Psy 6362
Basic Experimental Methodology
Fall 2021

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Phone: 325-486-6131
Office: A 104A
Office Hours: M: 12pm-4pm, T/Th: 11am-2pm

Course Information

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the methods of empirical science as they apply to psychology. The objective is to provide students with the skills needed to understand original research reports and to design and execute psychological research. Specific topics are centered on the four types of validity and include the nature of data and error, experimental design and control, correlational methods, and some advanced topics.

Course Credits

3

Prerequisite and Co-requisite Courses

None

Prerequisite Skills

Accessing Internet websites, using ASU Library resources, and proficiency with Microsoft Word and/or PowerPoint are expectations of completing this course successfully.

Program Outcomes

Upon completion of the program of study for the I/O Psychology Masters program, the graduate will be prepared to:
Communicate effectively
Behave ethically
Master knowledge and skills in psychology

**Student Learning Outcomes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcome</th>
<th>Assignment(s) or activity(ies) validating outcome achievement</th>
<th>Mapping to Program Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Understand research reports</td>
<td>Chapter Readings, Lectures, Reaction Papers</td>
<td>Master Knowledge and Skills in Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understand the terms and principles involved with psychological research</td>
<td>Chapter Readings, Lectures, Exams</td>
<td>Master Knowledge and Skills in Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Know how to perform a literature review</td>
<td>Chapter Readings, Lectures, Course Project</td>
<td>Master Knowledge and Skills in Psychology, Behave Ethically</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Know how to design research studies</td>
<td>Chapter Readings, Lectures, Course Project, Exams</td>
<td>Master Knowledge and Skills in Psychology, Behave Ethically</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Know how to execute research studies</td>
<td>Chapter Readings, Lectures, Course Project, Exams</td>
<td>Master Knowledge and Skills in Psychology, Behave Ethically</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Know how to analyze data from research studies</td>
<td>Chapter Readings, Lectures, Course Project, Exams</td>
<td>Master Knowledge and Skills in Psychology, Behave Ethically</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Know how to present research results</td>
<td>Chapter Readings, Lectures, Course Project, Exams</td>
<td>Master Knowledge and Skills in Psychology, Behave Ethically, Communicate Effectively</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Course Delivery**

This is a face-to-face course with learning resources and supplemental materials posted in Blackboard.
Required Texts and Materials


Recommended Texts and Materials

There may be additional readings for you to read and discuss throughout the semester. They will be posted on Blackboard for you to download. The syllabus, announcements, supplemental readings, and grades for this class may be found on Blackboard. I encourage students to access this site regularly for important information pertaining to the course.

Technology Requirements

To successfully complete this course, students need to have access to a computer with Respondus LockDown Browser and Respondus Monitor. More information about LockDown Browser and Monitor is included below.

To participate in one of ASU’s distance education programs, you need this technology:

- A computer capable of running Windows 7 or later, or Mac OSX 10.8 or later
- The latest version of one of these web browsers: internet Explorer, Firefox, or Safari
- Microsoft Office Suite or a compatible Open Office Suite
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- High Speed Internet Access
- Ethernet adapter cable required (wireless connections can drop during tests and Collaborate sessions)
- Webcam

Refer to Angelo State University’s Distance Education website for further technology requirements: [Angelo State University's Distance Education Website](#)

Topic Outline

The topics that will be covered in this course can be found in the Course Schedule at the end of the syllabus.

Communication

I must be able to contact all students in this course via e-mail. It is expected that students regularly check their e-mail and Blackboard (at least once a day is preferred). The best way to contact me is via e-mail. Although I answer e-mail regularly (and relatively quickly) throughout the work week (Monday - Friday, 7:30AM to 4:30PM), I respond to it less frequently on
weekends and holidays. During those times, you can expect an answer to your e-mail within 24-48 hours. There may be times during the semester, when I do not have access to email. I will be sure to notify students if such situations occur.

If you are on campus and would like to drop by my office, please feel free to do so. As I am often away from my desk, it is probably best to arrange a specific time in advance. Please email me to do so.

**Written communication via email:** All private communication will be done exclusively through your ASU email address. Check frequently for announcements and policy changes. In your emails to faculty, include the course name and section number in your subject line.

**Virtual communication:** Office hours and/or advising may be done with the assistance of the telephone, Collaborate, Skype, etc.

**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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overlap Presentations</td>
<td>20 (2 presentations, 20 points each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overlap Participation</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overlap Paper Review</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reaction Papers</td>
<td>100 (10 reaction papers, 10 points each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>200 (2 exams, 100 points each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Project/Presentation</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>520</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grading System**

Course grades will be dependent upon completing course requirements and meeting the student learning outcomes.

The following grading scale is in use for this course:

- A = 90.00-100 points
- B = 80.00-89.99 points
C = 70.00-79.99 points
D = 60.00-69.99 points
F = 0-59.99 points (Grades are not rounded up)

Teaching Strategies
Students are expected to be “active learners.” It is a basic assumption of the instructor that students will be involved (beyond the materials and lectures presented in the course) 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 clinical experiences with their peers.

Assignment and Activity Descriptions
*Please note: Rubrics for all assignments and activities are located at the end of this syllabus.

Reaction Papers: Most weeks, you will be asked to read several journal articles related to the topic of the week. These weeks, you will write a 1-2 page reaction paper over the reading material (including the textbook reading assignment). These reaction papers should include your thoughts on the topic generally, and anything specific that strikes you from the readings.

When empirical research articles are assigned, you should write an article summary including: 1) the purpose of the article (what they were studying and why), 2) the methods they used (including advantages and disadvantages of those methods), 3) the results they found, and 4) the conclusions they made based on those results (including whether or not you believe those conclusions are appropriate, given their methodology). Also, discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the study, especially in terms of their methodology. You will turn in the article summary online before class the night we discuss the topic, and as a class, we will also describe/discuss the articles.

Exams: There will be two exams, covering material from the textbook as well as class lectures and discussions. The exams are worth 100 points each. These exams may include multiple choice, matching, true/false, short answer, and calculation items.

Research Project: Each student will conduct an original research project, including deciding on a topic, designing the study, collecting and analyzing the data, and presenting the project. Students will design the study and collect and analyze the data in a group of 2-3 people, which will be assigned by the instructor. More details about this project will be provided in class.

Overlap Deliverables: There will be one hour of overlap between this class and the introductory statistics class for the first year students. During this hour, we will have various presentations and discussions. The second year students will conduct presentations for the first few weeks during this time, in order to impress upon the first year students what to expect in graduate school, and to inform
them about what we are doing/have done in our lab. For the remaining weeks, there will be various student meetings regarding your research projects and the first years’ research projects. You will be graded on your participation and engagement in these meetings. Additionally, you will serve as a reviewer for the literature review produced by a first year student. Also, with regard to Overlap, you will be graded on your participation. This means that you must be present and engaged in overlap activities/discussions.

**Assignment Submission**

Some assignments may be submitted through the Assignments link in the Blackboard site. This is for grading, documenting, and archiving purposes. Issues with technology use arise from time to time. If a technology issue does occur regarding an assignment submission, email me at cstenmark@angelo.edu and attach a copy of what you are trying to submit. Please contact the IT Service Center at (325) 942-2911 or go to your Technology Support tab to report the issue. This lets your faculty know you completed the assignment on time and are just having problems with the online submission feature in Blackboard. Once the problem is resolved, submit your assignment through the appropriate link. This process will document the problem and establish a timeline. Be sure to keep a backup of all work.

**Late Work or Missed Assignments Policy**

**Deadlines:** NO LATE WORK will be accepted in this course. Exceptions will be made only for serious illness or emergency and then only after discussion with the instructor. Please contact the instructor by telephone or email if an emergency situation occurs.

If the student is involved in a university-approved absence, arrangements should be made with the instructor as far in advance as possible to ensure agreement on interpretation and the make additional arrangements for different deadlines.

**General Policies Related to This Course**

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

- [Angelo State University Student Handbook](#)
- [Angelo State University Catalog](#)

**Student Responsibility and Attendance**

Attendance is expected and required to do well in the course. Included in the syllabus is a tentative class schedule. Students should read the pertinent chapter(s) prior to class. Students will be responsible for and tested over both text and lecture material. Consequently, to benefit fully from this course it is important for students to read the text, stay current with the material and attend class. If a student misses a class for a pre-excused or unexcused absence it is the
student’s responsibility to request/obtain material/information (e.g., notes, schedule modifications, announcements, etc.) from a classmate.

Please note that tardiness and early departure is disruptive to others in class; therefore students should appear on time for each class session and remain until class dismissal. In addition, the ringing or use of cell phones is disruptive to others; consequently it is requested that students mute cell phones prior to the beginning of class. Students who violate these class policies may be academically withdrawn from the course.

**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 of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The College of Health and Human Services adheres to the university’s [Statement of Academic Integrity](#).

**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](#). 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  
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu
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\(^5\) for more information.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU’s Academic Integrity policy\(^6\) 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.\(^7\)

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\(^8\) 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.

Course Syllabus Statement on Required Use of Masks/Facial Coverings by Students in Class At Angelo State University

As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University has adopted the mandatory Facial Covering Policy to ensure a safe and healthy classroom experience. Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers the nose and mouth areas. Therefore, in compliance with the university policy students in this
class are required to wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Faculty members may also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom. You are also asked to maintain safe distancing practices to the best of your ability. For the safety of everyone, any student not appropriately wearing a mask/facial covering will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. The student will be responsible to make up any missed class content or work. Continued non-compliance with the Texas Tech University System Policy may result in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct.

Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings/Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug 23</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Aug 30</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sept 6</td>
<td>Labor Day: No Class</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sept 13</td>
<td>Nonexperimental</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sept 29</td>
<td>Surveys</td>
<td><strong>Topic Selection Due</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sept 27</td>
<td>Correlational</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Oct 4</td>
<td>Hypotheses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Oct 11</td>
<td>MIDTERM</td>
<td><strong>1-6</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Oct 18</td>
<td>Experimentation</td>
<td><strong>Proposed Study Procedure Due</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Oct 25</td>
<td>Control</td>
<td><strong>Latest for data collection to begin if NOT submitting to conference</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td>Between-Subjects, Factorial</td>
<td><strong>Revised Proposal Procedure Due</strong> <strong>Alternative Procedure Due</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- **Topic Selection Due**
- **Proposed Study Procedure Due**
- **Latest for data collection to begin if NOT submitting to conference**
- **Revised Proposal Procedure Due**
- **Alternative Procedure Due**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings/Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Nov 8</td>
<td>Within-Subjects, small n</td>
<td>11, 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>**Data Collection Completed if NOT submitting to conference</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td><strong>Overlap: 2nd years’ Research Presentations</strong></td>
<td>13, 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Why we need statistics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Analyzing Results</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Nov 22</td>
<td>Overlap: 1st years’ Research Presentations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Empirical Research Papers Due—No Methods class</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Nov 29</td>
<td>Final</td>
<td>7-16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

1. Gaining a basic understanding of the subject (e.g., factual knowledge, methods, principles, generalizations, theories)
2. Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)
3. Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course

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1. [https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/](https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/)
2. [https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/](https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/)
4. [https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/](https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/)
5. [https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures](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