services. DSS is located on the 1st floor of the Main Campus building (Room 127) and on the Brooks City-Base Campus in Room 149. The phone number for DSS is 210-784-1335.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICY: Students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic dishonesty for which a student is subject to penalty includes cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submissions, misrepresentation of academic records, facilitating academic dishonesty, unfair advantage, violating known safety requirements and ethical misconduct. This includes holding other students to the same standards and reporting any incidents of alleged violation of the honesty policy to the instructor involved or, if necessary, to the appropriate academic department head. All students are responsible for being familiar with the Academic Dishonesty Policy, which may be found in the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Student Handbook.

University policy prescribes serious consequences for acts of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, a grade of 'F' on the particular paper or assignment, a failing grade in the course, or possible expulsion from the University. Considering the potential consequences of academic misconduct, it is obviously in students' best interests to avoid even the appearance of such behavior. If you are ever unclear whether a specific act might constitute academic misconduct, please contact your instructor for an assessment of the situation.

All written assignments are subject to analysis by anti-plagiarism software.