

PSY 4321

SEMINAR IN PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Spring 2022 - ONLINE



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

Student Learning Outcome By completing all course requirements, students will be able to:	Assignment(s) or activity(ies) validating outcome achievement:
Learn Research Ethics	CITI online ethics certificate
Communicate in written form using APA format	Writing an IRB application, and writing a research paper in APA format
Demonstrate a critical analysis of research	Gain practice analyzing data using appropriate statistical tests
Conduct literature review	Conduct article reviews related to the student's research

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.

Recommended Texts and Materials

For this class, there is no required text. However, 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*. This book will be valuable for those going to grad school. Additionally, you might want to refresh your stats knowledge by using information in the textbook that you used in your previous stats classes, and reviewing the Research Refresher on our Blackboard website.

Technology Requirements

To successfully complete this course, students need to have access to Blackboard, SPSS or Jamovi or R, as well as being able to access 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 Blackboard and 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.

Assessment	Percent/Points of Total Grade
Introductions (Meet & Greet on Discussion Board)	20
Ethics Certificate (this MUST be completed)	50
Study Topic (10 points) and 3 empirical articles as your background literature (20 points per article)	70
Six Study Materials – specific hypothesis, recruitment ad, consent form, demographics, survey, debriefing (50 points each)	300
IRB Proposal	100
Three Statistics Homework (20 points each)	60
Specifying the Correct Statistical Analysis to Use for Your Study	50
Turning in Draft of Each of the Six Section of Paper for Feedback- Title page, Introduction, Method, Results, Discussion, Reference Page (25 points each)	150
Final Research Paper	200
Total Points	1000

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 = 900-1000 points
- B = 800-899 points
- C = 700-799 points
- D = 600-699 points
- F = 0-599 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.** 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.** Students will be assigned to groups 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. **Three empirical articles.** Your group will need to research your topic using the Henderson Library PsychInfo database and come up with 3 empirical articles that you can all use that directly relates to your specific topic. You will need to download each one and save it as a pdf, which you will send to your instructor.
- D. **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. ***You will need to complete the course “Human Subjects – Social & Behavioral Research – Basic/Refresher.”***
- E. **Completing Study Forms.** Students will complete six different forms that will be used in their study. These include, specific hypothesis, recruitment ad, survey, demographics, consent form, and debriefing.
- F. **Institutional Review Board (IRB) application.** 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.
- G. **Statistics homework assignments.** Students will be responsible for completing three statistics assignments that will be posted online.

- H. Statistical analysis plan for Study.** 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.
- I. Turning in a draft of each section of paper.** Students will be required to turn in a draft of each section of their paper for feedback.
- J. Final Research paper.** Students' written research paper **must adhere to APA style format**. Each student must work individually to write her or his own individual research paper. Your paper should be no less than 7 pages, and no more than 9 pages. No abstract is required. Your final paper must include the following:
- a) 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.**
 - b) 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 at least three empirical articles in some detail explaining what the authors of the articles investigated, how they did, what they found, and how it relates to your specific hypothesis.
 - c) A method section that includes a section explaining who your participants were, how many you recruited, how you recruited them. For your ONLINE 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.
 - d) 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.
 - e) 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.
 - f) 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.
 - g) 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

Due Friday, Jan. 21st - Discussion Board - Introductions
Due Friday, Jan. 28th - Submit Assignment on Blackboard - Online CITI Ethics Certificate
Due Friday, Feb. 4th - Discussion Board – Study Topic, and 3 empirical articles (pdfs)
Due Friday, Feb. 11th - Discussion Board – Specific Hypothesis, Recruitment ad, Survey
Due Friday, Feb. 18th - Discussion Board – Demographics, Consent Form, Debriefing
Due Friday, Feb. 25th - Submit Assignment on Blackboard – Turn in IRB Application
Due Friday, March 4th - Submit Assignment on Blackboard – Statistics Assignment #1
Due Friday, March 11th – Submit Assignment on Blackboard – Statistics Assignment #2
Due April 1st – Submit Assignment on Blackboard – Statistics Assignment #3
Due April 8th - Submit on Blackboard - Specify the statistical test to be used for your study
Due April 15th - Submit on Blackboard – Turn in draft of Title Page and Introduction
Due April 22nd – Submit on Blackboard – Turn in draft of Method and Results
Due April 29th – Submit on Blackboard – Turn in draft of Discussion and Reference Page
May 6th - May 13th – Submit on Blackboard - Turn in final paper any time during this time

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](#)¹
- [Angelo State University Catalog](#)²

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 of 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
dallas.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](#)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.

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

¹ <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/>

² <https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/>

³ <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php>

⁴ <https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/>

⁵ <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures>

⁶ <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php>

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>