

Experiencing Research in Psychology

PSYC 3200 – Spring 2023 – January 17th – May 2nd

Lecture: Monday/Wednesday – 10:00AM - 10:50AM – COBA 245W

Instructor:	Dr. Erin Austin
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Office Number:	Life Science 302
Office Hours:	By appointment, virtual or in-person
Faculty Profile:	https://www.uta.edu/academics/faculty/profile?username=erinb
Teaching Assistant:	See Canvas

Course Description: This is a practical, project-based course that focuses on laboratory and field experience in designing, conducting, and reporting psychology research. It includes all stages of the research process including the formulation of research hypotheses, review and evaluation of published literature, choice of research design and measurement variables, data collection and analysis, and presentation of results in oral and written reports.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify the appropriate research design and statistical analyses for given research hypotheses and data sets.
2. Locate, accurately summarize, and evaluate bodies of scientific literature in psychology in order to construct an argument.
3. Learn about and understand the purpose of the Institutional Review Board approval process.
4. Learn the appropriate way to write up results given a specific statistical analysis.
5. Use critical thinking to design and conduct basic studies to address psychological questions using appropriate research methods.
6. Demonstrate proficiency in writing research reports and poster presentations following APA Style Guidelines that include an abstract, introduction, methods, results and discussion sections.
7. Demonstrate effective writing skills in various formats (e.g., summaries, critiques, technical reports in APA style) and for various purposes (e.g., evaluating and explaining).
8. Demonstrate effective oral communication skills in various contexts (e.g., group discussion, presentations) and for various purposes (e.g., informing, teaching, explaining, defending, persuading).
9. Demonstrate competence in effectively collaborating with others.

Course Overview and Objective: Students will achieve the learning outcomes listed above by completing a semester-long group project in this course that centers around designing a research study and learning how to write a scientific research manuscript. You will learn to design, conduct, analyze, and present research through hands-on experience. To help students complete this project, there are several smaller assignments. By completing these assignments, you will develop skills in reading and writing scientific research reports in psychological science, including evaluating the methods section of a published paper, reading, and understanding graphical displays and statistical claims about data, and evaluating theoretical claims based on experimental data. In-class experiences will consist of both lectures and group work. This means that other students will be counting on you (and you on them), so please come to class prepared and ready to participate.

Recommended Text and Course Materials: These materials are not required but will be useful resources for this course. Except for the APA manual, all other materials are from PSYC 2300 and 3300.

1. Morling, B. (2020). *Research Methods in Psychology: Evaluating a World of Information* (4th ed.). New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc. Looseleaf ISBN: 978-0-393-89373-1.
2. Gravetter, F.J., & Wallnau, L.B. (2020). *Essentials of Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences* (10th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth. Cengage. ISBN: 978-0-3573-6529-8
3. *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th edition). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association. ISBN: 978-1-4338-3215-4
4. *The UTA Statistics for Psychology SPSS Manual*. This is a fantastic resource for SPSS guidance. It can be purchased at the bookstore.

Technology Requirements:

- You will need access to **Canvas**, **Microsoft Office** (e.g., Word, Excel, Teams), **QuestionPro**, and **SPSS** which is all available with your UTA account.
- **Access to a computer with SPSS statistical software.** SPSS, the statistical software, is available for **free** for all students enrolled at the University of Texas at Arlington through OIT and compatible with PC and Mac operating systems. Additionally, computers are available in the OIT Labs, library computers, and on most Departmental desktops (see UTA.edu for hours of operation). SPSS will be used in the lecture and is required to complete assignments in this course.

Canvas (<https://uta.instructure.com>): Assignments, grades, announcements and additional course materials will be posted on Canvas for this class and most of your other courses at UTA. I recommend checking Canvas on a regular basis as I will update it throughout the semester. If new to Canvas please complete the Canvas Student Orientation training course before starting the course: <https://uta.instructure.com/courses/17157> Canvas support is available 24/7 by calling 1-855-597-3401 or by clicking on the “?” icon on your Canvas Dashboard.

Course Components

Evaluations will be based on a 100-point system, broken down as follows:

Major Requirements	% of grade
Assignments	
Human Subjects Training	5%
Plagiarism Certificate	5%
Research Manuscript	
Draft of Introduction	10%
Draft of Methods	15%
QuestionPro Survey	10%
Cleaned SPSS data file	5%
Draft of Results	10%
Final Manuscript	25%
Participation	
In-class	5%
Research group peer evaluation	10%
Total:	100%

Human Subjects Training (5%): Each student must complete UTA’s Human Subjects Protection (HSP) Training module independently at <https://resources.uta.edu/research/regulatory-services/human-subjects/hsp-training.php>. When you complete this training, you will need to save your certificate of completion. This certificate will have your name on it. You can do this by taking a screen shot, save the webpage as a PDF, or by printing to a PDF. You will upload a copy of this certificate to the assignment submission page on Canvas.

Plagiarism Certificate (5%): Each student must complete UTA’s Library Acknowledging Sources Module and quiz independently at <https://library.uta.edu/plagiarism/>. When you complete this training, you will need to take a 13-item quiz and pass with 70% or higher to earn your certificate of completion. This certificate will have your name on it. You can do this by taking a screen shot, save the webpage as a PDF, or by printing to a PDF. You will upload a copy of this certificate to the assignment submission page on Canvas.

Research Manuscript Students will work in groups to complete a **scientific research manuscript**. In this assignment, groups will design their own scientific research study examining a psychological construct of interest to the group, **conduct the study, clean and analyze data, and report the study** in an APA formatted manuscript. The research must be experimental in nature and must be able to be conducted in an online setting. Each **research study** should have two independent variables and three dependent variables of interest. The following assignments are meant to help students organize and develop their writing as well as achieve high quality work.

- **Draft of Background/Introduction (10%):** This assignment will help you build the introduction of your paper. This section should accomplish two major goals, in this order: 1. Discuss important findings from previous studies that are relevant to your project so that your reader can gauge the current understanding of the topic, and 2. Present your study's major objectives and detailed hypotheses. Examples of strong introductions will be discussed in class and examples will be posted to Canvas. The introduction should be 4-5 pages long and include a reference page. APA style is required.
- **Draft of Methods (15%):** This section should lay out what data you will need to collect to answer your research question and how you will go about collecting these data (the "who, what, when, where, how" of your project). You should use subheadings to further divide this section for clarity: Participants, Materials, Procedure, Data Analysis. The methods should be 3-4 pages long and include a reference page. APA style is required.
- **QuestionPro Survey (10%):** The study your group designed must be able to be conducted in an online setting. Once your group decides how you will study your research questions, you will be a QuestionPro Survey that contains the different study conditions, manipulations, and questionnaires. Prior to data collection, you will submit this survey for review so that any issues can be resolved. QuestionPro surveys must have final approval before any data can be collected.
- **Cleaned SPSS data file (5%):** Once data collection is complete, data will need to be screened and cleaned to prepare for data analysis. Your group will submit the original SPSS data file from QuestionPro as well as the cleaned version of the data file for review so that any issues can be resolved. The cleaned data file must have final approval before data analysis can begin.
- **Draft of Results (10%):** This assignment will help you write the results section of your study. Examples of strong results sections will be discussed, and examples will be posted to Canvas. The results section should be 1-2 pages long. Three criteria for success on this exercise are: (1) a clear description of the results, with appropriate reporting of the statistics in the text, and (2) accurate and appropriate graphs and/or tables of the results. Include graphs of all relevant aspects of the data; use the correct graph type; add error bars where appropriate. All figures should be accompanied by figure legends. APA style is required.
- **Final Manuscript (25%):** The final paper will be the end product of your group's hard work throughout the semester. It should include the following sections, based on APA format: title page, abstract, introduction, method, results, and discussion, reference page, appendices. You will be given feedback on sections of the paper you turn in (introduction, methods and results) throughout the semester. It is imperative that you edit these sections according to the feedback provided. The discussion is the only new section (plus the title page and abstract). In the discussion, be sure to address any results that differ from what was expected. In addition, it is important to speculate as to why your group found a discrepant result. Was it for methodological reasons? Was it because there were flaws in the study? Is there other research that can support your interpretation for the discrepancy? In the discussion, also address limitations and implications of the research. Your paper should include a minimum of 10 distinct references from the psychological literature, covering issues related to your topic. Your paper must be written in APA (7th edition) format, and should be 10-12 pages in length, not including the title page, abstract, references, tables, or figures.

In-Class Participation (5%): Class participation and attendance is required. Throughout the semester you will be applying, in depth, the concepts discussed in lecture and from PSYC 2300 & 3300 while working in groups. As such, you will be expected to come to class prepared, having kept up with the course content. You will be expected to discuss how these concepts apply to the particular project you and your group is are working on, as well as any issues or problems that arise while carrying out the poster and proposal projects. Class participation will be assessed daily via an attendance sheet. You can miss up to four (4) days attendance with no penalty to your attendance grade. There will be no opportunities to make-up missed attendance credit, regardless of the reason, so use your freebies wisely. Students do not need to submit any documentation for missed days of lectures, the first four missed days will simply be dropped, and all subsequent missed days will result in a deduction, regardless of the reason. Unless otherwise noted, attendance is required on project workdays.

Research Group Peer Evaluation (10%): The responsibility of the scientific research poster and research proposal paper must be evenly divided amongst all the members of each group. The peer review process is designed to ensure that each group member is contributing in a meaningful way to the group projects and discussions. After major assignments, each group member will complete a peer evaluation sheet for every other group member. This is a 10-item questions where you will rate group members on a scale from 1 to 5 on how well they engaged in behaviors that facilitate group performance such as attending class and group sessions, cooperation, dependability, contributing to the work in a constructive and meaningful way, and being able to provide and receive constructive feedback. The average peer evaluation score will be given to each individual.

Grading and Evaluation: Final grades will be assigned based on the following points:

Percentage	Letter Grade
90.0 – 100%	A
80.0 – 89.9%	B
70.0– 79.9%	C
60.0– 69.9%	D
< 59.9%	F

Grades: Grading is based on a mastery model. Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources. *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. If you want a specific grade, then you need to put in the effort necessary to obtain said grade.

Course Policies and Important Things to Know

Email: Official communication from UTA to you will come only through your UTA e-mail box. Your UT Arlington email is the official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a UTA email account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using UTA Email is available at [Email Services – Office of Information Technology – The University of Texas at Arlington \(uta.edu\)](#). Please access it regularly, or forward it to your current email address, as your success in college will depend on your ability to respond quickly.

I will communicate with you using Canvas email. To contact me by Canvas email, go to your Canvas inbox (left hand side of Canvas homepage), open a new message, select this course, and then select my name. Using Canvas email will allow me to know which section and group you are enrolled in and I can respond to your question or concern sooner. I will not answer emails sent from personal (non-MyMav) accounts since these are not secure.

I am generally good at responding to student e-mails within 24 hours. If you do not hear from me within 48 hours of your initial correspondence, please feel free to send me a reminder Canvas email. Please keep in mind that I do not answer emails after 6PM (Central Time). I will respond to emails sent after 6PM the following day. If you need assistance or have a question about an assignment, please plan accordingly and ask for help sooner rather than later. It is not guaranteed that I will be available to respond to emails sent within 5 hours of the deadline for any assignment. I do want to help you and answer any questions you may have, so please send your questions to me well ahead of the deadline so I can assist you.

Please keep in mind that I **will not** respond to your email if it relates to the following:

- Questions regarding information that can be found on the syllabus
- Information that can be found on Canvas or in a Canvas Course announcement
- Asking for more points to be added to your grade or to have your grade bumped to the next letter grade

Rubrics: Each paper assignment has a rubric that can be found on the assignment submission page for that assignment on Canvas. It is your responsibility to look at the rubric. I recommend you treat the rubric as a 'check-list' for successfully completing the writing assignment.

Expectations for Out of Class Study: Workload for this course is intensive and requires significant effort in and out of class. It is your responsibility to keep up with course readings, assignments, and due dates. A general rule of thumb for college course is that for every credit hour earned, you should spend 3 hours per week working outside of class time. A 3-credit course would have the minimum expectation of 9 hours of reading, studying, and working on assignments outside of class time. It is your responsibility to manage your time and workload appropriately and schedule time each week for reading and studying in this course. Students who succeeded in this class have set up designated times outside of class dedicated to reading and completing coursework. Generally, successful students managed their time wisely and take advantage of the resources offered to them including meeting with the professor, TAs, Statistic Tutors, and attending Supplemental Instruction sessions when available.

Late Work and Make-Up Work: Lecture attendance is required. Late work is not accepted in this course. Assignments that are submitted after the original due date will be considered late and will not be accepted nor will partial credit be assigned. No make-up opportunities for in-class activities, homework, quizzes, and lecture exams will be given unless documentation is received for a university-approved absence and arrangements are made with me *prior* to your absence. Requests to make-up work for any other reason that does not fall under university excused absences such as a serious medical emergency or other extenuating circumstances will be evaluated on a case by case basis after documentation is received and are at the discretion of faculty approval. You must make-up missed work within 5 working days. Students who miss a class meeting(s) for any reason or miss portions of classes due to tardiness or early departure will **still be held accountable for all of the material that is covered** during those sessions, including materials presented in lecture that are not in the book. If you miss a class, find a classmate (or two) with whom you can share resources. **Please do not email me to ask what materials you missed in class.** Material covered in class is your responsibility.

Extra Credit: There is a 5-point extra credit opportunity for this class. We are going to spend the semester discussing research methods and techniques for analyzing research hypotheses. Therefore, you have the option to reflect on the research process through the eyes of a research participant. You may receive up to 5

extra credit points if you participate as a research participant in the Department of Psychology's Participant Pool (SONA). You may participate in additional research voluntarily. To gain these Extra Credit points you MUST be enrolled in SONA. Details are available on the psychology website at <http://www.uta.edu/psychology/>. Also, you may not use the same experiment for SONA credits in more than one course at a time.

Correct Files: Students are responsible for submitting the correct, complete, and viable file(s) with the correct assignments. Files that are submitted to the wrong assignment or assignments that are submitted with an incorrect, incomplete, or corrupt file can be replaced with corrected files only if the correction is made prior to the original due date and time. Corrected files or submissions that occur after the original due date will be considered late (see Late Work policy). Students are strongly encouraged to submit assignments in advance of the due time, then log out of Canvas, log back in and check that the assignment was successfully submitted, that the file is not corrupt, is the correct file, is complete, and is attached to the correct assignment.

Technological Difficulties: Given some online components are involved in this course, technological issues are possible. However, technological difficulties (Wi-Fi connectivity issues, browser issues, computer problems etc.) are not a valid reason to ask for an extension or ask that the work not be considered late. It is your responsibility to make sure you have access to a computer, and reliable Wi-Fi. Make sure your system is compatible BEFORE you start taking an exam or quiz- look in the *troubleshooting* tab in Connect and it will show you if you have the required applications etc. to be successful at uploading the videos, tasks, etc. Further, it is also your responsibility to give yourself enough time before the deadline to deal with any technological difficulties that will arise.

If you experience any problems with Canvas, Canvas Help is the best resource to contact for help. Canvas Help is available on your Canvas Dashboard menu as indicated by the "?" icon. Keep in mind that Canvas records the time and date each student visits any page on Canvas but it does not record specific error messages students receive. The more information you can provide Student Tech with the situation in which you encountered the problem, including any error messages you received, the more able they will be to help you.

Extension Requests: All students are expected to turn in assignments on time. However, there could be certain circumstances that interfere with your ability to complete assignments on time. Only students who have a university excused absence will automatically be granted an extension. However, students with university excused absences must make arrangements with me prior to their absence and/or deadline of the assignments they will be missing. University excused absences are outlined in the Student Handbook and include items such as representing the university at a function or event, fulfilling a military duty, or academic accommodations. Extension requests for any other reason that does not fall under university excused absences such as a serious medical emergency or other extenuating circumstances will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Cheating and Plagiarism Course Policy: Any student who engages in academic misconduct including cheating and plagiarism on any assignment or quiz will receive a ZERO on that assignment No exceptions. It is the responsibility of the student to understand what plagiarism is, how to avoid it, and how to properly cite your sources. Additional information is available at [Student Conduct](#). **Any work presented using previous assignments from other classes/projects is considered academic dishonesty and will not be accepted as gradable material. If you are caught plagiarizing, you will receive a grade of "F" for the entire course. Similarly, if you are caught cheating on an exam, you will receive a grade of "F" for the entire course.**

Anti-Plagiarism Software: Any written assignment that you complete in this course will be processed using the anti-plagiarism software. This software is integrated with Canvas and will give you a similarity score for your assignments that will be visible to both you and your professor. If there are instances where your writing is similar to, or matches against, a source within the database, it will be flag for your professor to review. **If you are caught plagiarizing, you will receive a grade of “F” for the entire course. If in doubt, ask your TA to look at your work and the sources that you are citing from before you hand in an assignment.**

University of Texas at Arlington Institutional Policies

UTA students are encouraged to review the below institutional policies and informational sections and reach out to the specific office with any questions. To view this institutional information, please visit the [Institutional Information](https://resources.uta.edu/provost/course-related-info/institutional-policies.php) page (<https://resources.uta.edu/provost/course-related-info/institutional-policies.php>) which includes the following policies among others:

- Drop Policy
- Disability Accommodations
- Non-Discrimination Policy
- Title IX Policy
- Academic Integrity
- Student Feedback Survey
- Final Exam Schedule
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Student Support Services

Face Covering Policy: While the use of face coverings on campus is no longer mandatory, all students and instructional staff are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings while they are on campus. This is particularly true inside buildings and within classrooms and labs where social distancing is not possible due to limited space. If a student needs accommodations to ensure social distancing in the classroom due to being at high risk they are encouraged to work directly with the Student Access and Resource Center to assist in these accommodations. If students need masks, they may obtain them at the Central Library, the E.H. Hereford University Center’s front desk or in their department.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires evacuation of the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, do not take an elevator but use the stairwells instead. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Attendance: At the University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator of student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, note that you should be aware that we can track your progress in Canvas—in fact, we can see each page you accessed and the time when that occurred. As the instructor of this section, lecture attendance is required. However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to verify Federal Student Aid recipients’ attendance in courses. UT Arlington instructors should be prepared to report the last date of attendance as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty must report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence of

academic engagement such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Canvas. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

Distance education courses require regular and substantive online interaction and participation. Students must participate in online course activities to demonstrate attendance; logging into an online class is not sufficient by itself to demonstrate attendance

Academic Success Center: The Academic Success Center (ASC) includes a variety of resources and services to help you maximize your learning and succeed as a student at the University of Texas at Arlington. ASC services include supplemental instruction, peer-led team learning, tutoring, mentoring and TRIO SSS. Academic Success Center services are provided at no additional cost to UTA students. For additional information visit: Academic Success Center. To request disability accommodations for tutoring, please complete this form.

The IDEAS Center: (<https://www.uta.edu/ideas/>) (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers **FREE** [tutoring](#) and [mentoring](#) to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. Students can drop in or check the schedule of available peer tutors at www.uta.edu/IDEAS, or call (817) 272-6593.

The English Writing Center (411LIBR): The Writing Center offers **FREE** tutoring in 15-, 30-, 45-, and 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Register and make appointments online at the [Writing Center](https://uta.mywconline.com) (<https://uta.mywconline.com>). Classroom visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see [Writing Center: OWL](#) for detailed information on all our programs and services.

Library: The Library's 2nd floor [Academic Plaza](http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza) (<http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza>) offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the [library's hours](#) of operation.

Librarian to Contact: Andy Herzog (amherzog@uta.edu)

Research or General Library Help:

Ask for Help

- [Academic Plaza Consultation Services](http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza) (library.uta.edu/academic-plaza)
- [Ask Us](http://ask.uta.edu/) (ask.uta.edu/)
- [Research Coaches](http://libguides.uta.edu/researchcoach) (<http://libguides.uta.edu/researchcoach>)

Resources

- [Library Tutorials](http://library.uta.edu/how-to) (library.uta.edu/how-to)
- [Subject and Course Research Guides](http://libguides.uta.edu) (libguides.uta.edu)
- [Librarians by Subject](http://library.uta.edu/subject-librarians) (library.uta.edu/subject-librarians)
- [A to Z List of Library Databases](http://libguides.uta.edu/az.php) (libguides.uta.edu/az.php)
- [Course Reserves](https://uta.summon.serialssolutions.com/#!/course_reserves) (https://uta.summon.serialssolutions.com/#!/course_reserves)
- [Study Room Reservations](http://openroom.uta.edu/) (openroom.uta.edu/)

Emergency Phone Numbers: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You should also dial 911.

Course Schedule

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.

Please see course updates in Canvas under Announcements—Dr. Austin

All assignments are due at 11:59PM via Canvas throughout the semester.

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Assignment Due
1	1/18	Course Introduction & Form Groups	
2	1/23	Research Proposal Paper	
	1/25	Introduction: Scientific Writing & Literature Reviews	Human Subjects Training & Plagiarism Certificate
3	1/30	Introduction: Hypothesis Development	
	2/1	Research Ethics & Plagiarism	
4	2/6	APA Formatting	
	2/8	Project Workday—Draft of Introduction	
5	2/13	Methods: Participants & Materials	Draft of Introduction
	2/15	Methods: Procedures	
6	2/20	Methods: Data Analysis	
	2/22	Project Workday—Draft of Methods	
7	2/27	Project Workday—Draft of Methods	Draft of Methods
	3/1	QuestionPro	
8	3/6		
	3/8	Project Workday—QuestionPro	QuestionPro Survey
Spring Break – No Classes: March 13th to March 17th			
9	3/20	SPSS Data Files	Data Collection Begins
	3/22	Cleaning Data in SPSS	
10	3/27	Statistics & SPSS Review	
	3/29	Statistics & SPSS Review	
11	4/3	Results: APA Formatting	
	4/5	Results: Tables/Figures	
12	4/10	Project Workday—Cleaning SPSS Data file	Data Collection Ends
	4/12	Grad School & Career Prep Talk	Cleaned SPSS Data File
13	4/17	Project Workday—Data Analysis & Results	
	4/19	Project Workday—Data Analysis & Results	
14	4/24	Discussion: Research in Context	Draft of Results
	4/26	Discussion: Limitations & Future Directions	
15	5/1	Project Workday—Final Manuscript	
	5/5	No Class	Final Manuscript Due