



**Sul Ross State University
Research in Psychology
PSCH 4330
Fall 2024**

(This is a tentative schedule subject to change)

Instructor: Ms. Kathleen Rivers

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Phone: 432-837-8019

Office: BAB 108

Office hours: Virtually

Tuesday: 2PM-3PM or By Appointment

Start/end dates: August 26 – December 5, 2024

Class Schedule: TBD

Meeting Location: Online

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces students to research methods and design in psychology. Students will learn how to design, execute, and report original research. Recommended for students in other areas of behavioral science. Prerequisites: Psychology 1302 or the equivalent, and PSY/PSCH 3305; or consent of instructor.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

The graduating student will demonstrate the capacity to:

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

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course aims to help students improve their skills in scientific thinking.

1. Consumer of Research: Although only a few of you may pursue a career as a research psychologist, all of you are consumers of research from psychology and other scientific disciplines. As such, a major goal of this course is to develop your capacity for critically evaluating "scientific evidence" that is communicated in academic journals, the popular press, and other outlets such as reports from government agencies, non-profit organizations, and corporations.
2. Producer of Research: Another major goal of this course is to sharpen your ability to produce original research in psychology. Even if you do not plan to go on further in psychology or another related field of research, many of you will enter fields where your skills as a researcher will be a huge asset, and you may very well find yourself drawing on the material from this course to produce or evaluate original research as part of your job. Moreover, the skills you learn in this course in the producer role will without a doubt improve your skills as a consumer of research as well. By taking the perspectives of both the consumer and the producer, you will learn all of the essential skills for evaluating and conducting original scientific research in psychology. Although you will be gaining skills useful for both perspectives throughout the course, we will focus on the consumer role. (uoregon.edu)

REQUIRED TEXTS:

PsycLearn: Research Methods (Access)

Binding: Software or Access Code

Publisher: American Psychological Association

<https://askpubs.apa.org/s/article/PsycLearn-Student-Access-Codes>

Class Participation:

1. This course requires some discussion. Class attendance IS REQUIRED and will be determined with ONLINE participation. Written discussions will not be accepted in texting language (for example: using i instead of I, emoji's, etc..).
2. Active involvement includes writing, participating via an online poll or quiz, engaging in online discussions and taking exams by the deadline dates. In order to be successful in this course, you need to check your Sul Ross email daily, Black Board announcements, and course updates on the course home page.

Assignment Submission: All assignments MUST be submitted via **Blackboard**. **Assignments e-mailed to the instructor will not be accepted. Late assignments will incur a 1-point penalty for each day they are late.**

SRSU DISABILITY/ AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT STATEMENT:

In compliance with applicable laws, the university will make reasonable adjustments to degree or program requirements to ensure such requirements do not discriminate against qualified students with disabilities. Exceptions may occur when the university can demonstrate that an academic requirement is an essential component of a degree or program.

A student with a disability may request a course substitution or a modification of a degree or program requirement through the following process:

- **Contact the ADA coordinator at 432-837-8203**
- Submit a written request for the modification explaining his/her difficulties in the relevant areas and reasons for requesting the modification
- Submit information about the results of previous efforts in the relevant area (transcripts, etc.)
- Submit comprehensive documentation of the disability and the specific aspects of the disability which impair the student's ability to learn or perform in the area in which the student is requesting the modification

The ADA coordinator will meet with the student, review the documentation, and prepare a recommendation on the request.

If a student feels that she/he has been discriminated against based on disability, it is recommended that the student first attempt to resolve the issue with the individual or group suspected of discrimination. If this procedure is non-productive, the student may seek assistance from the Counseling and Accessibility Office. The student may also file a grievance with the appropriate university officer for ADA/504 Compliance, following the student grievance procedure.

Anti-Discrimination Statement

No person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity sponsored by Sul Ross State University on any basis prohibited by applicable law, including but not limited to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

ADA Guidelines

The university is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The ADA coordinator has the responsibility to assist students with disabilities in gaining opportunities for full participation in programs, services, and activities.

For more information see: <https://www.sulross.edu/counseling-and-accessibility-services/accessibility-services/>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Presenting someone else's work and the work of others as your own, submitting the same paper for multiple classes, and/or failing to cite your sources when you utilize the ideas of others, are all examples of academic dishonesty. It is each person's responsibility to read and understand the university's policy on academic dishonesty in the SRSU Student Handbook. All violations will be taken seriously and handled through the appropriate university process. The Student Handbook can be found at <https://www.sulross.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Student-Handbook-2023-2024.pdf>.

ONLINE CLASSROOM:

IMPORTANT: This course requires online interaction and discussion. **Class attendance IS REQUIRED and participation is important. Your active, daily participation in this course is essential and required in order to be successful, including checking email daily, checking for Black Board announcements, staying up with readings and participating in Blackboard Collaborate meetings.**

<https://www.sulross.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Student-Handbook-2023-2024.pdf>

- **Distance Education Statement:** Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as Smarthinking, library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website.
- Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook.
- Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website).
- **Plagiarism:** Please watch the following video and know plagiarism will not be acceptable.
<https://youtu.be/Uk1pq8sb-ao?si=CythDy-oA5GnbbzX> What is plagiarism?

The Online Support Desk is where you can direct your more technical questions.

For example, if you are having issues submitting a document, getting videos to play, or you are dealing with a technical error in the course. The support desk is open 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week for your convenience. You can reach the support desk:

By calling 888.837.6055

- Via email blackboardsupport@sulross.edu
- Using resources from the Technology Support tab within blackboard
- Clicking the Support Desk graphic on the course homepage

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu.

Off campus access requires logging in with your Lobo ID and password.

Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (<mailto:srsulibrary@sulross.edu>) or phone (432-837-8123).

The Southwest Texas Junior College (SWTJC) Libraries at Uvalde, Del Rio, and Eagle Pass offer additional access to library spaces and resources. Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Uvalde students may also use online resources available through SWTJC website, library.swtjc.edu. The SWTJC Libraries serve as pick-up locations for Interlibrary Loan (ILL) and Document Delivery from the Alpine campus.

Course Behaviors - Respect and Disruptions:

Watch the VIDEO on NETTIQUETTE - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWMk_Zv7nB8 and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ouREg7zuQo>.

Student Conduct and Discipline section of the SRSU Student Handbook

SENSITIVE TOPICS POLICY

As psychology deals with understanding human nature, it is inevitable that sensitive topics will be brought up in some psychology classes. These can include issues of race/ethnicity, religion, sexual behavior, sexual/gender identity, and different world views and attitudes (among others). You are encouraged to share your opinion or position and to question the views of other students and the instructor if done in a professional manner without using derogatory terms, bigoted language, or offensive epithets. It is possible to discuss sensitive topics and express different views while maintaining an elevated level of discourse.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

"I strive to create a learning environment that supports the students in the course with diversity of thoughts, perspectives, and experiences. I intend to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University. It is my every intent to create comfortable environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If some outside incident to class affects your academic performance, please contact me. I try to work with student life events."

Course Grading

Mid Term Exam 100 points – The exam will be given at the half waypoint of this term. The questions for this exam will come directly from the course assignments and assessments.

There is no makeup exam unless you are absent due to illness and with documented proof. Date of exam October 11-13, 2024. Exam will be under Modules on Blackboard. Total points 100.

Final Exam 100 points– The exam will be given at the end of this term. The questions for this exam will come directly from the course assignments and assessments.

There is no make-up exam unless you are absent due to illness and with documented proof. Date of exam is December 6-7, 2024. Exam will be under Modules on Blackboard. Total points 100.

Due dates for assignments will be published on the class calendar.

(Don't wait until last minute to cover material because your exams will be next to impossible to pass without keeping your assignments up to date) Let me know if you need any assistance.

This course will be participating in initiative at Sul Ross State University referred to as "Connecting with Students for Success". This study's purpose is set student's up for success. Therefore, each student will meet with me at least once during the semester before October 21, 2024. This will be included in your grade for the Career Choice Project. Research has previously indicated that students that meet with their professors have higher success rates in courses. Please schedule an appointment with the professor, as soon as possible, via email. I will be flexible in scheduling these appointments with you. Please see the office hours available for scheduling on the first page of the syllabus. If you need another time frame, please discuss with the professor.



Some additional Reading and Sources on the topic?

Guerrero, M., & Rod, A. (2013). Engaging in Office Hours: A Study of Student-Faculty Interaction and Academic Performance. *Journal of Political Science Education*, 9(4), 403–416. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15512169.2013.835554>

Hogan, R., & Devi, M. (2019). A Synchronous Pedagogy to Improve Online Student Success. *International Journal of Online Pedagogy and Course Design*, 9(3). <https://doi.org/10.4018/IJOPCD.2019070105>

Marmet, M. D. (2023). Bridging the power gap: the impact of pedagogical strategies and relationship-building on student success. *Journal of Research in Innovative Teaching & Learning*, 16(2), 192–209. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JRIT-01-2023-0009>