

# RESEARCH METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY

COURSE SYLLABUS MENU – CLICK ON A LINK BELOW TO JUMP TO THAT SECTION

[Course Description](#)

[Course Outline](#)

[Instructor Information](#)

[Course Assignments](#)

[Classroom Policies](#)

[University Policies](#)

[Course Information](#)

[Grading Matrix](#)

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS – CLICK ON A LINK BELOW TO JUMP TO THAT ASSIGNMENT'S DISCRIPTION

[Connect Homework](#)

[Exams](#)

[In-and-out of class Participation](#)

[Connect LearnSmart](#)

[Methods Section](#)

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

INSTRUCTOR NAME: Dr. Priya A. Eimerbrink

OFFICE LOCATION: DAL2 225

E-MAIL ADDRESS: [priya.eimerbrink@untDallas.edu](mailto:priya.eimerbrink@untDallas.edu) Please label subject line "Research Methods" in ALL e-mails

OFFICE HOURS: Virtual Wednesday 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM; Tuesday/Thursday 10:30 – 11:30 AM; Thursday 2:30-3:30 PM or by Appointment

*\*Zoom appointments can be scheduled via Calendly\*: <https://calendly.com/eimerbrink>*

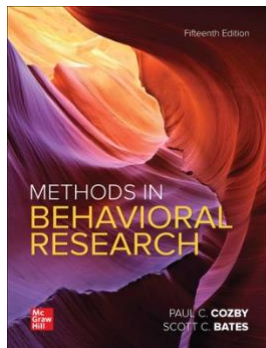
## COURSE INFORMATION

CLASSROOM LOCATION: DAL1 270

CLASS MEETING DAYS & TIMES: Tuesday/Thursday 11:30 – 12:50 PM

COURSE PREREQUISITE: PSYC 1100 & 2310 with a C or better

REQUIRED TEXT: Cozby & Bates (2024). Methods in Behavioral Research (15th edition) New York: McGraw-Hill Education **Pathway 1:** (e-book accompanying **with Connect Plus** software access). ISBN: 9781260883046 **Pathway 2:** e-book, loose-leaf, or textbook **no Connect Plus required** ISBN: 9781264556274



### CHAPTER COURSE READINGS

\* All class readings should be completed prior to the class day they are discussed. That is, I operate under the assumption that all students have read all material and are ready to converse on its contents prior to the class in which the information will be presented.

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course introduces students to psychology research methods and addresses general issues in research methodology, such as experimental designs, survey research, mixed methods, and sampling procedures. This course highlights the way data is collected, analyzed, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of each methodological approach.

The goal(s) of this course for students are as follows:

1. To gain an increased understanding of the application of various scientific research methods in the studying of psychological phenomena.
2. Gain an understanding of how data is collected for the purpose of answering experimentally derived questions.
3. Understand the strengths and limitations of different scientific experimental methods.
4. Learn basic psychological study techniques (i.e. developing a theory, generating hypotheses, designing experiments and analyzing results).
5. Develop the ability to determine appropriate experimental designs based on proposed research questions
6. Students will learn basic psychological study techniques (i.e., identifying theories, generating hypotheses, designing experiments, and analyzing results) and will practice constructing a social sciences "Methods" section.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Understand the ethics of psychological research.
2. Understand the basics of research design.
3. Be able to plan good research.
4. Be able to critically evaluate psychological studies.
5. Be able to demonstrate critical thinking

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## COURSE OVERVIEW

To provide flexibility and accommodate different learning preferences, this course offers **two pathways** for completing assignments. Both pathways share the same lectures, exams, and participation requirements, but they differ in workload and grading emphasis. You have the freedom to choose the pathway that best aligns with your strengths, goals, and learning style, giving you greater control over how you engage with the course material.

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## PATHWAY OPTIONS

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### **PATHWAY 1: STANDARD WITH MCGRAW HILL CONNECT**

- Includes **Connect LearnSmart readings** and **Connect Homework assignments** to reinforce material with regular practice.
- Best suited for students who thrive with structured assignments, interactive learning, and consistent opportunities to earn points.
- **Total Points: 380**

### PATHWAY 2: STREAMLINED WITH EXAM FOCUS

- Excludes all Connect-related assignments.
- Grades are based solely on **exams**, the **Methods Section**, and **in-class participation**.
- Ideal for students who are confident in their test-taking skills and prefer a simplified workload while focusing on core assessments.
- **Total Points: 280**

By offering these pathways, this course empowers you to tailor your learning experience to what works best for you, fostering a sense of ownership and confidence in your academic journey.

### CHOOSING YOUR PATHWAY

1. **Declare Your Path:** Take time to reflect on your strengths, preferences, and goals, then select your pathway by the end of **Week 2** via a Canvas survey. To formalize your choice, you will sign a **learning agreement** that outlines your selected pathway and ensures clarity about expectations and requirements. This decision gives you the power to shape your own success in the course.
2. **Switching Pathways:** If you discover that your initial choice isn't working as well as you hoped, you are welcome to switch pathways **once** during the semester. Switching will involve a **15-point reduction** to your final grade to account for recalibration. This reduction ensures fairness while still allowing you to adapt to the pathway that serves you best. Additionally, you will need to complete any missed assignments from your new pathway to ensure you meet all course requirements. This flexibility is here to support you as you learn and grow.

### HOW TO DECIDE

#### PATHWAY 1: STANDARD WITH MCGRAW HILL CONNECT

- **Why Choose This?**
  - You prefer structured, interactive assignments that keep you engaged and prepared for exams.
  - You enjoy regular feedback and like having multiple opportunities to earn points throughout the semester.
- **Things to Consider:**
  - Requires purchasing McGraw Hill Connect access.
  - Involves more frequent assignments to help build and reinforce knowledge overtime

Component	Points	Percentage of Final Grade
Connect LearnSmart	60 points	15.80%
Connect Homework	40 points	10.50%
Exams (3, drop lowest)	200 points	52.60%
Methods Section	50 points	13.20%
In-Class Participation	30 points	7.90%
<b>Total</b>	<b>380 points</b>	<b>100%</b>

### PATHWAY 2: STREAMLINED WITH EXAM FOCUS

- **Why Choose This?**
  - You are confident in your ability to independently master material through lectures and self-study.
  - You prefer a lighter workload that allows you to focus deeply on exams and major projects.
- **Things to Consider:**
  - Relies heavily on exam performance, so strong test-taking skills and time management are key.
  - Offers fewer assignments, giving you more flexibility in your schedule.

Component	Points	Percentage of Final Grade
Exams (3, drop lowest)	200 points	71.40%
Methods Section	50 points	17.90%
In-Class Participation	30 points	10.70%
<b>Total</b>	<b>280 points</b>	<b>100%</b>

### GRADING MATRIX

Component	Pathway 1 (Standard)	Pathway 2 (Streamlined)
Connect LearnSmart	60 points (Top 10 assignments)	<b>Not Included</b>
Connect Homework	40 points (Top 20 assignments)	<b>Not Included</b>
Exams	200 points (Three exams, drop one)	200 points (Three exams, drop one)
Methods Section	50 points	50 points
In-Class Participation	30 points	30 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>380 points</b>	<b>280 points</b>

Letter Grade	Pathway 1 (Standard - 380 pts)	Pathway 2 (Streamlined - 280 pts)
A	342-380	252-280
B	304-341	224-251
C	266-303	196-223
D	228-265	168-195
F	0-227	0-167
<b>Total Points Possible</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>280</b>

You will not be graded on a curve. Grades are assigned based on individual performance based on **points earned**. **I make it a policy not to "bump" any final grade up to the next higher grade.** Please do not ask me to do otherwise, this includes asking for "extra credit."

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## COURSE EVALUATION METHODS

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

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### CONNECT LEARNSMART READINGS ASSIGNMENTS - 60 Points (Pathway 1)

LearnSmart is an interactive text designed to help you review the material learned in each chapter. The LearnSmart system continually adjusts to your level of content mastery:

- Each assignment will appear in a content folder corresponding to the chapter it should ideally be completed in.
- All Connect LearnSmart Reading Assignments must be completed the day before the exam in which its material corresponds with is occurring. For example, Connect LearnSmart Assignments for chapters 1-4 are due **February 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM**. However, **I would recommend completing assignments on a weekly basis.** I have supplied a course outline (see above) with additional due dates to help keep you on track.
- Each chapter on average will take approximately 30 minutes to 75 minutes to complete and will include between 30-75 questions. Based on your comprehension, these readings can take a significant amount of time. As such, I would suggest not waiting till the last minute to complete these assignments.
- Scores are assigned based on the percentage of mastery for each assignment.
- Each LearnSmart Reading Assignment will be worth 6 points. There are 11 chapters so I will count your top 10 LearnSmart Assignments towards this grade.
- As due dates are explicitly listed in the syllabus with ample time to complete each assignment, **THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTLY NO MAKE UPS OF LEARN SMART ASSIGNMENTS.** No exceptions!

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### CONNECT HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS – 40 POINTS (Pathway 1)

Homework Assignments are designed to allow students to interact with chapter material and can help indicate possible concepts or topics that may require additional study prior to the exam.

- Each Connect Homework Assignment will appear in a content folder corresponding to the chapter it should ideally be completed in.
- All Connect Homework Assignments must be completed the day before the exam in which its material corresponds with is occurring. For example, Connect Homework Assignments for chapters 1-4 are due **February 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM**. However, **I would recommend completing assignments on a weekly basis.** I have supplied a course outline (see above) with the additional due dates.
- Each Connect Homework Assignment will contain 10-20 questions.
- You will be given unlimited time to complete the Connect Homework Assignments and may work in groups with your fellow classmates if you so choose.
- You will receive only one opportunity to take your Connect Homework Assignments (so DO NOT exit out of the Connect Homework Assignment once started).
- The Connect Homework Assignment will be worth 2 points each. There are 20 Connect Homework Assignments I will count towards this grade.
- Scores will be assigned based on how many correct answers were selected.

- As due dates are explicitly listed in the syllabus with ample time to complete them, **THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTLY NO MAKES OF CONNECT HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS.** No exceptions!

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**EXAMS – 100 POINTS APIECE FOR 200 POINTS TOTAL (Pathway 1 & Pathway 2)**

Students will have three formal opportunities throughout the semester to demonstrate their knowledge and ability to critically think about and apply class material. All exams will be non-comprehensive, in-class and will cover material from class lectures, the textbook, audio/visual media, exercises, and class discussions. Each exam will cover 3-4 chapter, be worth 100 points, and will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and or/long essay questions.

Students may drop their lowest test score. Grades will be posted on **Canvas** and you will need to have access to your account. ***I will not e-mail individual grades to students for security reasons.*** It will be your responsibility to obtain access to your grades. Students who wish to find out what questions they missed on examinations may meet with me in my office (***I encourage all of you to do this!***). You are expected to be in class and on time for exams. **If a student is tardy the day of an examination, he or she will not be permitted to take the exam if any class member has already turned in a completed exam.** Please be sure to arrive **on time.**

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**IN-AND OUT-OF CLASS PARTICIPATION – 30 POINTS (Pathway 1 & Pathway 2)**

An additional 30 points will be assigned for participation in class discussion questions (via the i>Clicker2) or through in or out-of-class participation. Participation points will be based on the percent of participation. For example, only students who participate 100% of the time, will receive the full 30 points. Students who participate 90% of the time will receive 27 points, and so forth. ***There will be no “make-ups” for class participation (for any reason)***

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**METHODS SECTION – 50 POINTS (Pathway 1 & Pathway 2)**

To help you interact with the different study methods we will be covering over the course of the semester, each student will be required to complete a methods section of a formal research project proposal for a research study they would want to conduct in the future. – Due 5/1

All papers must be 5-7 pages, double spaced, in times new roman font and formatted using APA guidelines. Formal grading rubrics will be posted in Canvas. **Papers MUST BE turned in via canvas by 11:30 AM on the specific due date and a hard copy of your paper must be brought to class.** ABSOLUTLY NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED, OR PAPERS NOT SUBMITTED THROUGH CANVAS AS SPECIFIED!

## COURSE OUTLINE

"As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated via Canvas and/or Zoom." - Dr. Eimerbrink

Week	Date	Day	Topic	Reading	Assignments	Pathway
1	Jan. 14	Tuesday	Introduction to Class	Syllabus	None	All Students
	Jan. 16	Thursday	Scientific Understanding of Behavior	Chapter 1	None	All Students
2	Jan. 21	Tuesday				
	Jan. 23	Thursday	Where to Start	Chapter 2	None	All Students
3	Jan. 28	Tuesday				
	Jan. 30	Thursday	Ethics in Behavioral Research	Chapter 3	None	All Students
4	Feb. 4	Tuesday				
	Feb. 6	Thursday	Fundamental Research Issues	Chapter 4	None	All Students
5	Feb. 11	Tuesday				
	Feb. 13	Thursday	Catch-up/Review Day	None		All Students
6	Feb. 18	Tuesday	<b>Exam #1 - In Class</b>	Chapters 1-4	<b>Pathway 1:</b> Connect Homework & LearnSmart Exam 1 Material due by <b>11:30 AM, Feb. 18</b>	All Students
	Feb. 20	Thursday	Paper Topic Methods Section Ideas (No Class)	None	<b>Pathway 1 &amp; Pathway 2:</b> Submit via Canvas by <b>11:59 PM, Feb. 23</b>	All Students
7	Feb. 25	Tuesday	Measurement Concepts	Chapter 5	None	All Students
	Feb. 27	Thursday				
8	Mar. 4	Tuesday	Observational Methods	Chapter 6	None	All Students
	Mar. 6	Thursday				
9	Mar. 9-13	<b>Spring Break (No Classes)</b>				
10	Mar. 18	Tuesday	Survey Research	Chapter 7	None	All Students
	Mar. 20	Thursday				
11	Mar. 25	Tuesday	Experimental Design	Chapter 8	None	All Students
	Mar. 27	Thursday				
12	Apr. 1	Tuesday	Catch-up/Review Day	None		All Students
	Apr. 3	Thursday	<b>Exam #2 - In Class</b>	Chapters 5-8	<b>Pathway 1:</b> Connect Homework & LearnSmart Exam 2 Material due by <b>11:30 AM, Apr. 3</b>	All Students
13	Apr. 8	Tuesday	Conducting Experiments	Chapter 9	None	All Students
	Apr. 10	Thursday				
14	Apr. 15	Tuesday	Complex Experimental Designs	Chapter 10	None	All Students
	Apr. 17	Thursday				
15	Apr. 22	Tuesday	Single-Case, Quasi, and Developmental Research	Chapter 11	None	All Students
	Apr. 24	Thursday				
16	Apr. 29	Tuesday	Catch-up/Review Day	None		All Students
	May. 1	Thursday	Final Draft Methods Due	None	<b>Pathway 1 &amp; Pathway 2:</b> Submit via Canvas by <b>11:30 AM, May. 1</b> + Bring Hard Copy to Class	All Students
17	May. 8	Thursday	<b>Exam #3 - In class, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM</b>	Chapters 9-11	<b>Pathway 1:</b> Connect Homework & LearnSmart Exam 3 Material due by <b>11:00 AM, May 8</b>	All Students

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## CLASSROOM POLICIES

Below are specific classroom policies

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### HANDOUTS

Course material will be available via Canvas. You are responsible for downloading material if you want it. If you do not own a computer, there are computers available for you to use on campus (e.g., main computer lab). Posted slides are only meant to supplement note taking, not replace it. **Indeed, I expect students to take their own notes given that active note taking aids in better retention and learning of the material.**

Here are some websites that can provide you with information on how to more effectively take notes and study:

- <http://academictips.org/>
- <http://www.rasmussen.edu/student-life/blogs/college-life/how-to-study/>
- <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~acskills/success/notes.html>
- <http://www.how-to-study.com/>

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### E-MAIL COMMUNICATION

When communicating with instructors and other professionals, you are expected to communicate in a professional and formal manner. This includes addressing your audience using their proper title, using proper grammar, and using proper spelling. Indeed, how you deliver your message is often as important as the message itself. Thus, I expect you to communicate professionally when e-mailing me (and to use your grammar and spell-check functions before you send me an e-mail).

**Students are also required to use their UNT-Dallas e-mail account in this class.** The University of North Texas at Dallas has adopted the University email address as an official means of communication with students. I will not send e-mails to alternate accounts. Students are responsible for checking their e-mail regularly.

Important information will be sent via Canvas. With this in mind, you should either routinely log into Canvas or forward your Canvas messages to your e-mails. I will not answer e-mails sent via Canvas. Please send all e-mails to my faculty e-mail address [priya.eimerbrink@untdallas.edu](mailto:priya.eimerbrink@untdallas.edu).

I really like when students read the syllabus. If you have read this far, congratulations. Using the format below (i.e., using an appropriate salutation, labeling your e-mail with the course you are in, using your UNTD e-mail address, etc.), please email me a picture of vacation destination that is either on your bucket list, or a place you visited and absolutely loved by January twenty first and receive two extra credit points added to your final point total. Please do not tell any current classmates or possible future students about this, let them discover it on their own. This ensures it remains a reward for those who diligently read through the syllabus.

### **Example of e-mail expected**

Subject: Research Methods Psychology – Request to schedule a meeting

To: [priya.eimerbrink@untdallas.edu](mailto:priya.eimerbrink@untdallas.edu)

From: [bob.smith@untdallas.edu](mailto:bob.smith@untdallas.edu)

Dr. Eimerbrink,

I am having some trouble with the course material. Could I please schedule a time to meet with you to discuss my current study habits and strategies I could use while studying for the test?

Regards,  
Bob

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### **EXPECTATION FOR OUT-OF-CLASS STUDY**

A general rule of thumb is this: for every credit hour earned, a student should spend 3 hours per week working outside of class during a regular 15-week semester. Hence, a 3-credit course might have a minimum expectation of 9 hours of reading, study, etc. per week for a 15-week semester. Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend a minimum of an additional 9 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, taking exams, doing out-of-class assignments, etc.

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### **STUDENT EVALUATION OF TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS POLICY**

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

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### **ONLINE/ IN PERSON ETIQUETTE**

In any social interaction, certain rules of etiquette are expected and contribute to more enjoyable and productive communication. In person communication, Emails, Discussion Board messages and/or any other forms of written or spoken communication should use proper etiquette (i.e., no writing in all caps (usually denotes yelling), no curse words, and no "flaming" messages (angry, personal attacks).

Racial, ethnic, or gender slurs will not be tolerated, nor will pornography of any kind.

Any violation of etiquette may result in a loss of points or removal from the course and referral to the Dean of Students, including warnings and other sanctions in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Student Rights Responsibilities and Conduct at <http://www.untdallas.edu/osa/policies>. Respect is a given principle in all course communication. Therefore, please be sure to proofread and think about all your written and spoken communication prior to them occurring.

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### **DIVERSITY/TOLERANCE POLICY**

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions in the online environment. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Dean of Students as the instructor deems appropriate.

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### **UNAUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTION POLICY**

All PowerPoint material, assignments, and supplemental classroom information constitute as my intellectual property and as such, should not be distributed or used without my consent.

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## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

Below are specific university policies and procedures

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### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (ADA COMPLIANCE)**

Chapter 7(7.004) Disability Accommodations for Students

The University of North Texas at Dallas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must first register with the Disability Services Office (DSO) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time; however, DSO notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Disability Services Office website at <http://www.untDallas.edu/disability>. You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at UNTDdisability@untDallas.edu or find them on the first floor of the new Student Center Building.

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### **CANVAS LEARNING ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT**

University of North Texas at Dallas is committed to ensuring its online and hybrid courses are usable by all students and faculty including those with disabilities. If you encounter any difficulties with technologies, please contact our ITSS Department. To better assist them, you would want to have the operating system, web browser and information on any assistive technology being used. Canvas course management system's accessibility statement is also provided: <https://www.instructure.com/canvas/accessibility>

**NOTE:** Additional instructional technology tools, such as Turnitin, Respondus, Panopto, and publisher cartridge content (i.e. MyLab, Pearson, etc.) may NOT be fully ADA compliant. Please contact our Disability Office should you require additional assistance utilizing any of these tools.

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### **ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance in the classroom and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience, and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed during our class sessions. Attendance and participation in class is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency.

Attendance/participation for this course is considered when you are present in class. To maintain financial aid award eligibility, attendance must occur before the census date of the session or term of the course. Refer to <http://www.untdallas.edu/registrar> for specific dates. If you are absent/not active in the course, it is YOUR responsibility to let the instructor know immediately, upon your return, the reason for your absence if it is to be excused. All instructors must follow university policy 7.005 covering excused absences; however, it is the instructor's discretion, as outlined in the course syllabus, of how unexcused absences may or may not count against successful completion of the course

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### **INCLAMENT WEATHER AND CLASSES**

In person classes may be affected by campus closures due to inclement weather. Unless otherwise notified by your instructor via e-mail, online messaging, or online announcement, students should assume that assignments are due as scheduled.

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### **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

In order to successfully access the materials in an online or hybrid course, UNT Dallas advises that your computer be equipped with the minimum system requirements.

Canvas Learn 9.1 is the platform software for this course. Canvas Learn supports major web browsers such as Windows Internet Explorer, Apple Safari, Mozilla Firefox, and Google Chrome. However, since the latter two are updated continually, some recent versions may not be compatible. If you experience difficulty accessing or using components of the course, try using Internet Explorer. Also, no matter what browser you use, always enable pop-ups. For more information see:

- <http://www.untdallas.edu/dlit/ecampus/requirements>
- [https://help.Canvas.com/en-us/Learn/9.1 SP 12 and SP 13/Student/040 Browser Support for SP 13](https://help.Canvas.com/en-us/Learn/9.1%20SP%2012%20and%20SP%2013/Student/040%20Browser%20Support%20for%20SP%2013)
- [https://learn.unt.edu/bbcswebdav/institution/BrowserCheck/check\\_full.html](https://learn.unt.edu/bbcswebdav/institution/BrowserCheck/check_full.html)