

PSYC 4345: Addressing Pressing Problems in a Diverse World

Course Facilitator:

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Course Creator:

Dr. Amy Hayes

Course Overview: This 7-week capstone course in the BAAS professional core enables students to analyze and share information about pressing problems through data representing variability in society. Students refine their skills in collecting data, critical thinking, analyzing data, and presenting it in different ways to appropriately represent variance in our society. Students are encouraged to bring in pressing problems from their workplace.

Course Prerequisite: Taken in the last two semesters of degree.

Last day to Withdraw from the course: September 25, 2026

Student learning outcomes:

The learner will:

- 1) Examine theoretical aspects of difference and the value of multiple perspectives
- 2) Explore foundational data collection strategies
- 3) Refine critical thinking skills while analyzing data
- 4) Expand strategies for presenting data about diversity in society in clear and concise ways

Modules 1 (Week 1): Looking at diversity in society

Theoretical readings related to diversity and exploring different people groups

Readings on the different types of data

Module 2 (Week 2): Presenting Data Accurately to Represent Diversity

Selecting the correct method to represent the story of data

Different methods for presenting the experiences of people

Module 3 (Week 3): Collecting Data

Using Surveys to Gather Information about Diverse Situations

Using Interviews to Gather Information about Diverse Situations

Module 4: (Week 4) Setting Up an Exploration of Diversity

Defining Your Problem

Considering Our Assumptions as Researchers

Finding Credible Sources in Literature

Module 5: (Week 5) Interpreting and Communicating Data

Analyzing the Data

Determining How to Present the Data

Understanding Your Audience

Module 6 (Week 6 & 7): Pulling It Together

Opportunity to Pull Together an Action Research Project

Course Readings:

All of the textbooks and readings for our course are open educational resources that you can access at no cost.

1. A Quick Guide to Quantitative Research in the Social Sciences (Davies, 2020).
<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/a-quick-guide-to-quantitative-research-in-the-social-sciences>
2. Culture and Psychology (Worthy, Lavigne, & Romero, 2020).
<https://www.oercommons.org/courses/culture-and-psychology/view>

Important Course Policies:

Use of Artificial Intelligence: Most assignments in this course will permit using artificial intelligence (AI) tools, such as ChatGPT, Gemini, or Copilot. When AI use is permissible, it will be documented in the assignment description, and all use of AI must be appropriately acknowledged and cited. When using AI tools for assignments, add an appendix showing (a) the entire exchange (e.g., prompts used), highlighting the most relevant sections; (b) a description of precisely which AI tools were used, (c) an explanation of how the AI tools were used (e.g. to generate ideas, elements of text, etc.); and (d) an account of why AI tools were used (e.g. to save time, to surmount writer's block, to stimulate thinking, to experiment for fun, etc.). Using AI tools without appropriate acknowledgment and citation violates UT Tyler's Honor Code, constitutes plagiarism, and will be treated as such.

Late Work Policy: Late work refers to any course assignment that is submitted after the stated deadline. **Late work will be accepted in this class. However, there will be a 10% penalty for each late day.** Practically, this means that you will not receive credit for an assignment if you submit it after 10 or more days.

Assignments:

Reading Reflections: 20%

Module Interactions: 20%

Module Implementation Activities: 30%

Plan for Action Research Project: 30%

Grading Scale:
90 or above: A
80 – 89.99: B
70 – 79.99: C
60 – 69.99: D
Below 60: F

Description of Major assignments:

Reading Reflections: Each module will have a prompt where you reflect on what you have learned. These reflections will require you to pull together prior knowledge with what you have learned in this module. It will also require you to consider how this could be implemented in your current workplace or your desired position.

Module Interactions: For each module you will be required to interact with your colleagues, in the workforce, and/or the instructor to explore multiple perspectives of a topic.

Module Implementation Activities: For each module, you will practice implementing a skill that will assist you in the creation of your action research plan. This enables you to practice skills in low-risk environments.

Plan for Action Project:

The major project in our course is your Plan for Action project, which gives you the opportunity to identify a problem in either your job or life that you could address by gathering data and information about the problem. The main steps in the project are:

- 1) Identify your problem
- 2) Finding sources that look at the problem from multiple perspectives
- 3) Discussion your population (who would you go to in order to collect data for this problem that shows the multiple perspectives)
- 4) Discuss the type of data you would collect and the most appropriate way to present the data

Course Schedule

Week	Topics	Readings and Assignments
1	Looking at diversity and data	Davies Ch. 2, Culture Ch. 1 <i>1. Get Started Quiz</i> <i>2. Module 1 Reflection: Introduction Assignment</i>
2	Presenting Data Accurately to Represent Diversity	Culture Ch. 3, Davies Ch. 3 <i>Identifying your Problem Assignment</i>
3	Collecting Data	Davies Ch. 4, Culture Ch. 8

		<i>Exploring Google Tools Assignment</i>
4	Setting Up an Exploration of Diversity	Culture Ch. 13 <i>Finding your Population Assignment</i>
5	Interpreting and Communicating Data	Davies Ch. 6 <i>Interpreting Data</i>
6	Pulling It Together	Davies Ch. 7 <i>Identifying your Audience Assignment</i>
7	Pulling It Together	Presentations of Plans Due Feb. 27 th