

# Research Methods

PSY 6314.DF1

Spring 2022



---

**Instructor:** Dr. Brittany S. Draper

**Email:** [brittany.draper@angelo.edu](mailto:brittany.draper@angelo.edu)

**Phone:** 325-486-6123

**Office:** Academic 201E

**Office Hours:** 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Tuesday & Thursday (virtual)  
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Monday & Wednesday (virtual)  
Not on campus Monday, Wednesday, or Friday  
No office hours on Friday

## Course Information

### Course Description

This course involves an in-depth study of non-experimental, quasi-experimental, and true experimental (or randomized) designs focusing on advantages and disadvantages of each. Special emphasis is placed on how the various research designs are related to generalized causal inference and the common misinterpretations connected with these inferences and associated statistical analyses.

Representative topics include:

- Ethical concerns in research
- Experimental design
- Data collection techniques
- Data entry and analysis using SPSS

### Course Credits

This course is worth 3 credit hours (3-0).

### Prerequisite and Co-requisite Courses

None

### Prerequisite Skills

Accessing Internet websites such as Blackboard and ASU email, and proficiency with Microsoft Word and/or PowerPoint are expectations of this course.

## Student Learning Outcomes

<b>Student Learning Outcome</b> By completing all course requirements, students will be able to:	<b>Assignment(s) or activity(ies) validating outcome achievement:</b>
Be able to understand basic non-experimental design	Chapter Readings Quizzes
Be able to understand basic quasi-experimental design	Chapter Readings Quizzes
Be able to understand basic experimental design	Chapter Readings Quizzes
Be able to evaluate a research design to determine its adequacy	Research Paper Critique
Be able to conduct basic analysis of data relevant to each design using SPSS	Chapter Readings Analysis Assignments

## Course Delivery

This is an online course offering. This course will be delivered online via [Blackboard<sup>1</sup>](#) and the course can be accessed using [ASU's Blackboard Learning Management System](#). All of the online portions of this course are important to your success as a student in this class in helping you achieve the student learning outcomes and a successful grade in this course.

## Required Texts and Materials

1. Sommer, R. & Sommer, B. (2002). *A Practical Guide to Behavioral Research: Tools and Techniques*. (5th Ed.) Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press
2. Aspelmeier, J.E. & Pierce, T. W. (2015). *SPSS: A User-Friendly Approach for Version 22*. New York, NY: Worth Publishers

## Technology Requirements

To successfully complete this course, students need SPSS to complete this analysis assignment. SPSS is available to all students via Citrix in both the MCS lab and Library Commons. You should be able to find the programs by going to "Start", "All Programs", "Citrix Applications" and then

"SPSS". Students without access to ASU computer labs or SPSS will need to purchase a 6 month rental of [IBM SPSS Statistics Base Gradpack 26 for Windows<sup>2</sup>](#).

**Testing with LockDown Browser:** In order to complete the exams and quizzes, you must have the Lockdown Browser on your computer. Go to blackboard to the "technology support" tab and follow the instructions to download the browser. Once it's downloaded onto your computer, double-click on the icon in order to connect to blackboard. Login to Blackboard and click on a quiz or exam to complete. Select "no" for the password (note: if you can't get past this point, something is wrong – the quizzes/exams are password protected, but you will NOT be given the password). Once you select no you should be able to proceed with the quizzes/exams.

**\*\*If you have any problems downloading lockdown browser, please contact IT (942-2911) as soon as possible to resolve technological issues so you do not miss the deadlines for these assignments. Not having the Lockdown browser downloaded in time to complete assignments will result in zeros for any assignments not completed in time.**

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

## Topic Outline

Week 1	Chapter 1 (Sommer, Multimethod Approach) Chapter 2 (Sommer, Ethics in Behavioral Research) Chapter 8 (Sommer, Interview) Chapter 9 (Sommer, The Questionnaire) Chapter 10 (Sommer, Attitude and Rating Scales)
Week 2	Chapter 13 (Sommer, Case Study) Chapter 16 (Sommer, Standardized Tests and Inventories) Chapter 17 (Sommer, Sampling)
Week 3	Chapter 6 (Sommer, Experimentation)
Week 4	Chapter 18 (Sommer, Descriptive Statistics) Chapter 2 (Aspelmeier, Basic Operations) Chapter 5 (Aspelmeier, Describing Distributions)
Week 5	Chapter 19 (Sommer, Inferential Statistics)

Week 6	Chapter 7 (Aspelmeier, Comparing Means in SPSS (t-Tests)) Chapter 8 (Aspelmeier, One-Way ANOVA: Means Comparison with Two or More Groups)
Week 7	Chapter 10 (Aspelmeier, Repeated Measures Analysis of Variance)
Week 8	Research Paper Critique

## Communication

I will do my best to respond to email and/or telephone messages within 24 hours during working hours Monday through Friday. Weekend messages may not be returned until Monday.

**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 me, 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.

**Classroom Etiquette:** Please be respectful of others in the course room. When in doubt, use the golden rule! Please do not type in all caps in the course room.

**Questions:** If at any time during the course that you have a question, you can post the question in the "I Have a Question" discussion thread. These questions will be available for other students to view, so if you do not want other students to read them, do NOT post them in this area. Private questions/concerns should be addressed through email.

## Grading

### Evaluation and Grades

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

Assessment	Percent/Points of Total Grade
Quizzes	120 points
Analysis Assignments	70 points
Research Paper Critique	60 points
Total	250 points

### 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 = 225-250 points

B = 200-224 points

C = 175-199 points

D = 150-174 points

F = 0-149 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

**Quizzes:** Four (4) quizzes will be posted on Blackboard, each worth 30 points (120 points total, 48% of total grade). Each quiz consists of 30 T/F statements. You will have until Sunday of each week to complete each quiz by 11:59 p.m., and each quiz can only be taken once. **You may use your textbooks and/or notes on the quizzes. Each quiz will have a timer set for 1 hour. Each quiz will be force completion, so once you start a quiz, you must finish it.**

**Research Paper Critique:** One (1) research paper critique will be completed during the term, and the critique is split into two assignments (part 1 and part 2). Each submission for the assignment is worth 30 points (60 points total, 24% of total grade). Students are expected to read a research paper provided by the instructor and complete the Research Paper Critique forms. This activity reflects what we learn from each chapter in order to help students develop an ability to critically read and understand research papers. Critique forms and research paper are available on Blackboard. The due dates/times for the critique assignments are noted on the course calendar.

**Analysis Assignments:** There will be three (3) statistical analysis assignments using SPSS. The first two assignments will be worth 20 points, and the third assignment will be worth 30 points (70 points total, 28% of total grade). The questions for each assignment are available on the Blackboard. Due dates/times are noted on the course calendar.

## Assignment Submission

All assignments MUST 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 [brittany.draper@angelo.edu](mailto:brittany.draper@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**

No late work will be accepted. The correct answer(s) will be provided by the instructor soon after each assignment is closed, therefore any submission after the due date will be considered invalid automatically.

### **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<sup>3</sup>](#)
- [Angelo State University Catalog<sup>4</sup>](#)

### **Student Responsibility and Attendance**

**Online:** This class is asynchronous, meaning you do not have to be on-line at a certain time. There are readings which you will have to complete to be able to adequately participate in individual and group assignments. In order to complete this course successfully, you do have to participate in all course activities i.e. discussion boards, course projects, reflective logs, etc. Students are expected to engage in course activities and submit work by due dates and times. The hope is that students will make substantive contributions which reflect integration of assigned materials as well as any outside readings as appropriate. Scholarly contribution is an expectation. For planning purposes, this class will probably require a minimum of 6-9 study hours per week on average.

### **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<sup>5</sup>](#).

### **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](mailto:ADA@angelo.edu). For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the [Student Disability Services website](#).<sup>6</sup> 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](mailto: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](#)<sup>7</sup> for more information.

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU's [Academic Integrity policy](#)<sup>8</sup> 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](#).<sup>9</sup>

## **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](#)<sup>10</sup> 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](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form)

Face to face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

Phone: 325-942-2022

Email: [michelle.boone@angelo.edu](mailto: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](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix).

## Course Schedule

Week/Date	Topic/Assignments/Assessments DUE
<b>Week 1: January 18 – 23</b>	<b>Welcome!</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review Welcome! page</li><li>• Review Course Syllabus and ASU Honor Code. Select "Mark Reviewed" to agree to terms of the course and ASU's policies and access course content.</li><li>• Quiz 1 (chapters 1 &amp; 2)</li><li>• Quiz 2 (chapters 8, 9, &amp; 10)</li></ul> Both quizzes will be available from 1/18/22 at 8:00 am - 1/23/22 at 11:59 pm*
<b>Week 2: January 24 – 30</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quiz 3 (chapters 13, 16, &amp; 17)</li></ul> Available from 1/24/22 at 8:00 am - 1/30/22 at 11:59 pm
<b>Week 3: January 31 – February 6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quiz 4 (chapter 6)</li></ul> Available from 1/31/22 at 8:00 am – 2/6/22 at 11:59 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research Paper Critique Part 1 Assignment Due 2/6/22 by 11:59 pm</li></ul>
<b>Week 4: February 7 – 13</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Analysis Assignment #1 Due 2/13/22 by 11:59 pm</li></ul>
<b>Week 5: February 14 – 20</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Analysis Assignment #2 Due 2/20/22 by 11:59 pm</li></ul>
<b>Week 6: February 21 – 27</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Analysis Assignment #3 Due 2/27/22 by 11:59 pm</li></ul>
<b>Week 7: February 28 – March 6</b>	
<b>Week 8: March 7 – 11</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research Paper Critique Part 2 Assignment Due 3/7/22 (Mon) by 11:59 pm</li></ul>

\* All due times are 11:59 pm CST, unless otherwise specified

## 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. Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course
3. Learning how to find, evaluate, and use resources to explore a topic in depth
4. Learning appropriate methods for collecting, analyzing, and interpreting numerical information

### End of Syllabus

<sup>1</sup> <https://blackboard.angelo.edu/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.hearne.software/Software/SPSS-Grad-Packs-for-Students-by-%20%20IBM/Pricing?product=SPSS%20Grad%20Packs%20for%20Students%20by%20IBM&curr%20y=USD&region=US&version=Statistics%2BBase%2BGrad%2BPack&class=Student%20&platform>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures>

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing\\_center/academic\\_honesty.php](https://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php)

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/writing-center/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of>