

**PSYC 4351 Directed Research
Generic Syllabus**



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| Professor | Brett Adam Murphy, J.D., Ph.D. | Phone | 210-784-2814 |
| Office | STEM 237E | E-mail | bamurphy@tamusa.edu |
| Office Hrs | <p>Tues: 1:30 – 5:15PM Mon/Weds: 12:30-1:30PM Walk-ins acceptable but first priority goes to people who schedule appointments via Calendly: https://calendly.com/bmurphy-tamusa/dr-murphy-office-hours</p> | | |

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 final 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 inspired by theory and/or data.
- 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 design, run, analyze data, and/or disseminate results from experiments. You are expected to attend lab meetings once a week, meet with your research team (if applicable), and any other activities that serve the lab's mission. 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 other lab members. Email will be the primary method of contact among members of the lab (including Dr. Murphy), but texting may also be used in a limited fashion. Note that texting should not be used as a primary contact medium except for cases of urgency or emergency or while trying to coordinate an off-site event. Zoom and phone calls may also be incorporated into instruction and communication.

Grading policy: 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 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 extending the contract in those specific ways.

Meeting Schedule

Lab meetings will be held once per week at a time when all members are available at a location on campus to be determined. Although we will do our best to abide by this schedule, some topics and/or readings may carry over and others may end earlier than expected. Any topic changes will be announced via email. You are responsible for keeping up with any possible changes to the course schedule or meeting modality.

| Week | Topic | Notes/Readings |
|------|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Introductions, Welcome! | |
| 2 | Reading Group or Student Presentation | |
| 3 | Reading Group or Student Presentation | |
| 4 | Reading Group or Student Presentation | |
| 5 | Reading Group or Student Presentation | |
| 6 | Reading Group or Student Presentation | |
| 7 | Reading Group or Student Presentation | |
| 8 | Reading Group or Student Presentation | |
| 9 | Reading Group or Student Presentation | |
| 10 | Professional Development and Applying to Grad school | |
| 11 | Reading Group or Student Presentation | |
| 12 | Reading Group or Student Presentation | |
| 13 | Reading Group or Student Presentation | |
| 14 | Reading Group or Student Presentation | |
| 15 | Semester Retrospective | |
| 16 | Finals week | Undergrads turn in final paper |