



## Research Methods in Psychology

The University of Toledo  
College of Arts and Letters  
PSY 3110:002

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**Instructor:** Alyssa Mason  
**Email:** Alyssa.Chapman@utoledo.edu  
**Office Hours:** MW 9:30 -11:00 am  
**Office Location:** UH 5010 C  
**Office Phone:** Best to use email

**Term:** Fall 2019  
**Class Location:** UH5150F  
**Class Day/Time:** T/R 11:30am - 1:20pm  
**Credit Hours:** 4

**Co-Instructor:** Evan Clarkson

**Co-Instructor Email:** [Evan.Clarkson@rockets.utoledo.edu](mailto:Evan.Clarkson@rockets.utoledo.edu) **Office Location:** UH 5015

**Office Hours:** T/R 2:00 - 3:30pm

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### COURSE/CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Design, execution, analysis and reporting of research in psychology. Lecture and laboratory. This course provides a basic understanding of the research methods used most commonly by social scientists. Topics to be covered include descriptive, correlational and experimental research design, validity, reliability and the scientific method. The course will also allow you to understand research reports in social science publications and in the press. It will also help you as you design your own research.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

After taking this course, you should:

- Have a better understanding of and appreciation for the research process
- Be able to synthesize past literature and develop new research ideas
- Be able to design and conduct empirical research in psychology
- Have an increased skeptical attitude and be able to judge the quality of others' research
- Be able to write APA style reports and effectively present your research orally
- Be able to apply basic statistics in social sciences
- Have a better understanding of how to analyze your own research data via a computerized statistical analysis program
- Have more content knowledge about psychology
- Gain improved critical thinking skills not only from the readings and from the instructor, but also through interactions with your colleagues (other students).

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### PREREQUISITES AND CO-REQUISITES

*A grade of C- or better in PSY2100 Statistical Methods*



## **REQUIRED TEXTS AND ANCILLARY MATERIALS**

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**Required: Discovering the Scientist Within, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition**  
**ISBN: 978-1-319-15244-4**

The first edition of the text may also be acceptable. If you choose to use the first edition, please be aware that there may be some minor discrepancies between the newer and older editions.

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

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This course uses Blackboard for assigned reading materials, quizzes, and any supplementary materials. You will need a fast internet connection and access to a computer. Most of the materials are also compatible with iPads and smartphones. **Always have a backup internet access identified in case of emergencies. Loss of internet will not be an acceptable excuse for missed deadlines unless the outage is widespread.**

## **TEACHING STRATEGIES**

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This is a course that meets twice per week for discussion of various topics related to psychological research and the concepts presented in the online course materials. Read any assigned materials at least once and do any assignments before the class meets to discuss that chapter. **As for any 4-hour course that lasts a full 16 weeks, expect to spend about 12-16 hours per week reading the textbook, going through the online materials (paying special attention to those that are specifically assigned), and studying on your own if you want to get the highest grade of which you are capable.**

You should be seated and ready to begin listening and discussing when the class begins. If you are late, enter the back of the room quietly and be seated. Activities at the beginning of the class will not be repeated for late comers. Turn off cell phones during class. If you must engage in activities during class that might distract either the instructor or other students, leave the room to do so.

## **STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

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The University of Toledo offers academic and personal support services to help you succeed:

**University Libraries** are your gateway to information that connects you with the resources you need for education, research, and patient care.

**Tutoring services** for all UT students is available through the Learning Enhancement Center in Carlson Library, including writing.

**The Writing Center** provides free, face-to-face and online tutoring for writers in all disciplines. The staff can help you with a variety of writing assignments.

**The Counseling Center** can help you with transitioning to college and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. If you or a friend ever feel overwhelmed adjusting to college or in need of crisis intervention or mental health services, please contact the Counseling Center.

**A Success Coach** has been assigned to all new students to help navigate the college experience by serving as a single point of contact. Your Success Coach can help you build skills, refer you to



support services, and aid in your overall success so be sure to stay connected to him or her throughout your academic journey. If you need assistance connecting with you success coach, send an email to [successcoach@utoledo.edu](mailto:successcoach@utoledo.edu).

## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

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### **Students with Disabilities**

Reasonable accommodations will be made for anyone with a disability that may require some modification of seating, testing, or other class requirements. Students must contact the Office of Accommodations (Rocket Hall 1820) for an evaluation and a form specifying what course accommodations are judged reasonable for that student. Please contact the instructor after class or during office hours so that appropriate arrangements may be made.

The contact information for the Office of Accommodations is as follows:

Campus Address: Rocket Hall 1820, Mail Stop #342

Phone Number: 419.530.4981

Web: <http://www.utoledo.edu/offices/student-disability-services/>

### **Policy Statement on Non-Discrimination on the basis of Disability (ADA)**

The University is an equal opportunity educational institution. Please read: The University's Policy Statement on Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability Americans with Disability Act Compliance.

### **Resources Related to Sexual or Gender-based Violence and Harassment**

The University of Toledo cares greatly about the health and well-being of our students, staff, and faculty, and takes all sexual or gender-based violence and harassment very seriously. If you have experienced sexual assault, sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, and/or stalking and want a confidential place to obtain support and information, please contact the Center for Student Advocacy and Wellness on the main campus in Health and Human Services Room 3017. You can call 419.530.2497 during regular business hours and 419.530.3431 for 24 hour assistance from a trained advocate. In-person, walk-in appointments are also available Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Center for Student Advocacy and Wellness provides free and confidential advocacy and counseling services to students, faculty and staff. The YWCA H.O.P.E. Center also can be accessed as an off-campus confidential resource at 419.241.7273. Faculty, teaching assistants, and other university employees are mandated reporters of any incidents of sexual or gender-based violence or harassment. Thus, any disclosures of sexual or gender-based violence or harassment on or off campus made to faculty or teaching assistants, or other university employees must be forwarded to the Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Office will then contact you regarding your rights, your option to participate in the investigation, interim safety measures and/or academic accommodations, and the need to proceed with an investigation (even if none is requested). Your participation in the process is voluntary. You may call 419.530.3152 to file a complaint or visit the following website for more information and resources: <http://www.utoledo.edu/title-ix/>. Policies relating to Title IX can be found at: <http://www.utoledo.edu/title-ix/policies.html>.

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## **COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

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This course is designed to help you gain an appreciation of the scientific basis of the entire discipline of Psychology. You will learn about what psychologists study, how they study it, what they know (or don't know), and the difficulties in understanding behavior. **During the academic year, expect to spend about 12-16 hours per week reading the assigned materials, completing homework assignments, and completing in-class activities and assignments.**

**Lectures:** This class will meet twice a week for lecture, at which time I will cover various topics and material related to psychological research. **You may not video or audio record lectures or take pictures of lectures unless you have contacted me prior to class and received permission to do so.** You should have read any assigned readings before the class meets in order to have a basic understanding of the content that will be covered in each given class. You should come prepared with any questions you have from the reading and to use what you have read about in the readings as a foundation for what will be covered during class. If you have to miss class, you should borrow notes from a classmate. If you will be unable to attend class for a university-approved reason (e.g. athletic event, religious holiday) email me in advance to let me know and I will provide you with the content you missed in class.

### **Coursework:**

**Assignments:** You will be given and expected to complete seven homework assignments throughout the semester. These assignments are intended to “exercise” some of the skills that we think are important for you to learn. Each of the assignments will be worth 10 points. **Assignments must be submitted in Blackboard by 11:59 pm on the due date.**

**APA Style Research Paper and Oral Presentation:** You will conduct a research project during this course and will be expected to write up your research in an APA style report. At the end of the semester, you will submit a full APA-style research report. Throughout the semester, you will submit sections of your research report to keep you on track for your research project/report and to give you feedback on your work before the final paper is due. **These sections and the final paper must be submitted in Blackboard by 11:59pm on their due dates.**

During the last week of classes, you will also do an oral presentation with your group to present your experiment. You will work in groups to complete this project. Be present and participate in your group! At the end of the semester, your group will have the chance to evaluate your contribution to the group research project. If these evaluations reveal that you did not pull your weight, this will negatively impact your grade.

**Exams:** There will be both a midterm and a final exam in this class. These exams will be given at the beginning of the class on the dates indicated in the course schedule, and they will be worth 45 points each. You will have 80 minutes to complete the exams. The remainder of the class time will be set aside for you to meet with your group and work on your research project.

## **ACADEMIC AND COURSE POLICIES**

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**Class attendance:** We do not give credit for simply attending class. Instead, points are earned by participating and being engaged in class. You must participate in any in-class discussions, and be engaged in and contribute to the group project meetings during class. Regardless of points, it's important that you



attend class regularly because we will cover important content in class that may not necessarily be in the assigned readings. Participating in the group discussions in class that will be important for helping you understand the course content and gain the knowledge needed to complete assignments in the course. **If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed from a classmate before the next class.**

**Excused absences:** excused absences include university sponsored events and illness (your own or immediate family for whom you provide care). Documentation must be provided. You must email me **in advance** to let me know of any excused absences. Contact the instructor(s) for extended absences; if you are ill for long periods (more than three weeks), consider withdrawing from the course or petitioning for a medical withdrawal.

**Late assignments:** Assignments and papers are due by the end of the day (11:59 pm) on the due date found in the syllabus. The penalty for all late work is a **20% penalty** for each class session late. Try to turn everything in! It is better to hand something in late for a reduced grade than to not hand it in at all for a zero.

**Cheating** will not be tolerated. The first instance of **cheating will result in a zero (0)** for the assignment or exam. A second instance will result in an F grade for the course and a note in your college file. A low grade that results from cheating will not be deleted if you retake the course for a higher grade. Cheating includes (but is not limited to) **use of non-permitted resources** for exams such as friends, internet, books, etc., or using a **cell phone** for any reason. Plagiarism (use of another person's words without citing a reference to assign credit to them) is also cheating; always use your own words in all assignments. See the university's policy on academic honesty (<http://www.utoledo.edu/policies/academic/undergraduate/pdfs/3364-71-04%20%20Academic%20dishonesty.pdf>)

If you have questions as to what counts as plagiarism, there are resources online that can help clarify or you can ask me. If you're unsure if something is plagiarism, it would be in your best interest to check before turning in an assignment to avoid receiving a 0 for unintentional plagiarism. Some examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- Plagiarism (use of another person's words without citing a reference to assign credit to them) is cheating; always use your own words in all assignments. Copying and pasting large paragraphs from someone else's work can still be considered plagiarism even if you put quotes around it and cite them.
- Submitting the work of another student (past or present) who has taken this course as your own is also a form of plagiarism and is considered cheating. Using a past or present student's work as the basis for your own work is also considered cheating. I understand that it can be confusing as to what exactly counts as plagiarism when it comes to citing other's work.

**Communication:** Communication with the instructors is most reliable by email. As your instructors, we are here to help and will respond to email as quickly as we can. We will try to respond to emails within 24 hours of receipt, but we will often respond sooner. If there are assignments that are due during or upon return of a holiday, please plan accordingly to work on assignments in a manner that will give you enough time to email us with questions and receive a response within a reasonable time frame before the assignment due date. You should check your university email daily for messages about the course. You should also log in to Blackboard regularly to check for announcements. If you are having difficulty with



the course concepts, please let us know so that we can review those topics in class or post explanations on Blackboard. If you find something confusing, others probably do too, and we can often clear it up. **Before you email us, double-check the syllabus. If your question is addressed somewhere therein, we will not respond to your email.**

When you contact either of us, please address the email professionally. Begin your email with a greeting, state exactly what you need help with in a concise manner, then close the email with an appropriate signature.

## **IN-CLASS POLICIES**

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**Electronics:** Please be respectful of those around you and refrain from using any electronic devices for personal reasons during class unless given permission from the professor beforehand. **Personal cell phone use is not permitted** during in-class lectures. If there are special circumstances in which you may need to leave the classroom to answer your phone during class, please contact me about it before class. Laptops and tablets are permitted in class **for academic purposes related to the course only**. You may not use laptops for personal reasons, such as checking social media, visiting websites unrelated to the course, or working on assignments for other classes. Headphones are not permitted in class, as there are no course materials that require sound while I'm lecturing and headphones hence could not possibly be for an academic purpose related to the course.

**You may not video or audio record lectures or take pictures of lectures unless you have contacted me prior to class and received permission to do so.** As such, you should not be taking photos or videos during class for any reason. This includes selfies and any use of Snapchat.

**Class behavior:** While in class, you are expected to always be respectful of your classmates. Please do not distract others. Please refrain from holding private conversations with whoever you are sitting with. Whispering can be much louder than you think, and this is distracting to those around you and the instructor. If you are causing distractions in class, it is up to the instructor's discretion to determine whether you will receive credit for attendance that day.

There will be a lot of group work and discussions in-class. You are expected to fully contribute to any group work and to put in effort to participate in class discussions. **Be respectful of others' ideas.** Everyone should be treated respectfully and feel comfortable speaking up in class. If there are issues within your group, please speak to us privately about it and we will work together to resolve any issues.

**Food:** I understand that you may want to eat during class; hectic schedules can make it difficult to find time to eat and sometimes a coffee or snack can be helpful for staying awake or simply staying fueled during the day. As such, **we will allow food and/or drinks in class so long as it is not disruptive to the class in anyway and you pick up after yourself.** If it has a wrapper, keep it wrapped. Noise from a bag of chips or candy bar is *very* distracting to everyone... and no matter how stealthy you think you may be, we all hear it. Additionally, if it has the potential to spill, leak, or spoil, please refrain from eating or drinking it during class. Please make sure to keep the area where you're sitting clean, adequately wipe up any crumbs or spills, and throw away your trash after class. If eating or drinking in class is becoming disruptive or we find that students are not picking up after themselves, we will restrict this policy to a simple no-food policy.



## GRADING

Assignments are graded as they are submitted and will be available for you to review shortly after the due date. You should always review these so you will understand the answers to all the questions, especially the ones you miss. Exams will be graded and returned to you to review in a timely manner. We will provide feedback on your assignments. Always review this feedback and use it to guide your work on subsequent assignments.

***Final Grading (Averages are rounded to the second decimal, example: 92.494% rounds to 92.49%, 92.495% rounds to 92.50%. To avoid disappointment by being very close to a category border, do your best from the very beginning of the course and accumulate a few extra credit points whenever you can.)***

Below is a grading breakdown for each component of the class.

Assignment	Total Points	% of Total
Class Participation	100	12.7%
Homework Assignments	70	8.9%
Midterm Exam	45	5.7%
Final Exam	45	5.7%
Study Materials	50	6.4%
Introduction Section	50	6.4%
Methods Section	50	6.4%
Results Section	50	6.4%
Final Manuscript	200	25.5%
Research Presentation	125	15.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>785</b>	

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	92.5 – 100%
A-	90 – 92.49%
B+	87.5 – 89.99%
B	82.5 – 87.49%
B-	80 – 82.49%
C+	77.5 – 79.99%
C	72.5 – 77.49%
C-	70 – 72.49%
D+	67.5 – 69.99%
D	62.5 – 67.49%
D-	60 – 62.49%
F	59.99% and below

**IN** - Incomplete grades are *only assigned in extraordinary circumstances* beyond the student's control. Under no circumstances will a student be allowed to retake an entire course in order to complete this course.

**Not Attending** - Failure to do assignments and take exams will be reported to the registrar and such non-attendance may affect your financial aid.

**W** - if you withdraw from the course after the end of the drop period.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

<b><u>Week</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Read</u></b>	<b><u>Lecture Topic</u></b>	<b><u>In-Class</u></b>	<b><u>Due</u></b>
1	T 8/27		Introduction		
	R 8/29	Ch. 1-2	Intro to Research and the Scientific Method		
2	T 9/3		Variables & Scales of Measurement	Worksheet	<b>Assignment 1</b>
	R 9/5	Ch. 4	Design Considerations		<b>Assignment 2</b>
3	T 9/10		Research Project Overview	Group Meeting	<b>Assignment 3</b>
	R 9/12		Searching the Literature	Group Meeting	
4	T 9/17	Ch. 5	Qualitative Approaches	Group Meeting	<b>Assignment 4</b>
	R 9/19	Ch. 6	Observational Research		<b>Assignment 5</b>
5	T 9/24	Ch. 7	Correlational Research		
	R 9/26		Qualtrics/Google Forms Tutorial	Group Meeting	
6	T 10/1		Group Meeting		
	R 10/3	Ch. 8-9	Two-Group & Multi-Group Designs		<b>Study Materials</b>
7	T 10/8		<b>*Midterm Exam*</b>	Group Meeting	
	R 10/10		NO CLASS – FALL BREAK		
8	T 10/ 15		Writing in APA Format		<b>Qualtrics file</b>
	R 10/17	Ch. 10	Within-Subjects Designs	Literature Review & Methods	<b>Assignment 6</b> Study Posted
9	T 10/22		Group Meeting		
	R 10/24		Statistics		<b>Literature Review/Intro Section</b>
10	T 10/29		Group Meeting		
	R 10/31		SPSS Tutorial		Data Collection Complete
11	T 11/5		Group Meeting	Plan for Analysis	<b>Methods Section</b>
	R 11/7		Group Meeting	Analyze data & Results	<b>Assignment 7</b>
12	T 11/12	Ch. 11	Factorial Designs		
	R 11/14		Single-Case Designs		





13	T 11/19	Ch. 3	Ethical Considerations in Research		<b>Results Section</b>
	R 11/21	Ch. 13	Program Evaluation		
14	T 11/26		Presenting Your Research		
	R 11/28		NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING		
15	T 12/3		<b>*Final Exam*</b>	Group Meeting - Research Talks	
	R 12/5		In-Class Presentations		<b><i>Final Paper due 12/10 @ 11:59 pm</i></b>

**Final Exam Meeting Time: Tuesday, Dec. 10 12:30 – 2:30pm**

The course schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructors.