

Research Methods in Psychology (PSYCH 5307)
MW 9:30 AM- 11 AM
Life Science Rm. 428
Andrew Baum, PhD
501 Life Sciences, 272-0530
Office Hours: T, Th, 3 PM- 5PM

This course considers the basic and advanced aspects of methodology used in psychological research, including experimental design, methodologies that combine disciplinary approaches (e.g., biomedical, behavioral, and field and laboratory approaches).

Learning Objectives:

Research and research methods are essential to the study of psychology (or any other science), whether one is intending to pursue a scientific career, a clinical career, or consultation and management careers. It is the common language of science, deriving from the scientific method, and is necessary if one is to properly evaluate claims about new treatments, evaluation programs, or scientific findings. It is also necessary to have incorporated these methodological concepts into one's way of thinking about problems if one is to conduct meaningful research. As a result, the student objectives for this course are:

- 1) Demonstrate familiarity with basic terms, concepts, and approaches to research in psychology and discuss them in research contexts.
- 2) Critique scientific reports and proposals and to explain how specific experiments or studies might be flawed and might be improved.
- 3) Begin to systematically analyze a topic in psychology and to create a plan or proposal for research to study it.

By the close of this semester, students should have adequate knowledge of and familiarity with methodological terms and constructs and sufficient comprehension of the nuances of research to design research studies that minimize threats to internal validity, applicability, and generalizability. The analysis and synthesis of complex psychological problems and production of strong, consistent approaches to studying them is the ultimate goal.

Textbook and Grading:

Textbook:

Frederick T. Leong & James T. Austin (Eds)
The Psychology Research Handbook (2nd Edition)
Thousand Oaks, California: Sage, 2006

Grading will be based on class participation (40%), group and individual projects (homework/class work, 30%), and a final project/research proposal in the style of an NIH submission (30%).

There are no exams and papers.

You are expected to attend class and to turn in assignments on time.

| Week | Dates | Reading |
|-------------|----------------|--|
| 1 | Aug 24, 26 | Chapter 1 & 2, pp 1-40 |
| 2 | Aug 31, Sept 2 | Chapter 3 & 4, pp 41-74 |
| 3 | Sept 9 | Chapter 6, pp 93- 103 & Aronson and Carlsmith Chapter Group Project, Critiques (#1) due |
| 4 | Sept 14, 16 | Chapter 7-9, pp 104-146 |
| 5 | Sept 21, 23 | Chapter 10 & 11, pp 147- 172 |
| 6 | Sept 28, 30 | Chapter 12, pp 173-185 Group Project, Critiques (#2) due |
| 7 | Oct 5, 7 | Chapter 13-15, pp 186- 238 |
| 8 | Oct 12, 14 | Group Projects |
| 9 | Oct 19, 21 | Chapters 21 & 22, pp 315- 342 |
| 10 | Oct 26, 28 | Group Projects |
| 11 | Nov 2, 4 | Chapter 23-26 |
| 12 | Nov 9, 11 | Chapter 27 & 30, pp 387-400, 433,442 |
| 13 | Nov 16, 18 | Chapters 28 & 29, pp 401-432 |
| 14 | Nov 23, 25 | Group Projects |
| 15 | Nov 30, Dec 2 | Group Projects, wrap up |
| | | |

Final proposal due at midnight on Dec. 11, 2009

The following sections are suggested by the University and are prepared by the University of Texas at Arlington:

Americans with Disabilities Act:

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112- The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability. Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity:

It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

“Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.” (Regents’ Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2)

Student Support Services Available:

The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

Final Review Week:

A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabi. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. Classes are held as scheduled during this week and lectures and presentations may be given.

E-Culture Policy:

The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University email address as an official means of communication with students. Through the use of email, UT-Arlington is able to provide students with relevant and timely information, designed to facilitate student success. In particular, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation may be sent to students through email.

All students are assigned an email account and information about activation and using it is available at www.uta.edu/email. New students (first semester students at UTA) are able to activate their email account 24 hours after registering for courses. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active as long as a student is enrolled at UT-Arlington. Students are responsible for checking their email regularly.