PSYC 5198.140 – Thesis
Course Syllabus for Fall 2017
Texas A&M University- Central Texas

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor (Chair): Dr. Yesim Saatci
Office: Blackboard Collaborate, linked on the left menu bar in the course.
Email: yesim.saatci@tamuct.edu;
Cell: (214) 415-9450.

Office Hours:
> The professor is available to meet with students via Blackboard Collaborate by appointment. Students should email the professor to schedule a time. Appointments times are very flexible.

Mode of Instruction and Course Access:
> This course is a hybrid course and uses TAMUCT's Blackboard Learn system (https://tamuct.blackboard.com). Students will use their Blackboard username and password (communicated separately) to logon to this system.

Student-Instructor Interaction:
> The professor will logon and reply to email within three business days.
> Students are expected to contact the professor frequently with updates on their work.
> The professor will provide feedback on assignments by posting comments as needed in the Submission box or on documents attached to messages. Students should review all assignments in the Grade Center and all message replies in course Messages when feedback is posted to examine and apply the information on subsequent assignments.
> Students can message the professor to schedule an appointment to talk via Collaborate as needed.

UNILERT (Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University – Central Texas)
> UNILERT is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email and text message. By enrolling in UNILERT, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location. Please enroll today at http://TAMUCT.org/UNILERT

COURSE INFORMATION

1.0   Technology Requirements and Support

This course will use the TAMUCT Blackboard Learn learning management system for class communications, content distribution, and assessments.
Logon to **https://tamuct.blackboard.com** to access the course.

> **Username**: Your MyCT username (i.e., everything before the "@" in your MyCT e-mail address)
> **Initial password**: Your MyCT password

For this course, students will need reliable and frequent access to a computer and to the internet. Wired internet connections are highly recommended. Wireless internet connections are not stable enough to support exams or web conferencing resources. Students will also need a headset with a microphone or speakers and a microphone to be able to listen to online resources and conduct other activities in the course. If students do not have frequent and reliable access to a computer with internet connection, please consider dropping this course or contact the professor at schwegler@ct.tamus.edu to discuss the situation.

Blackboard supports the most common operating systems.
> PC: Windows 8, Windows 7, Windows Vista
> Mac: Mac OS X Mavericks
> NOTE: **Computers using Windows XP, Windows 8 RT and OS X 10.6 or lower are NO longer supported**

All students must check browser and computer compatibility by following the "Browser Check" link on the TAMUCT Blackboard logon page (**https://tamuct.blackboard.com**). This is a CRITICAL step as these settings are important for when taking an exam or submitting an assignment.

Upon logging on to Blackboard Learn, students will see a link to Blackboard Student Orientation under the My Courses tab. Click on that link and study the materials in this orientation course. The upgraded Blackboard is a brand-new interface, and students need to learn to navigate it quickly. There is also a link to Blackboard Help from inside the course on the left-hand menu bar. Students' ability to function within the Blackboard system will facilitate success in this course.

Technology issues are not an excuse for missing a course requirement. Make sure computers are configured correctly and address issues well in advance of deadlines.

For technological or computer issues, students should contact Help Desk Central, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week:
> **Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu**
> **Phone: (254) 519-5466**
> **Web Chat: http://hdc.tamu.edu**
> ***When calling for support please let your support technician know you are a TAMUCT student.***

For questions related to course content and requirements, contact the professor.

2.0 Course Overview and Description:

2.1 Course Description

Scheduled when the student is ready to begin the thesis. No credit until the thesis is completed. This course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to use systematic research methods and appropriate tools of inquiry to thoroughly investigate a psychological problem or issue. Students must follow the Master's Thesis Manual provided by the Office of Graduate Studies and Research.

2.2 Prerequisites

Completion of all other coursework required for the degree or consent of the major professor.

3.0 Course Objectives:

3.1 Student Learning Outcomes

Course objectives and content will be covered through the creation of an original research project that will be completed in two phases. The student will present the results of a systematic investigative process. The student under the guidance of a faculty advisor will utilize sound research methods for the social sciences. The student will be responsible for the following activities:

1. Prepare and propose, in writing, an original research project using a quantitative or qualitative research design.
2. Conduct data collection according to the research proposal.
3. Analyze, interpret and prepare findings of the study according to the research proposal.
4. Report the findings of the study as a formal oral presentation to the student's Thesis committee.

4.0 Required Textbooks and Readings:

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. (ISBN: 978-1433805615)

Texas A&M University-Central Texas, Office of Graduate Studies & Research (n.d.). *Thesis manual*. Retrieved from http://www.ct.tamus.edu/files/studentforms/ThesisManual.pdf

Texas A&M University-Central Texas, Department of Psychology and Counseling Experimental Psychology Program (n.d.). *Procedures for preparing a thesis proposal and selecting a master's committee.*

Students will be required to read peer-reviewed journal articles related to the variables under examination in their research. Journal articles may be accessed through our online TAMUCT library site either as a direct download or via Interlibrary Loan.

5.0 Course Requirements:

Independent study with days and times for meetings scheduled throughout the semester. All components of the research project will be submitted / completed according to the course calendar. The following sections of the thesis must be submitted to TurnItIn and revised prior to submission to the professor: Initial Draft, Final Proposal, Final Thesis Proposal after committee edits.

6.0   Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion:

Grading for the Thesis will be based on a pass/fail grading system in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in the Graduate Studies and Master's Thesis Manuals. **A percentage of 70% or greater on every assignment is required for a "pass" grade.**

Assignments*	Due Dates
Thesis Research Proposal (16-Week Semester 1)	
Task 1: Thesis Concept Paper	By week 3
Task 2: Committee Selection	By week 3
Task 3: Initial Draft (thesis statement, literature review, method section)	By week 6
Task 4: Multiple Revisions to Proposal Draft with Chair/Committee	Ongoing
Task 5: Final Proposal (thesis statement, literature review, method section with proposed statistical design)	3 weeks prior to OGS deadline
Task 6: Proposal Defense with Committee (Presentation with Q&A – 1 hour)	3 weeks prior to OGS deadline
Task 7: Final Thesis Proposal with Edits to Committee	2 weeks prior to OGS deadline
Task 8: Proposal Approval Forms forwarded to AVP GSR	See OGS deadline
Task 9: IRB Protocol Completed, Revised and Submitted	See OGS deadline
Completed Thesis Project (16-Week Semester 2)	
Task 10: Data Collection, Analysis, and Discussion/Implications	Weeks 1-4
Task 11: Initial Draft of Completed Thesis Project Paper	By week 5
Task 12: Multiple Revisions to Thesis Project Paper with Chair/Committee	Ongoing
Task 13: Final Thesis Project Paper (all APA style sections with full statistical analysis)	By week 7 or 3 weeks prior to OGS deadline
Task 14: Final Thesis Defense Meeting with Committee (must be scheduled a minimum of 2 weeks in advance)	3 weeks prior to OGS deadline
Task 15: Final Thesis Paper Edits to Committee	2 weeks prior to OGS deadline
Task 16: Thesis Approval Forms Forwarded to AVP GSR	See OGS deadline
Task 17: All Thesis Materials Prepared for Publication (UMI)	See OGS deadline
Task 18: Required Bound Copies of Thesis and CD with all materials provided to University and Department Offices	See OGS/Department deadlines

*Professor reserves the right to amend this syllabus at any time.

7.0   Posting of Grades:
All grades will be posted in the Blackboard grade book after the assignment due date has passed. The professor will begin reading, grading and recording grades on the Monday they are due and will have all grades posted by the following Monday. *The student should not hesitate to ask the professor about any grade or concern*.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

8.0   Drop Policy
If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must go to the Records Office and ask for the necessary paperwork. Professors **cannot** drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The record's office will provide a deadline for which the form must be returned, completed and signed. Once you return the signed form to the records office and wait 24 hours, you must go into Duck Trax and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. Should you still be enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the records office immediately? You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course.

9.0   Academic Integrity
Texas A&M University - Central Texas expects all students to maintain high standards of personal and scholarly conduct. Students found responsible of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. The faculty member is responsible for initiating action for each case of academic dishonesty and for reporting the incident to the Associate Director of Student Conduct. More information can be found at
http://www.tamuct.edu/departments/studentconduct/facultyresources.php

10.0   Disability Support Services
If you have or believe you have a disability and wish to self-identify, you can do so by providing documentation to the Disability Support Coordinator. Students are encouraged to seek information about accommodations to help assure success in their courses. Please contact Vanessa Snyder at (254) 501-5836 or visit Founder's Hall 114. Additional information can be found at
http://www.tamuct.edu/departments/disabilitysupport/index.php

11.0   Tutoring
Tutoring is available to all TAMUCT students, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored include Accounting, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Writing (APA). Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Founder's Hall, Room 204, and also in the Library in the North Building. Visit www.ct.tamus.edu/AcademicSupport and click "Tutoring Support" for tutor schedules and contact information. If you have questions, need to schedule a tutoring session, or if you're interested in becoming a tutor, contact Academic Support Programs at 254-501-5830 or by emailing cecilia.morales@ct.tamus.edu.

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables TAMUCT students to log-in and receive FREE online tutoring

and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in Mathematics, Writing, Career Writing, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Spanish, Calculus, and Statistics. To access Tutor.com, click on www.tutor.com/tamuct.

12.0   Library Services
Library distance education services aims to make available quality assistance to A&M-Central Texas students seeking information sources remotely by providing digital reference, online information literacy tutorials, and digital research materials. Much of the A&M-CT collection is available instantly from home. This includes over half of the library's book collection, as well as approximately 25,000 electronic journals and 200 online databases. Library Distance Education Services are outlined and accessed at: http://www.ct.tamus.edu/departments/library/deservices.php

Information literacy focuses on research skills which prepare individuals to live and work in an information-centered society. Librarians will work with students in the development of critical reasoning, ethical use of information, and the appropriate use of secondary research techniques. Help may include, but is not limited to: the exploration of information resources such as library collections, the identification of appropriate materials, and the execution of effective search strategies. Library Resources are outlined and accessed at: http://www.ct.tamus.edu/departments/library/index.php

13.0   Instructor Policies

Student Created Content: All content submitted to the course for credit must be the student's own creation. Students must write or paraphrase and properly cite all content submitted. No credit will be awarded for quoted material even if it is appropriately cited (i.e., students cannot receive credit for submitting content that someone else wrote). Students should paraphrase all information and provide the appropriate citations.

APA Style: All text and citations submitted for course credit must follow the guidelines of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.)*.

Copyright Information: All materials used in this class are copyrighted either by the instructor or other authors and creators. Copyright laws and fair use policies protect the rights of those who created these materials. These laws and policies protect student work as well. Just as students cannot use copyrighted material without permission, others cannot use student work without permission. The professor requires all students to familiarize themselves and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. STUDENTS ARE INDIVIDUALLY AND SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLATIONS OF COPYRIGHT AND FAIR USE LAWS. THE PROFESSOR WILL NEITHER PROTECT NOR DEFEND STUDENTS NOR ASSUME ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR STUDENT VIOLATIONS OF COPYRIGHT AND FAIR USE LAWS. Violations of copyright laws could subject students to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability as well as disciplinary action under University standard academic procedures.

Late Work: No late work will be accepted. No make-up work is offered in the course. If students are late for meeting the deadlines set by the Office of Graduate Studies and

Research, students must enroll in another semester of PSYK 588 Thesis.