

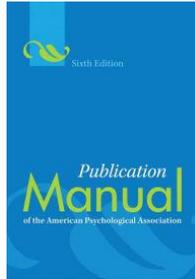
SEMINAR IN PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH – PSY 4321

Fall 2019
T/Th 9:30-10:45
201A

Instructor: Dr. Tay Hack
Office and Office Hours: A104B
Office Hours: W 8:00 – 1:00 (and by appointment)
E-mail: tay@angelo.edu
Phone: (325) 486-6121

Course website: <http://blackboard.angelo.edu> (Log on to BlackBoard)

PREREQUISITES: PSY 2321 and PSY 3321.



RECOMMENDED TEXT: Students in this class will use information published in the 6th edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* as a guide for all writing assignments.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to give students practical experience in the scientific process by designing and conducting a psychological research project. Students will also gain experience in disseminating research findings by creating an in-class presentation and by developing a written research report that follows APA style format. Additionally, students will be encouraged to develop a critical analysis of psychological research by reading and discussing contemporary research in the field.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories.
- Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends).
- Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions).
- Developing skills in expressing oneself orally or in writing.

Syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Design and conduct an empirical study.
- Communicate findings both orally and in written form using APA style format.
- Demonstrate a critical analysis of generalizations from research.
- Synthesize information to expand experiential knowledge of the scientific process.
- Discuss empirical findings of contemporary studies.

METHOD OF ASSESSING LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Learning outcomes will be assessed via participation in weekly discussions, class assignments, oral presentations, and a written APA style research paper.

CLASS FORMAT: This class is a seminar format that meets twice each week; during class we will discuss the specifics of how to design, conduct, and disseminate research findings. As such, attendance and participation is crucial, and students are expected to attend every class. If a student does miss a class, it is her or his responsibility to obtain the information from a classmate.

- A. Research topic selection process.** Students will choose a specific area of a social psychological process that they find to be most interesting. Some examples might include (but are not limited to) person perception, social stereotypes, attitude change, helping, self concept, attraction, or close relationships. Students will be assigned to work in a group of 4 or 5 classmates. Each group will select their top research interest and then present their choice to the instructor (me) during class. I will then create a Blackboard Group area for each group so that group members can communicate with each other and discuss ideas related to their research project. Students in each group will work together on the same research project in a collective effort; *however, each student must write her or his own research paper individually.* Students are responsible for the conduct of their research project, which must conform to the guidelines for classroom projects (located on Blackboard).
- B. Research Projects.** All student research projects will be paper and pencil survey research (no online studies). Once groups select their research topic, they will design their study to investigate what they want to know using questionnaires and surveys. Please note that all groups will be required to print their own materials to use in their research. Additionally, each group member will devote time for collecting data for the group (to be scheduled around existing class/work schedules). All data collection will take place in designated classrooms on campus to be determined by availability of rooms.
- C. Ethics certification.** Before students are allowed to collect data they must pass an online ethics tutorial for protecting human research participants. This is a requirement for the class. Students must go to the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) website: <https://citiprogram.org> and register. There are step by step instructions for accessing the training in a pdf on our class website. After successfully passing the tutorial, please print your completion form and turn it in to me before the deadline specified on this syllabus.

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- D. Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval.** All students must submit an IRB approval form to request permission (located on Blackboard) to conduct their study. Each proposal must also include a copy of the informed consent form (located on Blackboard), a debriefing document, as well as supporting materials. Students are required to have approval from the IRB before they will be allowed to conduct their research. Each student must submit her or his own individual work.
- E. Sona-Systems.** Once IRB approval is given, students may then recruit participants via Sona-Systems and begin to collect data. Students will be given access as an experimenter for their group's study and will be responsible for checking their sign-ups and attending their scheduled sessions. Each group member must devote time to collecting data for the group. ***Extremely important:*** Missing one of your scheduled research sessions will result in a drop of an entire letter grade. Missing two sessions will result in a drop of three letter grades for the course.
- F. Research report format.** Students' written research report must adhere to APA style format. Each report must include a title page, an abstract, an introduction, a method section, a results section, a discussion section, and a reference page. Although students will collaboratively design and conduct their research, each student must work individually to write her or his own individual research report. The finished paper including the title page and reference page must be a total **at least 11 pages** (1 page for the title page, 1 page for the abstract, 8 FULL pages spanning the introduction through the discussion sections, and 1 page for references), but **no longer than 12 pages** total.
- G. Presentation.** At the end of the semester, students will present their study to the class using a PowerPoint presentation. Groups will tell the class what their study was about (i.e., research question, hypotheses), what they did (method), and what they found (results, discussion). Presentations are to be at least 15 minutes, but no more than 20 minutes. Each presentation and presenter will be timed. Classmates are strongly encouraged to ask questions from the presenters.
- H. Homework assignments.** Students will be responsible for completing homework assignments that will be given during class (this includes all drafts of your final paper). If a student misses class, it is her or his responsibility to obtain the assignment from a classmate. Homework assignments are designed to help students learn the skills that are necessary for conducting empirical research and communicating research findings. Late assignments will not be accepted nor receive credit unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor (i.e., me).
- I. Drafts.** Students will be required to turn in drafts of each section of their IRB proposal and their final paper. Failure to do so will result in loss of points (10 points for each section not turned in). I provide detailed feedback on your drafts that you are expected to address in your final version. Final versions turned in without addressing the written feedback that is detailed on the drafts will result in drastic loss of points. So, make sure to keep all your drafts with my written feedback because you will be required to turn them in along with your final version.

J. Absenteeism. Students are expected to attend every class. Arriving late disrupts the class and is disrespectful to the instructor and to other class members. We cover many crucial elements of the research process each time we meet, so if you miss a class, you miss critical information. Because your role in the class is a member of a group whose success relies on the cooperative effort of each group member, if you must miss a class for whatever reason it is your responsibility to email me AND each of your group members before the class starts. If you do not, please be aware that it will unfortunately result in a loss of 10 points for each instance.

COURSE POLICIES: I expect students to prepare for each class by completing all assignments and readings before class and actively participating in seminar discussions, collaborating with other students, attending class, and refraining from disruptive behavior. Students are expected to participate in class and be respectful of others’ views and comments. In addition to maintaining a positive and productive course climate through discussion, the following expectations apply:

- Checking email, texting, browsing, checking social media sites or any other use of cell phones are not permitted during class. If a unique situation requires that you must keep your cell phone on during class, please see me before class begins.
- Your undivided attention is expected in class. During seminar discussions, students will learn many of the techniques and details of conducting competent research. Consequently, behaviors such as doing work for another class, dozing, etc. are not acceptable.

GRADING:

Ethics Certificate	100
Attendance/Participation	100
Homework Assignments	100
Oral Presentation of Findings	100
IRB Proposal	200
Research Report	400
Total Points:	1000

Final letter grades will be determined using the table below. Note: I do not round grades up or down. There is no curve.

Total Points	Letter Grade
900 - 1000	A
800 – 899	B
700 – 799	C
600 – 699	D
599 and below	F

IMPORTANT!! At the end of every semester, a student approaches me to request that I raise his or her grade (because he or she will be placed on probation, because he or she won't make it into graduate school, because he or she will lose a scholarship, because he or she won't be able to graduate...or

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whatever), and that s/he will do any amount of extra work to have her or his grade raised. Please do not ask!! I have never done this, and I never will. It is not only unethical to change your grade in this way; it is also unfair to the other students in our class.

Other Policies:

- **Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days:** If you recognize a specific religious holy day(s), and you intend to observe a religious holy day(s) that will occur during our regular class day/time, then please let me know in writing prior to your absence.
- **Disabilities:** “Angelo State University is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation. Persons with disabilities which warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Affairs Office (325 942-2047), Suite 112 in the Houston Harte University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to their being implemented.. The Office of Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Office of Student Affairs, University Center, Room 112 at (325) 942-2047 or (325) 942-2211 (TDD/FAX) or by e-mail at studentservices@angelo.edu to begin the process. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.”
- **Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's information as though it was your own, and it is an **extremely serious offense**. If you use the words *or ideas* of another person--whether from a book, journal, magazine, newspaper, business publication, broadcast, speech, electronic media, or any other source--you must acknowledge that source. Plagiarism (including self-plagiarism) will result in a failing grade. It does not matter if you plagiarized intentionally or unintentionally—either way it is plagiarism and will be dealt with accordingly.

According to Angelo State University policy, academic honesty is expected on all work. The Department of Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work adheres to the academic honesty statement as set forth in the Angelo State University Student Handbook (<http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/code-of-student-conduct/>). Academic dishonesty violates the Student Honor Code and will result in a failing grade for this course. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in their academic work is subject to disciplinary action. So, please, for your own sake, do your own work and don't cheat!

There are several great tutorials that you can access online to test your knowledge on what constitutes plagiarism. They're fun! Give them a try. They can be found here: http://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php.”

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Course Schedule

Aug – Sep

Where do Research Ideas Come From?

Asking Empirical Questions

Literature Review: Library & Interlibrary Loans

Drafting Hypotheses & Operational Definitions

In Class Presentations of Proposed Research Seminar Project

Experimental Design; Create file for Data Entry

CITI Ethics Completion form due by class, Sept. 5

Obtaining Institutional Review Board (IRB) Approval

October

IRB Document Due

How to Recruit and Treat Participants; Keeping Records via Sona-Systems

Begin Collecting Data

Writing an Introduction

Writing a Method Section

November

Analyzing & Interpreting Your Data

Writing a Results Section; Figures and Tables

Writing a Discussion Section

Writing an Abstract

December

Student PowerPoint Presentations

Individually Written Research Report Due –

Thursday, Dec 12th, 9:30am

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Syllabus Statement Fall 2019

Title IX at Angelo State University:

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

Online:	www.angelo.edu/incident-form
Face to Face:	Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
Phone:	325-942-2022
E-Mail:	michelle.boone@angelo.edu

Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State's policy please visit: www.angelo.edu/title-ix.