

Course Syllabus for PSCH 4330: Research
Spring 2016

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Office hours:
MW 10:15-11 A.M.
MW 1:45-3:30 P.M.
T/TH 12-3 P.M

Contacting the Professor

The most effective way to contact the instructor is by email at tculver@*sulross.edu*. On weekdays, reply will be swift, usually within the day. To protect student privacy, send from your Sul Ross or Blackboard-registered email account.

Email etiquette requires that you sign your name in *every* email you send and specify the particular course or issue to which you are referring. Do not expect to get a response unless you extend this courtesy.

Contacting Technical Support

If you have a problem with technical issues such as downloading a file or taking an exam, contact an Office of Information Technology (OIT) staffer for assistance or call the OIT Helpdesk. The Helpdesk is available seven days of the week.

- From on-campus, call 8765.
- From off-campus, call (888) 691-5071.

Required Texts

Research Methods in Psychology (9th Edition), by John Shaughnessy.
ISBN-13: 978-0078035180.

Forty Studies That Changed Psychology (6th Edition), by Roger Hock.
ISBN-13: 978-0136035992.

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, (6th Edition), by the American Psychological Association. ISBN-13: 978-1433805615.

Illegal copies of textbooks are prohibited at all times in classrooms and labs.

All Psychology students should own a copy of the APA manual. Papers MUST be in APA format. Good deals on textbooks are often found on the websites of Internet booksellers. Amazon.com and other major online vendors accept major credit cards, checks, and money orders.

Illegal copies of textbooks are not allowed at any time in class or the testing labs.

Learning Objectives

Program Student Learning Outcomes

The graduating student will demonstrate the capacity to:

1. Recognize the central concepts, theories, and empirical findings in the department's main areas of focus: abnormal psychology; social & personality psychology, and developmental psychology.
2. Recognize and apply basic psychological research methods, including: the experiment; the case study; the survey; and correlation.
3. Communicate effectively in written assignments and oral presentations.
4. Demonstrate insight into the behavior and psychological processes of oneself and others.

Course Learning Outcomes: This is an important course for students majoring in Psychology. Completion of this course should confirm your interest in psychology as a major and lead to an enhanced curiosity about human behavior. Specific student learning outcomes and assessment methods are presented below.

-Find, read, and comprehend psychology journal articles.

Students complete a journal article summary and presentation using a research article from *Forty Studies That Changed Psychology (6th Edition)*.

-Write a manuscript using APA style and format.

Students work throughout the semester creating each section of a complete APA research manuscript by submitting a draft of each of five sections of the paper, receiving feedback, and handing in a final manuscript. Students will also be required to submit their paper summary in APA format.

-Understand basic experimental and quasi-experimental research designs.

Students will take four exams assessing their knowledge of basic research concepts.

-Conduct an empirical research project, gathering and analyzing data.

General Classroom Rules

Reading the textbook is mandatory in this class. You will NOT be able to pass this course without devoting time to reading your textbook.

Attendance Policy

Students missing three or more days will be removed from the course and will be receive an F.

Cell Phone Policy

Students texting or using their phone during class will be asked to leave class. If the problem persists, the students will be removed permanently from the class. The student will receive an F in the course.

Assessment Mechanisms

I. Exams

Students will take four multiple choice exams on blackboard. Typically the exams will have 30 multiple choice items and students will have 45 minutes to answer them. Penalties will be assessed for going overtime on Blackboard exams (the value of 1 item per minute or fraction of a minute). There will be NO resets on the exams; however, there will be one dropgrade. If a problem arises with blackboard, students will need to use their dropgrade on that particular exam.

Students need to use Google Chrome to take the exams and are strongly encouraged to take exams in the computer lab at their campus. While taking exams, do not press “save” after answering each item. Simply press “submit” when you finish taking the exam.

II. APA Document

Students will attend an APA workshop on Friday, January 29th from 12-1 p.m. (UV B113, EP B113, and DR 101). After completing the workshop, students will transform an ordinary paper into APA style using their notes, book, and online references.

Students who do NOT attend the APA Workshop should make arrangements to meet with me prior to the due date of the document.

III. Article Reviews

Students will review three articles in preparation for the group experiment. For each article, students will write a 2-3 page paper summarizing the article and pointing out the strengths and weaknesses of the experiment. These are informal papers so you do NOT need to use APA or third person.

IV. Presentation

Students will be assigned an article to review. The presentation will consist of the following parts: Introduction, purpose, methodology, discussion/conclusion).

Students will also be required to present a powerpoint presentation on the study assigned. This powerpoint presentation will consist of the following parts: Introduction, purpose, methodology, discussion/conclusion. **Students will NOT read their powerpoints while presenting. Any students attempting to simply read their slides will receive an automatic “0” on their presentation.**

V. Group Research Paper

Students will work with their class to create a research paper. Each site will contribute to creating a survey and data collection. Groups will then create a formal research paper examining their research problem, methodology, data analysis, and results/discussion. This paper will be in APA format 6th edition and in third person.

Each student will complete a participation survey rating each participant in his or her group. Students rated poorly will receive severe deductions in points on the research paper.

VI. Final Exam

The final exam will cover all of the material in the course and will consist of multiple choice items. The final exam is mandatory, and it must take precedence over all other affairs. Clear the entire period from your schedule for the exam. Please do not schedule doctors' appointments or other appointments of any kind that afternoon that might conflict with your final exam. If any such appointment has already been made, you should cancel it. The exam is worth 100 points. Students are encouraged to take the final at the computer lab at their location. No exam grades will be dropped, so all exams will count toward your course grade. Typically, the exam will consist of 30 questions and students will have 45 minutes to complete it. Penalties will be assessed for going overtime on Blackboard exams (the value of 1 item per minute or fraction of a minute). The final exam must be taken at your campus during the final exam period our class is assigned.

VII. ETS Major Field Test

The ETS Major Field Test in Psychology is an objective test of student knowledge that allows comparisons of achievement with a national sample of psychology students. Taking the test is required for passing PSCH 4330, but the score is not computed in calculating the final course grade.

Assessment

Grades for each assignment, and for the course itself, are calculated as follows:

Exams: 300 points (drop one grade)

APA Document: 30

Article Reviews: 30

Summary Presentation: 50

Research Paper: 200

Final Exam: 100

Field Test: 0

Total Points: 710

- A: 90% or above
 B: 80% - 89%
 C: 70% - 79%
 D: 60% - 69%
 F: 0% - 59%

Calendar

The times and dates when assignments are due and when evaluations are given will not be altered to fit your schedule. You will be expected to alter your schedule to fit class responsibilities. There are no exceptions to this policy.

Date	
1/29	Article Review #1
1/29	Article Review #2
1/29	Article Review #3
2/2	APA Document Due
2/19	Exam 1 Chapters 1, 2, 3
2/22	Student presentation
2/24	Student presentation
2/29	Student presentation
3/10	Exam 2 Chapters 4, 5
3/21	Student presentation
3/23	Student presentation
3/28	Student presentation
4/15	Exam 3 Chapters 6, 7, 8
4/18	Student presentation
5/6	Exam 4 Chapters 9, 10
5-9	Final Exam and ETS Exam (11-1 p.m.)

It will not be possible to cover in lecture all of the material from the assigned chapters. Therefore it is essential that students read all the material assigned. In the interest of a more thorough coverage of certain topics, the professor reserves the right to omit a chapter from coverage on any particular exam.

Late Work

There will be NO late work accepted. If you have an emergency and miss turning in an assignment, you must bring a valid excuse (some form of documentation) within **five** business days in order to turn in your work or make up an excuse. If you do not have documentation, you will not be allowed to make up the work you missed. If you turn in your excuse after the fifth working day after your absence, you will not be allowed to make up the work.

What to do in order to obtain an excused make-up for a missed exam/not turning in a paper/not presenting:

1. Make every effort to notify the instructor ahead of time. Send a message to tculver@sulross.edu as soon as possible, and absolutely no later than the day you first return to class.
2. In the message, fully explain the nature of the emergency and why it prevented you from taking the exam/turning in work/presenting
3. Provide a source or sources that will allow the professor to verify your story. This MUST be done within five days of your absence
4. Expect further questioning from the professor before an excuse is granted.

Final grades

All final course grades will be posted on the Web for Students. Do not *call me, email me, or speak to me* about grades during the final exams period. Finals time is hectic for all, so please respect the privacy of all your professors during that period. Access to assignment grades and other course content will also be available.

Grades in this course are based on performance alone. They will not be rounded upwards. It is important for every student to understand that evaluation is not based ultimately on how hard someone has studied to get the grade desired, or whether someone needs this course to graduate. Grades are not based on personal & family needs, or on personal conceptions about what seems to be fair. All grades, including your final course grade, will be based *solely* on your academic work in this course, according to the criteria described in this syllabus.

Academic Dishonesty and the Honor Code

Academic dishonesty and the penalties pertaining to it are described in the SRSU student handbook. In this course, all communication among students while taking exams is prohibited. Communicating material included on an exam with or in the presence of someone who has not yet taken that exam is also prohibited.

No student may print or copy any material from any exam. Failure to follow these instructions will, at a minimum, result in a zero for the exam.

Students may not share books, notes, or any other form of communication during exams. Do NOT sit next to another student who is taking the same test in the lab. If no other seats are available in the lab, just wait! Do not sit by another student taking the exam. Do NOT get together at home or any other place to take an exam! This is cheating and if I receive word of it, it will result in an automatic “F” in the course. You should be the only student looking at the questions during your exam.

Plagiarism involves taking the work of others and claiming it as your own. It will not be tolerated. If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, excellent guidelines can be found online at www.turnitin.com.

Using an illegal copy of a textbook constitutes academic dishonesty. If a student is found to be using an illegally copied text during an open-book exam, the penalty will be failure of the exam. In addition, the student will have the choice of immediately surrendering the illegal copy to SRSU faculty/staff or receiving a failing grade for the course.

You and you alone are responsible for understanding and avoiding academic dishonesty in all your work. The penalty for serious academic dishonesty is severe: a student who turns in a plagiarized paper or cheats on an exam may receive an F for the entire course. A plagiarized paper will be given a failing grade on academic grounds alone, yet the student may face the additional disciplinary penalties for academic dishonesty.

As members of the academic community, no student should tolerate cheating. It is the responsibility of each and every student to report suspected cheating. The confidentiality and anonymity of students who report suspected cheating will be respected.

Intellectual Tolerance and Academic Freedom

Psychology is a field of inquiry that touches upon many controversial issues, including sexuality, evolution, gender, race, ethnicity, individual differences, parenting, divorce, crime and public policy, drug use, religion, and multicultural issues, among others. Professors and students often have strong opinions and make forceful arguments concerning these phenomena. It is often educationally productive to address and debate these matters in the context of classroom instruction and course assignments. Social taboos discouraging open discussion are inappropriate in this context and must be laid aside in the interest of intellectual inquiry.

Your grade will not be influenced in any way by expressing points of view that are in disagreement with the professor's. If time permits, students are encouraged to express their opinions and arguments whenever relevant to the subject material. The professor is free to do likewise.

Students who experience excessive anxiety or discomfort during the discussion of a sensitive topic (e.g., domestic abuse) should not hesitate to leave the classroom for a time if necessary and should never feel embarrassed for doing so. This can be an adaptive response to an emotionally difficult situation.

In contrast, other individuals are offended in principle by the mere exposure to concepts, opinions and arguments with which they disagree. The response of such persons is sometimes to try and close off discussion or to become hostile or vindictive toward others. Such persons are not encouraged to take psychology courses at Rio Grande College until they have resolved the personal issues preventing them from engaging in serious intellectual discourse.

Miscellaneous

All written assignments submitted electronically must be saved in one of the following formats: .doc, .docx, or .rtf. All major word processing programs allow at least one of these options. Written assignments submitted in other formats will not be considered submitted if another format is used; therefore, please contact the technical staff for assistance with this task if you need help.

The writing centers (located on every campus) should become your best friend!