Instructor: Dr. Teresa (Tay) Hack  
Email: tay@angelo.edu  
Office Hours by Email: every day, including weekends

Course Information

Course Description
This course is designed to give students practical experience in the scientific process by choosing a social psychological topic of their interest, conducting a background literature review, completing an online research ethics training, completing an IRB application, gaining practice with statistics, and writing a research proposal 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. The focus of this course is for students to be active learners and to find the necessary resources to complete the assignments. This is a valuable skill that can apply to life both in and out of college.

Course Credits
3

Prerequisite Courses
PSY 2321 and PSY 3321.

Prerequisite Skills
Accessing and using the statistics program SPSS, accessing and using Blackboard, accessing and using ASU Library resources, and proficiency with Microsoft Word are expectations of this course.
Program Outcomes
Upon completion of the program of study for this course, the graduate will be prepared to:

Student Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcome</th>
<th>Assignment(s) or activity(ies) validating outcome achievement:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Learn Research Ethics</td>
<td>CITI online ethics certificate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communicate in written form using APA format</td>
<td>Writing an IRB application, and writing a research paper in APA format</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demonstrate a critical analysis of research</td>
<td>Gain practice analyzing data using appropriate statistical tests</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conduct literature review</td>
<td>Conduct article reviews related to the student’s research</td>
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Course Delivery
This is an online 16-week course with learning resources and materials posted in Blackboard. Students are expected to seek the necessary sources and resources to complete the assignments. If there are questions, then I will be here to help guide you. You can always email me your questions, and/or I can set up a Zoom meeting if you wish.

Required Texts and Materials
No required text. However, students might consider the recommended Flatworld textbook by Anthony Price, *Research Methods in Psychology: Core Concepts and Skills*.

Recommended Texts and Materials
Students in this class may find the following to be helpful as a guide for writing assignments: 6th edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*.
Technology Requirements
To successfully complete this course, students need to have access to Blackboard, SPSS, and Microsoft Word.

Communication
I will try to respond to emails within 24 hours during working hours Monday through Friday. Weekend messages may not be returned until Monday. All course communication will be done exclusively through your ASU email address. Check frequently for announcements and policy changes.

Grading

Evaluation and Grades
Course grades will be determined as indicated in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Percent/Points of Total Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introductions</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choosing Topic</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethics Certificate</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Forms (recruitment ad, consent form, etc.)</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRB Proposal</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics Homework</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specifying Study Statistical Analysis</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turning in Draft of Any Section of Paper</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Research Proposal</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td><strong>1500</strong></td>
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</table>

Grading System
Course grades will be dependent upon completing course requirements and meeting the student learning outcomes. No curve. The following grading scale is in use for this course:

- A = 1350-1500 points
- B = 1200-1349 points
- C = 1050-1199 points
- D = 900-1049 points
- F = 0-899 points
Teaching Strategies

Students are expected to be “active learners.” It is a basic assumption of the instructor that students will be involved discovering, processing, and applying the course information using peer-review journal articles, researching additional information and examples on the Internet, and discussing course material and experiences.

Assignment and Activity Descriptions

A. **Introductions on Blackboard (50 points).** Students are asked to introduce themselves to the class and to tell a little bit about themselves and their interests. The specific instructions for your introductions are listed on Blackboard and you will have to the Friday of the first week to complete your introduction and respond to another classmate.

B. **Research topic selection process (50 points).** Students will be assigned to groups of three and will choose a research topic that they will post on Blackboard Discussion Board for feedback from the instructor and fellow students in the class.

C. **Ethics certification (100 points).** 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](https://citiprogram.org) and register. There are step by step instructions for accessing the training in a pdf on our class website. **You will need to complete the course “Human Subjects – Social & Behavioral Research – Basic/Refresher.”**

D. **Completing Study Forms (300).** Students will complete six different forms that will be used in their study. These include, study design, recruitment ad, survey, demographics, consent form, and debriefing.

E. **Institutional Review Board (IRB) application (200 points).** To gain practice in the research process, all students must individually write and submit their IRB application for their group’s proposed research. In other words, each student must submit her or his own individual work. Students will need to follow all of the instructions for each section on the application form. There is an example IRB application posted under the IRB forms on the course website.

F. **Statistics homework assignments (300 points).** Students will be responsible for completing statistics assignments that will be posted online.
G. **Statistical analysis plan for Study (50 points).** Students to turn in their plan for the statistical analysis they will use for their study. Group members will receive a copy of their data for analysis after data collection is complete.

H. **Turning in a draft of a section of paper (50 points).** Students will be required to turn in a draft of any section of their paper that they choose for feedback. Students will benefit from turning in a draft of a section that they are not sure about.

I. **Final Research proposal (400 points).** Students’ written research paper must adhere to APA style format. Each student must work individually to write her or his own individual research proposal. The body of the paper should be no less than 5 pages, and no more than 7 pages (the title page and reference page are extra), and include the following:

1. A title page formatted according to APA format. Please refer to Purdue OWL and to the guidelines posted on our course Blackboard under APA Writing tab.

2. An introduction that discusses your study. You will want to include a description of your background literature review research articles and explain how those studies fit with your specific project. You will need to discuss each of your articles in some detail explaining what the authors of the articles investigated, how they did, what they found, and how it relates to your study.

3. A method section that includes a section explaining who your participants were, how many you recruited, how you recruited them. For your studies, you will recruit ASU students via Sona (I will post your studies for you). Next you will discuss the survey that you used and who created it. Finally, you will discuss the procedure that participants experienced, step by step.

4. A results section is next. This is where you will discuss the type(s) of statistical test you used to test your hypothesis, and why you chose the test you did.

5. The discussion section is next, and addresses the importance of your study and the implications for your findings. In other words, you will want to discuss why your study is important and who it might benefit.

6. The reference page is last and is on its own page. Please refer to Purdue OWL for how to format references on the reference page.

7. The paper needs to be written in 12-pt Times New Roman font, and have 1-inch margins. I’ve included how-to documents for each section of the paper to help you. You can find these under the menu tab on Blackboard called “How-to Documents.”
POLICY ON LATE OR MISSED ASSIGNMENTS
No late work is accepted unless prior approval is given by the instructor.

Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due by Friday, Aug. 27th</th>
<th>Discussion Board - Introductions</th>
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<tr>
<td>Due by Friday, Sept. 3rd</td>
<td>Discussion Board – Research Topic Choice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Due by Friday, Sept. 10th | Discussion Board - Research Topic and Hypothesis  
Submit on Blackboard - Online CITI Ethics Certificate |
| Due by Friday, Sept. 17th | Discussion Board – Research Design and Recruitment ad |
| Due by Friday, Sept. 24th | Discussion Board - Survey and Demographics |
| Due by Friday, Oct. 1st | Discussion Board - Consent Form and Debriefing |
| Due by Friday, Oct. 8th | Submit on Blackboard - IRB Application |
| Due by Oct. 15th | Submit on Blackboard – Statistics Assignment #1 |
| Due by Oct. 22nd | Submit on Blackboard – Statistics Assignment #2 |
| Due by Oct. 29th | Submit on Blackboard – Statistics Assignment #3 |
| Due by Nov. 5th | Discussion Board - Specify the statistical analysis to be used for your study |
| Nov. 6th - 12th | Work on your stats analyses; work on final paper (refer to how-to docs) |
| Nov. 19th | Submit on Blackboard – turn in a draft from any section of your paper |
| Nov. 20th to 23rd | Submit on Blackboard - Turn in final paper |
| Dec. 3rd to Dec. 10th | Submit on Blackboard - Turn in final paper |
General Policies Related to This Course

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- Angelo State University Student Handbook¹
- Angelo State University Catalog²

Student Responsibility and Attendance

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject to disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The College of Health and Human Services adheres to the university’s Statement of Academic Integrity.³

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

ASU 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 of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website.⁴ The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dallas Swafford
Director of Student Disability Services
Office of Student Affairs
325-942-2047
daallas.swafford@angelo.edu
Houston Harte University Center, Room 112
Incomplete Grade Policy

It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 Grading Procedures for more information.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU’s Academic Integrity policy in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else’s work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one’s own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list.

Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center.

Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day for more information.

Copyright Policy

Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

Syllabus Changes

The faculty member reserves the option to make changes as necessary to this syllabus and the course content. If changes become necessary during this course, the faculty will notify students of such changes by email, course announcements and/or via a discussion board announcement. It is the student’s responsibility to look for such communications about the course on a daily basis.
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
Email: 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.

Student Evaluation of Faculty and Course

Students in all programs are given the opportunity to evaluate their courses and the faculty who teach them. Evaluations are most helpful when they are honest, fair, constructive, and pertinent to the class, clinical experience, or course. Faculty value student evaluations, and use student suggestions in making modifications in courses, labs and clinical experiences.
Angelo State University uses the IDEA (Individual Development and Educational Assessment) system administered through Kansas State University for all course evaluations. The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment administers IDEA for the entire university, online and has established a policy whereby students can complete course evaluations free from coercion.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course
2. Acquiring skills in working with others as a member of a team
3. Developing skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing

End of Syllabus

2. https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/
4. https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/
5. https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures
7. https://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php
8. https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of