

# University of North Texas at Dallas

## Summer 2025 Syllabus

<b>Advanced Seminar in Psychology (Capstone) • PSYC 4040 • 3 hrs.</b>			
<b>Department of</b>	Psychology	<b>School of</b>	Liberal Arts & Sciences
<b>Instructor Name:</b>	Dr. Matthew Harrison		
<b>Office Location:</b>	For Summer 2023, my office will be virtual (I will be available on email and canvas, and can talk directly over Zoom during office hours if you email me)		
<b>Office Phone:</b>	(310)709-4880		
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:Matthew.Harrison@untDallas.edu">Matthew.Harrison@untDallas.edu</a>		
<b>Office Hours:</b>	<b>T, W, &amp; Th 12-3; and by appointment</b> <b>Office Hours will be virtual; during Office Hours, I will be available directly on email and Canvas.</b>		
<b>Classroom Location:</b>	Online (and optionally via Zoom!)		
<b>Class Meeting Days &amp; Times:</b>	<b>Online</b> <b>*Optional* Zoom Meetings:</b> <b>Tues 9:00am – 10:00am, Thurs 6pm – 7pm</b>		
<b>Course Catalog Description:</b>	This course is designed for Senior Psychology majors to develop a senior thesis that integrates and applies psychological ideas, theory, and methods in order to complete primary or secondary analysis.		
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	“C” or better in PSYC 1100, 4600, 3100, 3200, and 3210. Required of all Psychology majors. Senior level Psychology majors only.		
<b>Required Text:</b>	<u>Recommended:</u> Martin, D.W. (2007). Doing Psychology Experiments (7 <sup>th</sup> Ed.). Wadsworth/Thomson Learning. ISBN: 978-0495115779 (Available online for free)  <u>Recommended:</u> American Psychological Association. (2019). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (7 <sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, DC. ISBN: 978-1-4338-3215-4		
<b>Access to Learning Resources:</b>	<u>UNT Dallas Library:</u> phone: (972) 780-1616 web: <a href="http://www.untDallas.edu/library">http://www.untDallas.edu/library</a> email: <a href="mailto:library@untDallas.edu">library@untDallas.edu</a> <u>UNT Dallas Bookstore:</u> phone: (972) 780-3652 web: <a href="http://www.untDallas.edu/bookstore">http://www.untDallas.edu/bookstore</a> e-mail: <a href="mailto:untDallas@bkstr.com">untDallas@bkstr.com</a>		

<p><b>Supported Browsers:</b>  Chrome 67 &amp; up  Firefox 60 &amp; up  Internet Explorer 11  Edge 41 &amp; up  Respondus  Lockdown Browser  Safari 10, 11</p> <p><b>Supported Devices:</b>  iPhone  Android  Chromebook  <i>(Tablet users can use the Canvas app)</i></p> <p><b>Screen Readers:</b>  VoiceOver (Safari)  JAWS (Internet Explorer)  NVDA (Firefox)  <i>Note: There is no screen reader support for Canvas in Chrome</i></p>	<p>Getting Help with Canvas:</p> <p>Canvas 24/7 Phone Support for Students: 1-833-668-8634</p> <p>Canvas Help Resources:  Web: Canvas Student Guide  <a href="https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701">https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701</a></p> <p>For additional assistance, contact Student Assistance (Distance Learning):  Founders Hall, Rm 124  phone: (972)338-5580  email: <a href="mailto:distancelearning@untDallas.edu">distancelearning@untDallas.edu</a></p> <p>If you are working with Canvas 24/7 Support to resolve a technical issue, make sure to keep me updated on the troubleshooting progress.</p> <p>If you have a course-related issue (course content, assignment troubles, quiz difficulties) please contact me during office hours or by email.</p>
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### Course Goals or Overview:

<p><u>Overview:</u>  The purpose of the course is to assist students in designing and completing a research project that integrates the focus and support areas of their major. Students will accomplish the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employing research databases to collect information</li> <li>• Refining a valid research question/hypothesis</li> <li>• Design and conduct original research</li> <li>• Employing their knowledge of IRB protocols and APA guidelines</li> <li>• Collecting, analyzing, and expressing data</li> <li>• Writing a final research paper</li> <li>• Presenting the research to both faculty and peers</li> </ul>
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### Course Goals: At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify assumptions underlying theoretical arguments.
2. Identify limitations of theoretical arguments.
3. Identify assumptions underlying particular research methodologies.
4. Identify limitations of particular research methodologies.
5. Understand alternative viewpoints on scientific issues.
6. Describe how theory contributes to psychological knowledge.
7. Compare and contrast major theoretical orientations.
8. Describe major theories in selected substantive areas of psychology.
9. Design and carry out a research project.
10. Critically assess empirical research of others.

11. Summarize current research in the particular area.
12. Be able to identify the critical ethical issues in research such as confidentiality, informed consent, and minimization of risk to subjects.
13. Be aware of various professional codes of research such as the code of ethics from the American Psychological Association.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Core Learning Outcomes	Course Outcomes	Related Coursework
Critical Thinking: Students comprehensively explore issues, ideas, artifacts, and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Students will illustrate effective use of research databases to collect relevant academic articles to explain their research background.</li> <li>•Students will express a meaningful and relevant hypothesis/research question.</li> <li>•Students will effectively analyze and discuss collected data.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Article Critique/Article Summary</li> <li>•Hypothesis/Research Question</li> <li>•Experiment design</li> </ul>
Information Fluency: Students identify, locate, evaluate, and effectively and responsibly use and share information in a variety of contexts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Students will illustrate effective use of research databases to collect relevant academic articles to explain their research background.</li> <li>•Students will complete a formal literature review and research paper following APA guidelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Experiment execution</li> <li>•Data analysis</li> <li>•Results section of research paper</li> </ul>
Written/Oral Communication: Students speak and write to suit varied purposes, audiences, disciplines, and contexts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Students will complete a formal literature review and research paper following APA guidelines.</li> <li>•Students will communicate effective research presentations demonstrating relevance to their peers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Literature Review and Research Paper</li> <li>•Final Research Presentation</li> </ul>
Integrative Learning: Students transfer learning to new, complex situations within and beyond the campus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Students adapt and apply skills, abilities, theories, or methodologies gained in one situation to new situations to solve difficult problems or explore complex issues in original ways.</li> <li>•Students will draw conclusions by combining examples, facts, or theories from more than one field of study or perspective.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Research Paper and Final Research Presentation</li> </ul>

Ethical Reasoning and Moral Development: Students respond to ethical issues, using informed value systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Students will recognize and apply the necessary IRB protocols to their research.</li> <li>•Students will recognize ethical consideration in their research paper and cite sources previously published.</li> </ul>	•Research Paper
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## COURSE SCHEDULE

Assignments are due by 11:59 pm on the day they are due, and should be submitted via Canvas. The schedule is subject to change, as necessary. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated via email or Canvas announcement. Additional readings and activities may be added, these will be noted in Canvas.

<b>Weekly Topics</b>			
<b>Week 1</b>	<b>Tuesday, July 15</b>	<b>Wednesday, July 16</b>	<b>Friday, July 18</b>
Ideas for Psychology Experiments Finding, Reading and Summarizing Research Articles	Assignment 1: Post in the Introduction and Topics of Interest Discussion	Assignment 2: Find a Research Article relevant to your Topic of Interest	Assignment 3: Summarize & Critique the Research Article you found
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Tuesday, July 22</b>	<b>Wednesday, July 23</b>	<b>Friday, July 25</b>
Developing a Research Question Drafting a Literature Review	Assignment 4: Summarize TWO research articles related to your topic of interest	Assignment 5: Propose a Research Question or Hypothesis for your project	Assignment 6: Complete a three paragraph draft of a Literature Review for your project
<b>Week 3</b>		<b>Wednesday, July 30</b>	<b>Friday, Aug 1</b>
Developing a Research Method for your project		Assignment 7: Develop a Research Method for answering your Research Question	Assignment 8: Draft a Methods Section for your project, outlining how you will answer your Research Question
<b>Week 4</b>		<b>Wednesday, Aug 6</b>	<b>Friday, Aug 8</b>
Collection and analysis of data!	Assignment 9: Post the survey or online experiment you designed for your classmates to participate in	Assignment 9: Complete collecting data from your classmates	Assignment 10: Summarize and analyze the data you collected (with the Instructor's help) and interpret the results!
<b>Week 5</b>		<b>Wednesday, Aug 13</b>	<b>Friday, Aug 15</b>
Analyzing and interpreting your results, drafting the Discussion of your project.		Assignment 11: Draft a three paragraph Discussion of your results	Final Paper: Compile and edit all the sections you have already completed into your final Research Paper!

## GRADES

It will be your responsibility to monitor the progress of your course grade by using the grading table provided below. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions about how to calculate your grade. You can use the table provided below to track points you have earned for each assignment. If you have concerns regarding your grade at any point, please contact me as soon as it arises. In addition, it is your responsibility to contact me as soon as possible if you are having difficulty understanding the course material.

Final grades will be determined as follows:

ASSIGNMENTS	TOTAL POINTS	YOUR POINTS	Due Date
Weekly Assignments	60		Ongoing
Final Paper	40		August 15
TOTAL:	100		

Details of the assignments are listed below under the Assignment Policy section

## GRADE SCALE

PERCENTAGE	POINT SCALE
A = 90% and above	A = 90 - 100 points
B = 80 to 89.9%	B = 80 - 89 points
C = 70 to 79.9%	C = 70 - 79 points
D = 60 to 69.9%	D = 60 - 69 points
F = 59.9% or below	F = 0 - 59 points

## University Policies and Procedures

### 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 Disability Services Office [www.untDallas.edu/disability](http://www.untDallas.edu/disability). You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at [UNTDisability@untDallas.edu](mailto:UNTDisability@untDallas.edu).

#### Canvas 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 Instructure Accessibility Statement is also provided <https://www.canvaslms.com/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.

### **Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy**

Student evaluations of teaching effectiveness is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT Dallas. 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 students' evaluations to be an important part of your participation in this class.

### **Assignment Policy**

All assignments will be administered via Canvas. For additional information on final grade percentages and calculations, please see the grade table provided above.

Make-Up Assignments: No make-up activities are allowed without proper documentation (e.g., doctor's note, automobile accident report, funeral announcement, etc.). Additionally, make-ups will not be allowed until your documentation has been verified, which means that documentation must provide a contact name and number. Exceptions will be made for legitimate emergencies at the instructor's discretion (e.g., illness, death in the family), but only if students contact the instructor within 7 calendar days following the missed assignment. Computer problems like crashes or lost/corrupted files are not acceptable emergencies. Be sure to make back-up files of your work. Legitimate make-up work will only be allowed within one week of the missed assignment. If arrangements are not made in a timely manner, I will need documentation (e.g., hospital notice, etc.) explaining the delay. Otherwise, make-ups will not be allowed beyond one week.

### **Exam Policy**

We will have three exams throughout the duration of the course. Assessments are designed to test your knowledge of assigned readings. Exams will cover material from the texts, assigned readings, lectures, and class discussions, and will typically consist of multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay questions. Each assessment will be administered via Canvas. Assessment details (availability and due dates) will be provided in the syllabus calendar and in Canvas.

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to UNT Dallas' Student Code of Academic Integrity for complete provisions of this code [www.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/page\\_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic\\_Integrity.pdf](http://www.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf).

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students.

Web-based Plagiarism Detection: Please be aware that in some online or hybrid courses, students may be required to submit written assignments to Turnitin, a web-based plagiarism detection service, or another method. If submitting to Turnitin, please remove your title page and other personal information.

### **Classroom Policies**

1. Please respect your fellow students (and instructor) at all times, even if you disagree with them.
2. You are responsible for tracking your own grade progress (see course requirements and grade scale above to help you keep track of points earned). If you have questions about your grade come to office hours, make an appointment, or contact me via email.
3. No late work will be accepted unless you have a valid, documented excuse (see guidelines noted above). If you miss an assignment and you have a valid, documented excuse, notify me as soon as possible via email so we can arrange a reasonable time for you to make up the missed assignment.

### **Diversity/Tolerance Policy**

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions in the online environment. However, offensive and 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 that violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Dean of Students as the instructor deems appropriate.

### **Technology Assistance**

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 listed on the first page of the syllabus.

If you experience difficulty accessing or using components of the course, try using Google Chrome browser. If you still experience technical difficulties, first, notify your instructor.

If the problem is still not resolved, call Student Assistance (Distance Learning) at the phone number listed on the first page of the syllabus. Also, no matter what browser you use, always enable pop-ups. For more information see:

- UNT Dallas Canvas Technical Requirements <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10721>  
Canvas Instructure Supported & Unsupported Operating Systems  
<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-107>

### **Artificial intelligence (AI) language models, such as ChatGPT**

Artificial intelligence (AI) language models, such as ChatGPT, may not be used for discussion board posts (which are meant to reflect your own thoughts, opinions, and knowledge) or any assignment which does not explicitly state ChatGPT may be used. However, you may use AI language models (including ChatGPT) for assignments which specifically state that AI language models/ChatGPT is permitted, as long as it is used with appropriate citation. If you are in doubt as to whether you are using AI language models appropriately in this course, I encourage you to discuss your situation with me. Examples of citing AI language models are available at: <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>

- When use of AI language models is allowed, you are responsible for fact checking statements composed by the AI language models.

