



Course **Experimental Projects in Psychology**
PSY 3393.004 / CGS 3340.004

Professor Jack Birchfield, Ph.D

Term Spring 2014

Meetings T-R 10:00am-11:15am JO3.209

Professor's Contact Information

Office Phone None listed

Other Phone None listed

Office Location JO4.314

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Office Hours By appointment.

General Course Information

Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, & other restrictions PSY 3392 or PSY 3490.

Course Description This course serves as an advanced writing course for the TX common core curriculum. To meet the requirements for the advanced writing requirement, students should write a minimum of 15 pp. of writing and 5 pp. of revision. This class has been designed to meet these requirements. The intent of this class is to emulate the procedures and practices commonly employed in psychological research. Students will review existing literature on a chosen topic, design and conduct a small experiment based on the previous research, and present their findings in both a written paper and an oral presentation.

Learning Outcomes

1. Able to interpret and summarize the ideas and results of previous research.
2. Capable of formulating testable ideas based on the available literature.
3. Can effectively select data collection and analysis strategies.
4. To effectively present results in a professional manner.
5. ABOVE ALL: To think critically about your own research as well as the research of others.

Required Texts & Materials No textbook required, but you will need access to the APA publication manual (6th Ed.).

Suggested Texts, Readings, & Materials None

Assignments & Academic Calendar

PART ONE

- Jan 14** Discuss syllabus and overview of class.
- Jan 16** Lit review rationale and requirements.
- Jan 21** Discussion of topics and topic proposal.
- Jan 23** Conferences (to be scheduled).
- Jan 28** Proposal of topic due. Brief statement of topic expected from each student.
- Jan 30** Organizing your articles (outline).
- Feb 4** Outline due. Discuss APA format.
- Feb 6** Conferences (to be scheduled).
- Feb 11** Part Two: Brief discussion of upcoming research project.
- Feb 13** Draft of review (whatever you have). Part Two: Generating hypotheses.
- Feb 18** Conferences (to be scheduled).
- Feb 20** Full draft of review. Part Two: Analyses
- Feb 25** Conferences (to be scheduled).
- Feb 27** Lit review due (e-copy as Word doc). Presentation by IRB staff.

PART TWO

- Mar 4** Conferences (to be scheduled) to finalize project topic.
- Mar 6** Lab: demo of SPSS and Excel
- Mar 11-13** SPRING BREAK.
- Mar 18** Proposal of Project due. Discussion of paper requirements. Writing style.
- Mar 20** Conferences (to be scheduled).
- Mar 25** Draft of into due. Discuss method section.
- Mar 27** Conferences (to be scheduled).
- Apr 1** Draft of method section due. Discuss result section.
- Apr 3** Conferences (to be scheduled).
- Apr 8** Draft of result section due. Explain discussion section.

- Apr 10** Conferences (to be scheduled).
- Apr 15** Draft of discussion due. Explanation of presentation requirements.
- Apr 17** Conferences as necessary
- Apr 22** **Presentations.**
- Apr 24** **Presentations.**
- Apr 29** Conferences as necessary
- May 1** Research paper due: hard copy, e-copy, and submit to turnitin.com

Course Policies

Grading (credit) Criteria	Projects: Lit Review 30% Paper 30% Presentation 20% Tasks 10% Attendance 10% Percent Letter grade: 93-100% A 90-92% A- 88-89% B+ 83-87% B 80-82% B- 78-79% C+ 73-77% C 70-72% C- 68-69% D+ 65-67% D 0-64% F
Make-up Exams	None
Extra Credit	None
Late Work	Part of your grade is based on timely submissions of the drafts, please have your work in by the due date. However, the literature review and final research paper MUST be turned in by the due dates.
Special Assignments	None
Class Attendance	This is a working class and attendance is part of your grade. Therefore, attendance is expected at every class.
Classroom Citizenship	Please be polite and considerate towards your fellow students. Also, while laptops are allowed in the classroom, I require that they be used only for class activities. During class time, I ask that you do not: text, check/send emails, browse the Internet.

Field Trip Policies Off-Campus Instruction & Course Activities	<i>Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course.</i>
Technical Support	If you experience any problems with your UTD account you may send an email to: assist@utdallas.edu or call the UTD Computer Helpdesk at 972-883-2911.
Student Conduct and Discipline	<p>The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD printed publication, <i>A to Z Guide</i>, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.</p> <p>The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the <i>Rules and Regulations, Series 50000, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System</i>, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's <i>Handbook of Operating Procedures</i>. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391) and online at http://www.utdallas.edu/judicialaffairs/UTDJudicialAffairs-HOPV.html</p> <p>A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.</p>
Academic Integrity	<p>The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.</p> <p>Scholastic Dishonesty, any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. 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.</p> <p>Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.</p>
Copyright Notice	The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials, including

	<p>music and software. Copying, displaying, reproducing, or distributing copyrighted works may infringe the copyright owner's rights and such infringement is subject to appropriate disciplinary action as well as criminal penalties provided by federal law. Usage of such material is only appropriate when that usage constitutes "fair use" under the Copyright Act. As a UT Dallas student, you are required to follow the institution's copyright policy (Policy Memorandum 84-I.3-46). For more information about the fair use exemption, see http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty/copypol2.htm</p>
Email Use	<p>The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.</p>
Withdrawal from Class	<p>The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.</p>
Student Grievance Procedures	<p>Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's <i>Handbook of Operating Procedures</i>. In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.</p> <p>Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.</p>
Incomplete Grades	<p>As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.</p>

<p>Disability Services</p>	<p>The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities equal educational opportunities. Disability Services provides students with a documented letter to present to the faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. This letter should be presented to the instructor in each course at the beginning of the semester and accommodations needed should be discussed at that time. It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for accommodation. If accommodations are granted for testing accommodations, the student should remind the instructor five days before the exam of any testing accommodations that will be needed. Disability Services is located in Room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday – Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You may reach Disability Services at (972) 883-2098.</p> <p>Guidelines for documentation are located on the Disability Services website at http://www.utdallas.edu/disability/documentation/index.html.</p>
<p>Religious Holy Days</p>	<p>The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.</p> <p>The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.</p> <p>If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.</p>

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.