

PSYC 2331.001: RESEARCH METHODS  
Spring

**Instructor:** Amy Roberson Hayes, Ph. D.

Class time: TuTh 9:30-10:50 AM

Classroom: HPR 262

Office: BEP 252

Office Phone: 903-565-5753

Office hours: Monday 12-2, Tuesday 11-12:30 and by appointment

**Required Texts:**

1. Schweigert, W. A. (2012) *Research Methods in Psychology: A Handbook (3rd Ed.)*. Waveland Press.

2. American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

**Course Overview:**

This course will provide an introduction to the basics of collecting, interpreting, writing, and presenting data in the behavioral sciences. Data from a variety of sources such as experimental studies, survey studies, and behavioral observations are considered. Students learn to use and to evaluate critically statistical and graphical summaries of data. They also study techniques of searching the literature and of producing written reports in technical format. Individual projects include oral presentations of data, creating technical graphics, and writing a full, APA-style research paper.

**Evaluation and Grading:**

**Exams:** There will be 2 exams during the semester that will cover information from the lectures and the readings. Each exam is worth 100 points.

**Make-up exams:** Make-up exams will be given under *compelling* circumstances. If you need to make-up an exam, please let me know as soon as possible that you will not be able to take them exam on the scheduled day. Make-up exams will be in the same format as the regular exams, but will be an alternate version of the test (i.e., different questions than the rest of the class got).

**Make-up exams will be taken during the scheduled final exam period.** So, if you are approved to make up Exam 1, you will take an alternate version of Exam 1 during the scheduled final exam time for our class.

**Observation Data Collection Project (Presentation):** You will work with a group to collect observational data and create a PowerPoint presentation to be given in class. A full description of the project is posted on Canvas.

**Survey Research Project (Paper):** Electronic submission, due Tuesday, April 28 by 5 PM to Canvas. You will be asked to write an 8-10 page, APA style paper about a research topic of your choice. The paper will describe the results of a survey data collection project to be completed during the semester. To aid you in this process, I have created assignments that will be due throughout the semester that will help you to gather materials, organize, and write your paper. I will give you written feedback for each of these intermediate assignments, and they will count as part of your assignments grade.

**Assignments:** Class participation is extremely vital to your success in this class. We will be working on activities in class and outside of class (homework) that are relevant to each unit of content. Thus, your grade will be affected if you frequently miss class or don't turn in assignments (on time or at all). There are several intermittent assignments that are due throughout the semester that help you get a deeper understanding of the material we cover in class. Many of these assignments are explicitly designed to

make sure that you are making progress on your individual research papers as well as your group observation projects. Thus, your completion of and success on these assignments are a part of your grade.

**Class Attendance:** Because so much of what we will be learning to do is hands-on, class attendance is vitally important to your learning in the class. I will take roll within the first 10 minutes of class. Class attendance will account for 5% of your final grade.

**Class Grade Breakdown:**

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Grade</u>
Exams 1 and 2	45
Observation Project	20
Survey Research Paper	20
Assignments	10
<u>In Class Attendance</u>	<u>5</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Course Policies:**

**Late Papers and Assignments:** I will accept assignments and papers **up to 2 days after the due date**, with a 10% deduction for every day that an assignment is late. Please contact me in advance if you have a problem/extenuating circumstance that will affect your ability to turn in an assignment. If you need to hand in an assignment or paper late due to an illness or other extenuating circumstance, no points will be subtracted as long as you have documentation of your excuse.

WEEK	UNIT	DUE IN CLASS
Jan 14-16	Introduction to scientific research in psychology	Chapter 1 Thurs: Syllabus quiz on Canvas, Evaluating Claims assignment due on Canvas
Jan 21-23	Hypothesis Development	Chapter 3 (p. 50-59), Ch. 4 Thurs: Research question and search terms
Jan 28-30	Reliability and Validity	Chapter 3 (p. 45-49) Thurs: Reading a journal article assignment due online
Feb 4-6	Ethics in Research	Chapter 2, APA Ch.1 (pp. 12-20) Thurs: Finalized Hypothesis for Survey Paper
Feb 11-13	Tuesday: Observational Designs Thursday: Begin APA format	Chapter 10 APA manual Ch. 2, 6 <b>Thurs: Observation Project Variables Due</b>
Feb 18-20	Tuesday: APA Format- finish and review  <b>Thursday: Exam 1</b>	
Feb 25-27	Survey Designs	Chapter 11
March 3-5	Experimental Designs	Chapter 6 & 7
March 10-12	<b>No Class-Spring Break</b>	
March 17-19	Tuesday: Observation Project Work Day Thursday: Writing an Intro	<b>Due Tuesday: Observation Project Data Due</b>
March 24-26	Quasi-Experimental Designs and Single-subject designs	Chapter 8 & 12 <b>Tuesday: Surveys Due</b>
Mar 31-Apr 2	All Week: Observation Project Presentations in Class	<b>Due Tuesday: Presentations</b>
Apr 7-9	Analyzing and Writing about Data	Chapter 5 (all) and 9 (p. 160-161) <b>Due Thursday: Survey Project Data</b>
Apr 14-16	Non-reactive Designs and Discussion Sections	Ch. 9 & 13
Apr 21-23	Tuesday: Wrapping up your Papers <b>Thursday: Exam 2</b>	
April 28	<b>Research Proposal Paper Due on Canvas by 5 PM</b>	Due: Final Research Papers

## **University Policies:**

### **UT Tyler Honor Code**

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

#### **Students Rights and Responsibilities**

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: <http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

### **Campus Carry**

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

### **UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University**

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors.

Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products.

There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit [www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free](http://www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free).

### **Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies**

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. (For Fall, the Census Date is Sept. 12.) Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date (Sept. 12th) is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

### **State-Mandated Course Drop Policy**

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability/Accessibility Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

#### **Student Absence due to Religious Observance**

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester. Revised 05/17

#### **UT Tyler Resources for Students**

- UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), [writingcenter@uttyler.edu](mailto:writingcenter@uttyler.edu)
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), [tutoring@uttyler.edu](mailto:tutoring@uttyler.edu)
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.

#### **Student Standards of Academic Conduct**

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

i. "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:

- copying from another student's test paper;
- using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes". The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
- misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

- ii. "Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit.
- iii. "Collusion" includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.
- iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.