Instructor
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Course Description
This course covers the methods for testing hypotheses and building psychological knowledge through research. The course will include examples to demonstrate differences in methods associated with different areas of psychology. You will also learn elements of the American Psychological Association (APA) format for reporting and publishing research results.

Student Learning Outcomes
Specific learning outcomes for students taking this course include:
1. Students will be able to collect, organize, and analyze data from a variety of sources.
2. Students will be able to formulate structured and logical arguments.
3. Students will be able to test hypotheses and make recommendations or predictions based on results.
4. Students will be able to communicate and represent quantitative information and results numerically, symbolically,aurally, visually, verbally, or in writing.

This course will address these learning outcomes by providing students the opportunity to describe the scientific method, describe and differentiate sampling procedures, describe and differentiate research designs, and discuss ethical considerations in psychological research; apply the concepts discussed in lecture to appropriately develop research designs and interpret study findings; and formulate research hypotheses, describe an appropriate research design, present results of data collection, and write it in proper APA style.

Please come speak to me if you are having difficulties with the class or just want additional information. Email is the best way to reach, or you may talk to me before or after class. Class announcements will also be posted on Blackboard and/or sent as a general email to the class.

Course Text and Prerequisites

Required Text
Recommended Text

Course Structure and Requirements

(1) Readings
You are required to read all assigned material *prior* to the class for which it is assigned. Class lecture and activities will be based on the assumption that you have read all of the assigned material. Lectures will cover topics from the readings in greater depth, as well as material not found in the readings. A schedule of assigned readings appears on p. 5 of this syllabus.

(2) Lectures and Attendance
Lectures will be given during the regularly scheduled class meeting times. Attendance will not be taken during lecture; however, attendance and participation at lecture sessions are essential to your success in this course. Moreover, there will be regular exercises given in class for which you must be in attendance to receive credit (see below). If you must miss a lecture for whatever reason, you should get notes from at least one, preferably two, of your colleagues. *I will not provide summaries of lecture materials for absent students.*

Course Evaluation and Grading
There are three components to your evaluation for the course:

(1) Exams
There will be 3 exams in the course. Please note the following dates in your schedule:

- Exam #1: Wednesday, February 15
- Exam #2: Wednesday, April 5
- Final Exam: Wednesday, May 10

Exams will take place in the same classroom as lectures on the dates listed above. The first two exams will cover the material from the respective part of the course. The final exam will be cumulative, but with an emphasis on the third part of the course.

If you miss an exam, you will receive a grade of “0” for that exam. Make-up exams will not be given in this course. However, I will drop your lowest exam grade.

(2) In-Class Exercises
Over the course of the semester there will be several in-class exercises in which you will work in small groups to practice recent material. *If you miss class during an in-class exercise, you will receive a grade of “0” for that exercise. Makeup in-class exercises will not be given in this course. However, I will drop your three lowest in-class exercise grades.*

(3) Assignments
There will be two written assignments for this course. Each must be written in APA format. Below is a brief summary of the assignments; you will receive more detail about each as the semester progresses. Late assignments will NOT be accepted.

**Article Critique:** You will be read a research article (provided by the instructor) and submit a 2-page report analyzing and critiquing the study. The article critique is worth **100 points**.

**Lab Report (Introduction and Method):** You will design your own study. You will generate a hypothesis based on previous literature and develop a design to test that hypothesis. You will then write a research report that includes an Introduction and Method section. Your introduction section should be based on a brief literature review that clearly presents the rationale for your study and the study hypothesis. Your Method section should detail the study design and how data will be collected. This lab report is worth **100 points**.

**Grading**

Final grades will be based on the total points accumulated from exams, quizzes, in-class assignments, and writing assignments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Class Exercises</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article Critique</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Report</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Possible</strong></td>
<td><strong>500</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Translating Points Into Letter Grades**

In order to compute your letter grade from the points you earn in the course, I will figure out what percentage of the total points possible you earned. This percentage will determine your final grade. Note: I do not round your percentage points up (e.g., 86.7% is not rounded to 87%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90.0-100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80.0-89.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70.0-79.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60.0-69.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 60.0%</td>
</tr>
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**Course Policies**

**Disability Accommodations**

The University of North Texas at Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (i.e., ADA). Students with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation.
Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed as accommodations are not retroactive. For more information, you may visit the Student Life Office.

**Student Teaching Effectiveness Policy**
The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (i.e., SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be available 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 SETE to be an important part of your participation in class.

**Bad Weather Policy**
On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website [www.unt.edu/dallas](http://www.unt.edu/dallas). Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.

**Academic Integrity**
You are expected to abide by the University’s code of academic integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with University’s policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity for complete provisions of this code.

Although students may discuss paper topics with each other, each written assignment must be an original, independent piece of work. Identical or very similar papers will be considered cheating and dealt with accordingly. Cutting and pasting information from other sources, including the internet, or turning in written assignments originally completed by another person is plagiarism and therefore unacceptable. Papers originally written for another class will not be accepted.

**Electronic Devices**
The use of cell phones and other electronic devices not related to class material is not allowed during class. Make sure that all cell phones are turned off or placed on silent during class. You are welcome to bring a laptop or tablet to class for the purpose of taking notes. However, you may not use those devices for anything else (e.g. playing games, checking email) during class.

**The Syllabus May Change**
The syllabus may change to accommodate the needs of the class and the instructor. You are responsible for all such changes announced in class.
# COURSE OUTLINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | 1/18  | Course Introduction  
Science of Psychology and Scientific Method  
*In-Class Exercise 1 – Hypothesis Generation* | Chapters 1 & 2 |
| 2    | 1/25  | Writing Research Reports  
Ethics  
*In-Class Exercise 2 – APA Style & Ethics* | Chapter 13  
Chapter 3 |
| 3    | 2/1   | Observational Designs  
Survey Research  
*In-Class Exercise 3 – Observational and Survey Research* | Chapter 4  
Chapter 5 |
| 4    | 2/8   | Exam Review *(Article Critique Due)* | |
| 5    | 2/15  | Exam 1 | |
| 6    | 2/22  | Reliability and Validity  
Data Analysis and Interpretation I  
*In-Class Exercise 4 – Descriptive Statistics* | Chapter 11 |
| 7    | 3/1   | Data Analysis and Interpretation II  
*In-Class Exercise 5 – Null Hypothesis Significance Testing* | Chapter 12 |
| 8    | 3/8   | Experimental Designs  
*In-Class Exercise 6 – Experimental Designs* | Chapter 6 |
| 9    | 3/15  | No Class – Spring Break | |
| 10   | 3/22  | Exam Review | |
| 11   | 3/29  | No Class | |
| 12   | 4/5   | Exam 2 | |
| 11   | 4/12  | Repeated Measures Design  
*In-Class Exercise 7 – Repeated Measure Designs* | Chapter 7 |
| 12   | 4/19  | Complex Designs  
*In-Class Exercise 8 – Complex Designs* | Chapter 8 |
| 12   | 4/26  | Quasi-Experimental Design  
*In-Class Exercise 9 – Quasi-Experimental Designs* | Chapter 10 |
| 13   | 5/3   | Exam Review *(Lab Report Due)* | |
| 14   | 5/10  | Final Exam | |