
RESEARCH AND EVALUATION METHODS, CLDP 3394 (001)

Fall 2016, Tue/Thur 1:00 PM to 2:15 P.M., JO 3.209

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor

Meridith Grant, Ph.D.

Email: MGrant@utdallas.edu

Office: GR 4.820

Office hour: Wednesdays from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM; by appointment; or take a chance, stop by, and knock on my office door

Graduate TA

Kevin Carson, M.S.

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Office: JO 4.312

Office hour: Mondays from 2:00 to 3:00 PM or by appointment

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions:

(1) PSY 2317 or STAT 1342 and (2) PSY 3392

Course Description

Laboratory and field experience in all phases of behavior science research, including study design, measurement, sampling, data collection, data analysis, and report writing. The course covers the fundamental concepts of the psychometrics of measurement and testing, as well as applications of experimental and non-experimental designs in research and evaluation.

Learning Objectives

- 2 **Apply research methods:** Describe and apply basic behavioral science research methods, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation that are used in the scientific study of child and adolescent development.
- 3 **Use modes of critical thinking in the field:** Use critical thinking, skeptical inquiry, and when possible, the scientific approach to analyze and solve problems.
- 4 **Demonstrate effective communication:** (1) Demonstrate effective writing skills in various formats (e.g., summaries, technical reports in APA style) and for various purposes (e.g., informing, explaining, evaluating). (2) Demonstrate effective communication skills (e.g., group discussion, presenting) and for various purposes (e.g., inquiring, proposing, critiquing)

Textbooks and Materials

1. *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, (6th Ed.) (2010). Washington, D. C.: American Psychological Association.
2. Additional required readings will be available on the eLearning site or campus library online resources in PDF or word document format.

Course Website

New assignments, revisions to the syllabus, announcements, and your grades will be posted on the eLearning site. You can access eLearning through a link on UTD's main page. You are responsible for checking this site frequently in order to remain aware of new activities, announcements, etc. Make sure that you have a UTD email address on this account (see info below on UTD email policy). Any email to students enrolled in this class will be sent through UTD email.

CLASS SCHEDULE

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Week	Date	Topics	Work Due
1	Tue, Aug 23	Course Introduction	
	Thu, Aug 25	Finding Research and Writing Summaries	Read Bastardi, Uhlmann, & Ross, 2011
2	Tue, Aug 30	References Practice	
	Thu, Sep 1	Generating Research Ideas about Child Development	Summary 1
3	Tue, Sep 6	Research Design; Experimental Sketch Introduced; <i>Choose Research Teams</i>	NIH Training
	Thu, Sep 8	Designing Surveys: <i>Have topic approved</i>	Summary 2
4	Tue, Sep 13	The shape of the APA Paper; Writing the Intro	
	Thu, Sep 15	Writing the Method	Summary 3
5	Tue, Sep 20	Finalize Materials and Measures	
	Thu, Sep 22	Conferences	Experimental Sketch and all stimuli, materials, and measures due at conference
6	Tue, Sep 27		
	Thu, Sep 29		
7	Tue, Oct 4	IRB Papers and Training	Proposal
	Thu, Oct 6		IRB Forms by end of class
8	Tue, Oct 11	Statistics Review	After you have IRB approval, collect data!
	Thu, Oct 13		
9	Tue, Oct 18	SPSS: Getting started, Descriptive Statistics, <i>t</i> -tests	
	Thu, Oct 20		
10	Tue, Oct 25	SPSS: Correlation, ANOVA	
	Thu, Oct 27		
11	Tue, Nov 1	Writing the Results; Hypothesis Form Introduced	Statistics Activity
	Thu, Nov 3	Analyze Your Data; Write Results	Hypothesis Form; Data must be entered and imported to SPSS
12	Tue, Nov 8		
	Thu, Nov 10		
13	Tue, Nov 15	Writing the Discussion and Abstract; Giving Presentations	Results
	Thu, Nov 17		
14	Tue, Nov 22	Fall Break	
	Thu, Nov 24		
15	Tue, Nov 29	Revisit Results; Last minute questions	
	Thu, Nov 31	Presentations	
16	Tue, Dec 6		
	Thu, Dec 8		Individual Final Research Paper Due By 1:00 PM

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the professor. It is *your* responsibility to keep up with changes to the syllabus by attending class, as well as by checking eLearning and your email.

For “Conferences” you or your team will sign up for a specific time during class to meet with the professor in the classroom. Aside from that, on Conference days, you or your team are free to work elsewhere during class time.

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATIONS

Contributions to Your Grade

1. **Research Project.** Students are expected to execute a study and write about it in a complete APA style manuscript. For some components of the project you may work in research teams to complete a first draft. However, *the final research paper is an individual project*, including *individually* updated versions of each portion of the paper based on the instructor's feedback, as well as *individually* written discussion and abstract sections. More details will be provided as the course progresses.
 - a. Teams
 - i. **Proposal**
 - ii. **Results**
 - b. Individually
 - i. **Presentations** (a point related to flow between speakers)
 - ii. **Final Research Paper**
2. Other Assignments
 - a. Teams
 - i. **Experimental Sketch & Measures.** Students will be asked to prepare and discuss an "Experimental Sketch" in a conference with their research team and professor. All stimuli, testing materials and measures are also due at the conference and must be formatted as you intend to present them to participants.
 - ii. **IRB forms & Training.** In order to conduct research with human subjects, students will complete the requisite IRB forms and training. Failure to complete IRB forms, NIH training, and the IRB approval process will: (1) result in a failing grade for the IRB portion of your grade and (2) negatively impact your grade for other assignments that depend upon IRB approval such as the results and final research paper. You cannot pass this class without obtaining IRB approval for your project.
 - iii. **Hypothesis Form.** Students will be asked to prepare a "Hypothesis form" with their research team. The form requires students to create a plan for analyzing their hypotheses.
 - b. Individually
 - i. **Summaries.** Each student will be expected to complete summaries of journal articles that relate to their research topic. Summaries are expected to be well-written and formatted according to the guidelines presented in class.
 - ii. **Statistics Activity.** Students will be required to complete a statistics activity designed to prepare students for use of statistical software and writing about statistical analyses.
 - iii. **Participation/Attendance.** Attendance for this class is mandatory and active participation is expected. Attendance and participation will be monitored throughout the semester. Your participation grade will be derived from a variety of factors: regular attendance, thoughtful participation in class activities and discussion, asking and answering questions, in-class visibility and attentiveness. You will also be expected to attend conferences throughout the semester. If you will miss a class or conference (for any reason, excused or not), please email your professor and research team in advance or as soon as possible. If you miss class, you are responsible for obtaining any notes and/or assignments from a willing classmate. Some class periods may not require attendance; you will be notified in advance. *If you will be unable to attend a significant number of classes (more than 3), withdraw from the course.*

Your Grade

Final grades will be calculated as follows: 90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, below 60 = F. If you are concerned about your grade, see me early in the semester.

Research Project (70 points)	Points	Your Scores
Proposal	20	_____
Results	10	_____
Presentation	10	_____
Final Research Paper	30	_____
Assignments (30 points)		
Summaries	15	_____
Experimental Sketch & Measures	3	_____
Statistics Activity	3	_____
IRB forms & NIH Training	2	_____
Hypothesis Form	2	_____
Attendance/Participation	5	_____
TOTAL	100	

COURSE POLICIES

Submissions over email

If you are asked to submit a component of your research project over email (and do not do this unless asked), it is crucial to clearly name your files (attachments) so that they are easily distinguished. Please name your file as follows:

Last Name, First Name_Assignment Title
Doe, Jane_Proposal

Research team grading policy

All team members are expected to be involved in *every step of the project*. Note the following policies related to teamwork:

1. You will be required to evaluate contributions to the team when you submit the Proposal.
2. Any team member who is not contributing to the team will be required to work alone and they may also receive a deduction from their grade for any team portions of the project.
3. For presentations, if your team has divided, the professor will assign portions of the presentation to individual team members.
4. Any team member who is absent from class for more than two consecutive class days without making arrangements with their group and the professor will be required to work alone.
5. Any student who is absent from class on the day that teams are chosen will be required to work alone unless they have made arrangements to work with other students.

Late policy

It is very important that students keep up with course materials. Assignments are due at the BEGINNING of the class period unless otherwise specified. ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED MORE THAN 24 HOURS AFTER THE DUE DATE AND MAY RECEIVE A DEDUCTION.

Make-up assignments

Make-up assignments, including in-class activities and quizzes will NOT be offered. Missing an in-class activity or quiz for any reason (e.g., illness, family problems) will result in a grade of "0".

Extra credit

There will be no individualized extra credit given for this course.

Recordings

Please do not make video and/or audio recordings of class sessions without the instructor's explicit permission. Recordings of my class made with or without permission may not be distributed in any way. This includes but is not limited to postings on the internet, websites, eLearning, or email.

Contacting Us

The best way to reach us is by email to the address listed on the syllabus, not by phone or eLearning. Please put the course name (Research and Evaluation Methods) in the subject line and include your first and last name in the message. You should use a UTD email address for all email correspondence. Anticipate that it may take up to 24 hours to respond to emails and more time over weekends and holidays.

UT DALLAS SYLLABUS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Please go to the following link for information regarding the University's policies and procedures:
<http://provost.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies/>