Research Methods in Psychology

PSYC 3300 – Summer 2022 – June 6th – July 7th
Lecture: Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 10:30AM - 12:30PM – SH 103

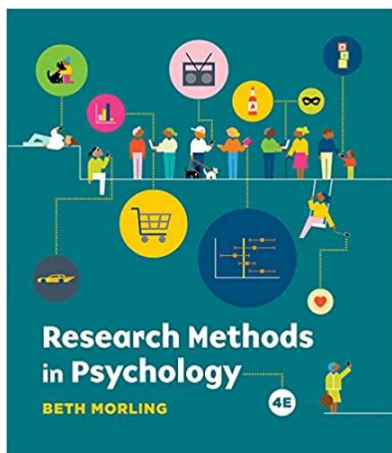**Instructor:**   Dr. Erin Austin
Email: erin.austin@uta.edu
Office Number: Life Science 302
Office Hours: By appointment, virtual or in-person
Faculty Profile: https://mentis.uta.edu/explore/profile/erin-austin
Teaching Assistant: See Canvas

Course Description: This course covers experimental designs and research methodologies commonly used in the field of psychology. It includes strategies for identifying meaningful hypothesis, conducting literature reviews, implementing research practices, and interpreting and evaluating statistical conclusions and empirical research findings. Challenges related to sociocultural factors will also be analyzed.

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Describe and explain the nature of psychology as a scientific discipline and areas of psychological research.
2. Describe the ethical standards for research using human participants and animal subjects.
3. Describe and identify data collection techniques, sampling methods, and good measurement in naturalistic and laboratory settings.
4. Describe and identify sources of bias and various types of confounds that lead to inappropriate conclusions and the means for controlling or minimizing their effects.
5. Describe and identify descriptive methods including observation and surveys.
6. Describe and identify predictive methods including bivariate and multivariate correlations.
7. Describe and identify experimental methods including independent, repeated measures, and complex designs.
8. Describe and identify quasi-experimental methods as well as single-case and small-n designs.
9. Conduct literature reviews and develop research proposals using descriptive, predictive, and experimental research methods.
10. Understand and identify the appropriate statistical analysis for examining data given the research design.
11. Evaluate and interpret the appropriateness of statistical conclusions and empirical research findings reported in popular media and scholarly literature.
12. Describe and analyze challenges related to sociocultural factors and cross-cultural research.

Required Text and Course Materials:

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. Cost:** The UTA bookstore sells a digital copy for $95.00 and a loose-leaf copy for $118.50 which is comparable to other vendors. You can also rent this textbook for the semester at a considerably lower cost. Additionally, the 3rd edition of the textbook can be used but it is your responsibility to be aware of the changes between editions.

Technology Requirements:
- You will need access to **Canvas**, **Lockdown Browser with Monitor**, **ECHO360, Microsoft Office** (e.g., Word, Excel, Teams), which is all available with your UTA account.
- Personal smart device (laptop, smartphone, tablet, etc.) for answering reading quiz questions. If you do not have access to a smart device or laptop, you may check one out at the library.
- **Access to a computer with a webcam.** Webcams will be used with Respondus Lockdown Browser. Additionally, computers with webcams are available in the OIT Labs, library computers, and on most Departmental desktops (see UTA.edu for hours of operation).

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.

Echo360: For lectures this semester, I will be recording lectures, posting lectures, and using the student response portion of the Echo360 software available for free through the University of Texas at Arlington. The student response portion of the Echo360 software will help us understand what you know, give everyone a chance to participate in class, and allow you to review the material after class. Please go to the Canvas site for this course, find "Echo360" on the left toolbar, and open the software. You will be directed to set up an account. Your username will be your email address and the password will be whatever you prefer (this account is not the same as your UTA account). You should also enter your cellphone number into your account information if you would like the option of texting responses to in-class polls. ***Note:*** you MUST set up the initial connection between the course's Canvas site and your Echo360 account on a desktop or laptop computer through Canvas (NOT through an app). You must establish the connection between ECHO360 and Canvas for your account so you will receive credit for what you do on ECHO360 (it will not know who you are or to what course you belong otherwise). After you set up the Echo360 account, you will be able to download and use the Echo360 app on tablets or smartphones with iOS or android operating systems. For questions regarding Echo360, please visit the support website (http://echo360.com).

Course Components

Assignment	Point Total
Class Participation (20 — 5 pts)	100 Points
In-Class Activities (5 — 40 pts)	200 Points
Exams (5 — 50 pts)	250 Points
Total:	550 Points

Class Participation (100 Pts): I strongly encourage everyone to be active learners and to ask and answer questions. During lecture, I encourage you to ask a question or answer someone else's question. Therefore, Lecture participation is required and will be assessed daily using the Echo360 system. Echo360 will be used to record student participation and post lecture recordings and slides. The **Lecture Schedule** of assigned class topics is provided below. I expect you to be prepared with knowledge of the topic(s) indicated on the schedule. Therefore, I expect that all students will have read and reviewed the assigned material prior to participating in lecture. In the slide decks, I will ask questions to test your knowledge on the topics that will be

related to the information and supporting resources that I will include in the lecture. You must answer all questions (you must open the slide deck and answer the questions within the deck).

Lecture participation points are easy to achieve and may make the difference between a letter grade. These points will be determined using the Echo360 system and will be displayed as points (i.e. 0 to 5 points for activity participation and answering questions). The lectures, slide decks, and questions will open for approximately 24 hours; therefore, if you miss lecture, you can review the recording and lecture and answer the participation questions within the 24-hour period to receive 100% credit (note that posting of the lecture video may be delayed due to computer processing time). Please note, I will manually close the questions, and the exact time will vary depending on my schedule. I will try to close the questions polls by 10AM the next day. Each day of class participation is worth 5 points for a total of 100 points.

In-Class Activities (200 Pts): For each in-class activity, students will use the information from the relevant course material to complete an activity and answer a series of short answer and reflection questions in a group setting. These assignments are meant to enrich your understanding of the material and how it pertains to the real world. Students are encouraged to work with their peers while working on the in-class activity, but each student is responsible for submitting their own assignment. There will be 5 in-class activities total, one for each week of class. Each activity is worth 40 points. Electronic copies of the in-class activities will be provided via Canvas prior to class. In-Class activities are due in Canvas at 11:59PM on the day in which they are assigned.

Exams (250 Pts): Five exams will be given throughout the semester as noted on the **Course Schedule**. The exams are based on the assigned readings, lecture content, and class activities and each exam will be worth 50 points (50 questions worth 1 point apiece). The exams will be given online on Canvas using **Respondus Lockdown Browser** with webcam. The tests will be available for an allocated time period (see **Course Schedule**), and you will have one hour and thirty minutes (1hr, 30 min) to complete each test. Please note, these exams are challenging, and students should give themselves an adequate amount of time to study for and complete them. Each exam is worth 50 points.

I will not reset exams for any reason within 1 hour of the deadline for the exams and I will not reset an entire exam if you have completed most of the items. You will want to plan enough time to take your exams. For that reason, I recommend that you do not wait until the last hour to complete your exam. Computer/technical difficulties are NOT a valid excuse for missing or not completing an exam! *Note:* Make-up exams will only be given at the discretion of your professor and arrangements must be made before the exam day (see the **Make-Up Work and Extension Requests** policy for more information). Additional information about exams:

- Questions and answers are given in randomized order, one question at a time.
- You may take the exam only once. If you do not take the exam during the required period for any reason, it will be considered a "missed" exam and a zero will be entered in as the grade.
- You should not discuss the questions with other class members. Assistance in answering the exam questions from another person or discussing exam items with other students of the class will be considered cheating (see policy on **Cheating and Plagiarism** and **Academic Integrity**).
- Use of textbooks, notes, cell phone, additional computers/laptops, or any other type of technology is not permitted while taking the exam. Students who are caught using additional materials will receive a zero on the exam (see policy on **Cheating and Plagiarism** and **Academic Integrity**).

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

Points	Percentage	Letter Grade
495-550	90.0 – 100%	A
440-494	80.0 – 89.9%	B
385-439	70.0– 79.9%	C
330-384	60.0– 69.9%	D
< 329	< 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

Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor: Exams will be administered on Canvas with an online proctoring service, Respondus Lockdown Browser, which must be downloaded onto the computer/laptop where all exams will be taken. You will need a webcam and the Lockdown Browser software downloaded on your computer or use of a computer lab on campus that has the Lockdown Browser and a webcam. The Lockdown Browser locks down the testing environment in Canvas and requires use of a webcam for students to record

the quizzing/testing session. The webcam can be the type that is built into your computer or one that plugs in with a USB cable. ***Note:*** not all devices (for example Chromebooks) can access Lockdown Browser with Monitor. Please check that you have access to a device on which you can access all required software. Watch this brief video to get a basic understanding of LockDown Browser and the webcam feature: https://www.respondus.com/products/lockdown-browser/student-movie.shtml

Download and install LockDown Browser from this link:
https://download.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=163943837

Once Installed:
- Start LockDown Browser
- Log into Canvas
- Note: if you do not follow this order, it will not work properly. This is the first thing to check if you experience a problem.

Testing Procedure Using LockDown Browser: Before you start your quiz or test, please hold up your student ID for identification purposes. Please stay seated and remain appropriately attired the entire time. Your face (eyes, nose, mouth, etc.) must remain visible in the video recording during the entire quiz. You are prohibited from accessing other resources while taking the quiz/test (such as phone, tablet, notes, books, other people, etc.). You should not discuss the quiz/test questions with other class members or other people (in-person or on social media). **If you do not adhere to these requirements for taking a quiz/exam, you will receive a grade of zero (0) on the quiz/exam.** If you engage in any activities that violate the UT Arlington Honor Code, you also will receive a referral for scholastic dishonesty and a grade of zero (0). Finally, please remember not to exit the quiz/exam until all questions are completed and submitted for grading. Once you hit submit, your responses are final.

Expectations for Out of Class Study: This course is a shorter, accelerated course that covers 16-weeks of material in 5-weeks. Workload for this course is heavy and 2-3 chapters will be covered each week. It is your responsibility to keep up with assignments and due dates. You are strongly encouraged to work ahead so that you do not fall behind. All assignments in this course are available on the first day of class. 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. Since this class is online and condensed into 5-weeks, it your responsibility to manage your time and workload appropriately and schedule time each week for reading and studying in this course. Beyond the time required to "attend" each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 6 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reviewing required materials, completing assignments, and preparing for quiz. Students who succeeded in this class have set up class hours for themselves and generally managed their time wisely.

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]() 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). 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) 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 (library.uta.edu/academic-plaza)
> - Ask Us (ask.uta.edu/)
> - Research Coaches (http://libguides.uta.edu/researchcoach)
>
> Resources
> - Library Tutorials (library.uta.edu/how-to)
> - Subject and Course Research Guides (libguides.uta.edu)
> - Librarians by Subject (library.uta.edu/subject-librarians)
> - A to Z List of Library Databases (libguides.uta.edu/az.php)
> - Course Reserves (https://uta.summon.serialssolutions.com/#!/course_reserves)
> - Study Room Reservations (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

DATES	TOPIC	READING
Week 1		
June 6th	Psychology is a Way of Thinking	Chapter 1
June 7th	Sources of Information	Chapter 2
June 8th	Three Claims; Four Validities	Chapter 3
June 9th	**In-Class Activity #1**	
Exam 1—Chapters 1, 2, & 3 [Available 1PM, June 9th — 6PM, June 10th]		
Week 2		
June 13th	Ethical Guidelines	Chapter 4
June 14th	Identifying Good Measurement	Chapter 5
June 15th	Surveys and Observations	Chapter 6
June 16th	**In-Class Activity #2**	
Exam 2—Chapters 4, 5, & 6 [Available 1PM, June 16th — 6PM, June 17th]		
Week 3		
June 20th	Sampling	Chapter 7
June 21st	Bivariate Correlational Research	Chapter 8
June 22nd	Multivariate Correlational Research	Chapter 9
June 23rd	**In-Class Activity #3**	
Exam 3—Chapters 7, 8, & 9 [Available 1PM, June 23rd — 6PM, June 24th]		
Week 4		
June 27th	Introduction to Simple Experiments	Chapter 10
June 28th	Confounding and Obscuring Variables	Chapter 11
June 29th	Experiments with More than One IV	Chapter 12
June 30th	**In-Class Activity #4**	
Exam 4—Chapters 10, 11, & 12 [Available 1PM, June 30th — 6PM, July 1st]		
Week 5		
July 5th	Quasi-Experiments and Small-*N* Designs	Chapter 13
July 6th	Replication, Transparency, and Real-World Importance	Chapter 14
July 7th	**In-Class Activity #5**	
Exam 5—Chapters 13 & 14 [Available 1PM, July 7th — 6PM, July 8th]		