

PSYK 4435-135, , PRINCIPLES OF RESEARCH FOR THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
Spring 2018 rev. 01.11.2018

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Elizabeth K. Brown, MS, MBA

Office: 308H, Warrior Hall

Phone: 254-338-6058

Email: elizabeth.brown@tamuct.edu

Class Times: T/Th 6:30pm-7:45pm

Location: Founder's Hall 407

Office Hours: as needed

Mode of instruction and course access:

This course meets face-to-face, (with supplemental materials made available online).

*This course uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System
[<https://tamuct.instructure.com>].*

Student-instructor interaction:

I will check Canvas periodically throughout the week (M-F). I do not check emails/Canvas on weekends. My response time to Canvas Message is typically 12-24 hours. You are also welcome to contact me via REMIND.

911 Cellular:

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University – Central Texas

911Cellular 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, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in 911 Cellular through their myCT email account.

Connect at [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management) [https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in 911Cellular, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

Instructor's Personal Statement

As a recent student, I approach this course with a student's perspective and do my best to marry the textbook with real life situations and experience. This is a hands-on, professor led, but student directed course that provides you with relatable research knowledge. My goal is provide students with the tools to properly analyze, interpret, and critically evaluate articles, studies, and other research-related materials.

UNILERT

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COURSE INFORMATION

Course Overview and Description: Principles of Research for the Behavioral Sciences. A study of the various research designs used in the behavioral sciences. Laboratory experiences will be required to acquaint the student with experimental procedures. Instruction will also be provided in writing research reports according to the APA manuscript style and SPSS statistical applications. Prerequisite: PSY/ENGL 309 and PSY 330 or equivalent.

Course Objective:

The general objectives for this course are:

1. *Demonstrate factual knowledge of basic research methodology.* Students will define key terms and answer questions regarding concepts pertaining to research methodology including scientific method, theory, hypotheses, operational definitions, independent and dependent variables, research ethics, sampling, validity, reliability, confounds, between-subjects and within-subjects designs, and counterbalancing. Students will demonstrate their ability to define key terms and answer questions on Chapter Quizzes and Exams.
2. *Apply course material to improve thinking, problem solving, and decision making.* Students will apply course material to improve decision making by writing personally-relevant Discussions each week and replying to classmates. Students will use the materials and information gained from class to write in APA style 1) a complete research manuscript of an experimental study conducted in class and 2) a complete research proposal to address an original research question. Students will immediately use information covered in Lab to complete and submit weekly Lab Assignments. Students will apply course material to class participation activities. Students will use concepts taught in class while writing two peer reviews of their classmates' work at the end of the semester.
3. *Demonstrate specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field.* As future professionals with a Psychology or related degree, students will need to know how to use statistical computing software to perform statistical analyses, and they will need to know how to write research reports in the style adopted by this field. Therefore, students will demonstrate their ability to perform statistical analyses in SPSS by producing and labeling SPSS output. Students will demonstrate their ability to write using appropriate APA style when writing the LOP and Proposal manuscripts.
4. *Demonstrate skill in expressing myself in writing.* Consistent with its Writing Intensive designation, students will demonstrate their skills in expressing themselves by writing weekly discussion posts, six summaries of research articles, a complete APA style manuscript of an in class experiment, an APA style proposal of original research, and peer review critiques of classmates' research. In addition, students will communicate their research ideas to others by creating a professional, conference-style presentation of their research proposal.
5. *Find resources and use provided resources for answering questions or solving problems.* Students will use the TAMUCT library website including ILLiad and psychological databases to collect research articles for their Papers and Research Proposals. Students will use the internet to research information on avoiding plagiarism. Students will use computer applications for conducting and creating research materials. Students will demonstrate their ability to find and use resources by writing reviews of articles retrieved from the library website; submitting a plagiarism

review from internet websites; and creating tables in Word, figures in Excel, data analysis in SPSS, presentations in PowerPoint, and paper reviews in TurnItIn.

Required Reading – Textbooks and Electronic Resources:

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American psychological association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. (ISBN: 978-1-4338-0561-5)

Gravetter, F. J. & Forzano, L. B. (2016). *Research methods for the behavioral sciences*. (5th ed.). Belmont, CA: McGraw Hill. (ISBN-13: 9781305104136)

I am using the 4th edition, so you have the choice of either the 4th or 5th.

Green, S. B., & Salkind, N. J. (2014). *Using SPSS for Windows and Macintosh: Analyzing and Understanding Data* (7th ed). Boston: Pearson. (ISBN: 978-0-205-95860-3)

Required Electronic Resource:

IBM Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) Standard GradPack v. 23. This computing software is widely used to compute statistical analyses and is available for students to use on University computers free of charge. If students live far from the University or do not want to use the computer lab resources, students can rent a subscription to SPSS for their personal computers at home. Students can purchase a 6-month or 12-month lease for the program via one of many online vendors. See the IBM website for a description of the product and a list of vendors:

<http://www-03.ibm.com/software/products/en/spss-stats-gradpack>

We will have a classroom with computers that have this program already installed.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Requirements:

Research Project (715 pts)

Listed below are the tasks that we will cover in class in order to get you moving forward with your research. There are opportunities for students to present their findings at conferences in Texas and the surrounding states. More information about the conferences will be presented in class.

- 1) Topic of Interest
- 2) CITI Training (MANDATORY)
- 3) Nine Research Articles (minimum)
- 4) Purpose Statement/Hypothesis
- 5) IRB Protocol and accompanying forms
- 6) Survey Questions
- 7) Qualtrics Link
- 8) First Draft of Paper with Writing Center
- 9) Second Draft of Paper
- 10) SPSS Output in PDF
- 11) SPSS In-Class Practices
- 12) In-Class Mid Term Exam
- 13) Presentation
- 14) Final Paper

Students will work in groups to develop a research project based on a *quantitative* design. During research and writing on the topic, the student should seek out, identify gaps in scientific knowledge, and develop a logical, defensible rationale for a specific research project. The research project will be written in APA style and include all elements of an APA manuscript (as outlined in additional course materials). The references used in the creation of the research paper will be obtained using library research using resources available through the local library or by using the online databases discussed in class. Librarians will provide specific instruction in the effective and efficient use of the resources to individuals and to groups. Students will also be expected to develop a survey/questionnaire and to collect data, analyze the data, and write a formal report based on their findings. Additionally, you will provide me with an electronic version of your completed research project prior to your presentation (see course schedule). You are responsible for submitting the completed research project to the professor through the assignment link in Canvas. Students will be asked to submit drafts of the sections of their Research Report as indicated in the attached schedule. Drafts will be accepted earlier if ready for review. These drafts will be graded and used to allow me to give you feedback on your work. The due date for the final report is also given in the syllabus.

You will make a poster presentation of your research study to the class. You will be required to participate in the presentation in order to receive credit for the presentation. The presentation is formal and academic; therefore, students should dress, speak, and carry themselves in a professional manner. **STUDENT AFFAIRS REQUIRES A 48 HOUR NOTICE TO PRINT POSTERS. PLAN ACCORDINGLY!**

Class Grades

Writing Assignments

Full instructions will be given for each assignment as the semester progresses, but students are encouraged to ask any question at any time about any project. Detailed instructions will be posted on Canvas.

All writing assignments must be submitted for plagiarism and edited by the student prior to submission of the work to the professor. Students must examine their Originality Reports and remove any content that is identical to another work. **Students are not allowed to quote or use close paraphrases for any writing assignment in this course.** If students have content that is identical to another work, students will not be credited for the assignment.

Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

Graded Assignments	Points	%of Overall Grade
Topic of Interests	10	1.40%
CITI Training	30	4.20%
Articles 1-3 & Reference Page	25	3.50%
Articles 4-6 & Reference Page	25	3.50%
Articles 7-9 & Reference Page	25	3.50%
Purpose Statement & Hypothesis	15	2.10%
IRB & Consent Form	50	6.99%
Survey Questions	50	6.99%
Qualtrics Link	10	1.40%
First Draft Paper (Writing Center)	50	6.99%
Second Draft Paper	50	6.99%
SPSS PDF Output	25	3.50%
In Class Mid Term Exam	100	13.99%
SPSS Practices 1-4	50	6.99%
Presentation	100	13.99%
Final Paper	100	13.99%
Total Points	715	100.00%

Posting of Grades:

- All student grades should be posted on the Canvas Grade book and students should monitor their grading status through this tool.
- Grades will be posted within one week of submission at the latest

<u>Grade</u>	<u>University Definition</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
A	Excellent	90-100
B	Good	80-89
C	Fair	70-79
D	Passing	60-69
F	Failing	59 or below

Important University Dates:

January 2018

- January 2, (Tuesday) Winter Break Ends
- January 2, (Tuesday) Priority Deadline for Admissions applications
- January 5, (Friday) VA Certification Request Priority Deadline
- January 11, (Thursday) Convocation
- January 12, (Friday) Tuition and Fee payment deadline (16 week & 1st 8 week)
- January 15, (Monday) Martin L. King Jr. Day
- January 16, (Tuesday) ADD/DROP/LATE REGISTRATION BEGINS (\$25 fee assessed for late registrants) (16 week & 1st 8 week)
- January 16, (Tuesday) Classes Begins
- January 18, (Thursday) ADD/DROP/LATE REGISTRATION ENDS (16 week & 1st 8 week)
- January 23, (Tuesday) Last day to drop 1st 8-week classes with no record
- January 31, (Wednesday) Last day to drop 16 week classes with no record

February 2018

- February 2, (Friday) Priority Deadline to Submit Graduation Application
- February 9, (Friday) Last day to drop a 1st 8-week class with a Q or withdraw with a W
- February 15, (Thursday) Last day to apply for Clinical Teaching
- February 23, (Friday) Student End of Course Survey Opens (1st 8-Week Classes)

March 2018

- March 1, (Thursday) Deadline to submit application to Teacher Education Program
- March 2, (Thursday) Deadline to Submit Graduation Application for Ceremony Participation**
- March 9, (Friday) 1st 8 week classes end
- March 9, (Friday) Deadline for Admissions applications
- March 11, (Sunday) Student End of Course Survey Closes (1st 8-Week Classes)
- March 12, (Monday) Spring Break Begins
- March 12, (Monday) 1st 8-week grades from faculty due by 3pm
- March 15, (Thursday) Tuition and Fee Payment Deadline (2nd 8-week classes)
- March 16, (Friday) Spring Break Ends
- March 19, (Monday) 2nd 8 week begins
- March 19, (Monday) Summer Advising Starts
- March 19, (Monday) Class Schedule Published
- March 19, (Monday) ADD/DROP/LATE REGISTRATION BEGINS (\$25 fee assessed for late registrants) (2nd 8-week classes)
- March 21, (Wednesday) ADD/DROP/LATE REGISTRATION ENDS (2nd 8-week classes)
- March 27, (Tuesday) Last day to drop 2nd 8-week classes with no record
- March 30, (Friday) Last day to drop a 16-week course with a Q or withdraw with a W

April 2018

- April 1, (Sunday) GRE/GMAT scores due to Office of Graduate Studies
- April 2, (Monday) Scholarship Deadline
- April 2, (Monday) Registration begins
- April 5, (Thursday) Priority Deadline for International Student Admission Applications
- April 13, (Friday) Last day to drop a 2nd 8-week class with a Q or withdraw with a W*

April 13, (Friday) Deadline for submission of final committee-edited theses with committee approval signatures to Office of Graduate Studies

April 27, (Friday) Student End of Course Survey Opens (16 Week and 2nd 8-Week Classes)

May 2018

May 7-11, Finals Week

May 11, (Friday) Last day to file for Degree Conferral (Registrar's Office)(\$20 Late Application Fee applies)

May 11, (Friday) Spring Term Ends

May 11, (Friday) Last day to withdraw from the university (16 week and 2nd 8 week classes)

May 11, (Friday) Last day to apply for \$1000 Tuition Rebate for Spring graduation (5pm)

May 12, (Saturday) Commencement Ceremony Bell County Expo Center 7:00 p.m.

May 13, (Sunday) Student End of Course Survey Closes (16 Week and 2nd 8-Week Classes)

May 14, (Monday) Minimester begins

May 15, (Tuesday) Last Day to clear Thesis Office

May 5, (Tuesday) Final grades due from faculty by 3pm (16 week & 2nd 8 week)

May 21, (Monday) Priority Deadline for Admissions applications

May 25, (Friday) VA Certification Request Priority Deadline

May 28, (Monday) Memorial Day

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT.

Technology Requirements.

This course will use the TAMUCT Canvas Learn learning management system.

Logon to <https://tamuct.instructure.com> to access the course.

Username: Your MyCT username

(xx123 or everything before the "@" in your MyCT e-mail address)

Initial password: Your MyCT password

Check browser and computer compatibility by using the "Test Your Browser" button, found in the "Check Your Browser" module on your Canvas dashboard, once you have logged in.

Technology Support. For technology issues, students should contact Help Desk Central.

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 issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Technology issues are not an excuse for missing a course requirement – make sure your computer is configured correctly and address issues well in advance of deadlines.

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select "Chat with Canvas Support," submit a support request through "Report a Problem," or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central.

24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

Web Chat: [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy.

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a [Drop Request Form](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form) [https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf].

Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Academic Integrity.

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

Academic Accommodations.

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier free education. The Department of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the University's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Department of Access and Inclusion at (254) 501-5831. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html) webpage [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html].

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. For more information, please visit <https://www.tamuct.departments/index.php>. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](#) online, please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender – including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and

parenting students should contact the Division of Student Affairs at 254-501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Tutoring.

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. On-campus subjects tutored include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at 254-519-5796, or by emailing Dr. DeEadra Albert-Green at deeadra.albertgreen@tamuct.edu.

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log-in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in over forty subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Writing Center: Located in 416 Warrior Hall, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10am-5pm Monday-Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library Monday-Thursday from 6:00-9:00pm. Students may arrange a one-on-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available) or by making an appointment via [WOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) at [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu to schedule an online tutoring session. Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process.

While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the University Writing Center is here to help!

If you have any questions about the University Writing Center, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu.

University Library.

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 72,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On-campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available twenty-four hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more

comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](https://tamuct.libguides.com/) [https://tamuct.libguides.com/].

OPTIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS:

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php) [https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php].

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Complete Course Calendar

Date	Tuesday- Research	Thursday- APA/SPSS	Assignments Due Sunday Midnight
Week 1	Intro/Syllabus/Groups	CITI/Concept Map/Questions	CITI/Topic of Interest/Group
Week 2	Hypothesis/Variables/Purpose Statement	Articles 101/ Journal Databases	Articles 1-3 & Reference Page/Hypothesis/Purpose Statement
Week 3	Ethics/Participants	PsychTEST/Reliability & Validity	Articles 4-6 & Reference Page

Week 4	IRB Forms/Consent Forms	Survey Questions/Concept Map	Articles 7-9 & Reference Page/IRB/Consent Form
Week 5	Review Survey in Groups	Qualtrics Intro	Survey Questions/ Complete Concept Map
Week 6	Pilot Qualtrics & Feedback ((IRB Submission))	Complete Qualtrics Revisions	Qualtrics Link
Week 7	Paper- Abstract/Introduction	Paper- Methods/Participants	
Week 8	Paper-Materials/Procedure	Midterm	Midterm in Class (Thurs)
Spring Break	*****NO CLASS*****		
Week 9	Paper- Results/Discussion/Limitations	SPSS Intro	First Draft Paper Due
Week 10	SPSS Practice- Cleaning	SPSS Practice-Recoding	
Week 11	SPSS Practice- Descriptive/Crosstabs	SPSS Practice- t-test	
Week 12	Data Export- Clean and Recode	Data Analysis- Descriptive	Second Draft Paper Due
Week 13	Data Analysis-t-test	Data Analysis-Crosstabs	SPSS Output (pdf)
Week 14	Work on Paper/Poster	Work on Paper/Poster	Poster Submitted to Student Affairs
Week 15	Paper/Poster Presentation	Paper/ Poster Presentation	
Week 16	Paper/Poster Presentation	NO CLASS	Final Paper/Poster Due