

PSYC 4435.110, CRN 80581, PRINCIPLE RESEARCH FOR BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Fall 2019

Warrior Hall Room

Monday & Wednesday, 11:00 am - 12:40 pm

Founder's Hall Room 407

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Daniel A. Clark

Office: Warrior Hall 318 I

Phone: 254.519.5431

Email: Use Canvas inbox or Daniel-clark@tamuct.edu

Office Hours:

Monday: 1:30 pm - 5 pm

Tuesday: 1:30 pm - 4 pm

Wednesday: 1:30 pm - 4 pm

Thursday: 1:30 pm - 4 pm

Mode of instruction and course access:

This course meets face-to-face with supplemental materials made available online. All assignments will be turned in online via the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>].

Student-instructor interaction:

The instructor will check email and canvas inbox as often as possible and will attempt to return messages within two business days. Students may make appointments with the instructor during office hours using the following link: <https://calendly.com/daniel-clark>

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 911Cellular 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.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Overview and Description:

(WI) Study 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(s): PSYC 3309 or ENGL 3309 and PSYC 3330 or equivalent.

Writing Intensive Course Designation:

This course is designated as Writing Intensive (WI), and successful completion fulfills one of the two [required upper-level institutional writing intensive courses](http://catalog.tamuct.edu/undergraduate-information/requirements-bachelors-degree/) within the Psychology major for a Baccalaureate Degree (<http://catalog.tamuct.edu/undergraduate-information/requirements-bachelors-degree/>). As a Writing Intensive course, a significant portion of the course grade is based on writing assignments. Many of these assignments will require that students submit multiple drafts of their work and revise it based on instructor feedback. Students will demonstrate their ability to present scientific and theoretical concepts in clear, precise language on the following assignments: Application Discussions, Research Project Topic, Project Article Review, Project Title Page & Introduction, Project Method & References, Project Abstract & Discussion, Project Analysis & Results, Project Final Version, Project Poster Presentation.

Student Learning Outcomes:

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 Module Quizzes and the Final Exam.
2. *Apply course material to improve thinking, problem solving, and decision making.* Students will apply course material to improve decision making by writing Application Discussions each week and replying to classmates. Students will use the materials and information gained from class to write a complete research manuscript of an original study in APA style.
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 protect human subjects when conducting research with human research participants, how to use statistical computing software to perform statistical analyses, and how to write research reports in the style adopted by this field. Therefore, students will demonstrate their ability to 1) protect human subjects by creating an IRB Protocol Form that is reviewed by the IRB, 2) perform statistical analyses in SPSS by producing and labeling SPSS output, and 3) write using appropriate APA style when writing the research project manuscript.

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 and replies, a research article review, and a complete APA style manuscript of an original study. In addition, students will communicate their research ideas to others by creating a professional, conference-style presentation of their research proposals.
5. *Find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems.* Students will use the TAMUCT library including psychological databases to collect research articles for their Research Projects. 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 and creating surveys in Qualtrics, tables and figures in Word, data analysis in SPSS, presentations in PowerPoint, and paper reviews using plagiarism detection software.

Required Reading and Textbook(s):

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

Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (2017). Human Subjects Research. [Training to Protect Human Subjects](https://www.citiprogram.org/) (https://www.citiprogram.org/). Additional information regarding the training is provided in class.

Gravetter, F. J., & Forzano, L. B. (2018). *Research methods for the behavioral sciences*. (6th ed.). Belmont, CA: Cengage. (ISBN-13: 9781337755016)

Gravetter, F. J., Wallnau, L. B., Forzano, L. B. (2018). *Essentials of statistics for the behavioral sciences* (9th ed.) Belmont, CA: Wadsworth OR comparable textbook from PSYC 3330

Green, S. B., & Salkind, N. J. (2017). *Using SPSS for Windows and Macintosh: Analyzing and Understanding the Data* (8th ed). Boston: Pearson. (ISBN: 978-0-13-431988-9)

Electronic Resource:

IBM Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) Standard GradPack v. 25. (**Select the**

STANDARD GradPack, not the BASE GradPack.) 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>).

A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from a university-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer (Sec. 51.9705).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Pass/fail Assignments

These assignments are required elements of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) process for conducting research with human subjects. These assignments are not graded, but students cannot complete the course without successfully completing these assignments:

1. Submission of research project scales/measurements and participant recruitment plans.
2. Successful completion of **CITI Training** with submission of the Certificate to the professor.
3. Submission of an accurate, complete **IRB Protocol Form** with Appendices that are ultimately approved by the IRB.
4. Submission of a working link to the complete and revised research project in Qualtrics.
5. Submission of an **IRB Completion Report**.

Project Assignments (5,500 points or 55% Overall):

- **Topic Choice (100 pts.)** - You will turn in your topic of interest so that you may be placed in a group for your project
 - **Topic of Interest (50 pts)** - This will be a general topic that you will turn in to aid in creating groups for doing research.
 - **Topic of study (50 pts)** - This assignment will be
- **Report Sections:** These are the sections of your final report that will be turned in incrementally throughout the semester.
 - **Title Page & Introduction (600 pts.)**
 - **Methods & References (600 pts)**
 - **Abstract & Discussion (600 pts.)**
 - **Data Analysis & Results (600 pts.)**
 - **Table or figure (400 pts)**
- **Presentation/Poster (600)**

- **Final Report (2000 pts)**

Textbook Assignments (2,700 points or 27% of Overall):

- **Readiness Assessment Tests (15: 100 pts. each):** These brief quizzes will be completed online before we discuss the material in the classroom.
- **Module Quizzes (3: 400 pts. each):** These will also be brief quizzes over important material from the textbook that will be taken in class.

Participation (1,000 points or 10% of overall):

- **Classroom participation (800 pts):**
- **Group participation (200 pts):**

Data Analysis Assignments (800 pts or 8% of Total):

- **Experimental Between Subjects Data Analysis (200 pts)**
- **Experimental Within Subjects Data Analysis (200 pts)**
- **Experimental Factorial Data Analysis (200 pts)**
- **Correlational Data Analysis (200 pts)**

Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

<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

INSTRUCTOR POLICIES

Late Work Policy. Any work that is turned in after the specified due time and date (on the syllabus) for this course will only lose 5% if the assignment is completed during the day it is due. After that day, a student will receive a maximum grade of a 70% of the total points if it is turned in during the week that it was due. After that week has passed, no more assignments will be accepted. Some assignments may have different rules concerning late work as delineated in the more specific guidelines above.

Participation Policy. During the semester, a record of participation will be kept on Canvas and available to be viewed by the students. If students miss class during the semester for University excused reasons, they are invited to retain documentation concerning their absence until the end of the semester, when the instructor will take into account these excused absences while converting the record of the student participation into grades.

Posting of Grades

Grades will be posted as soon as possible after assignment completion.

- RAT and Quiz grades will be posted the day that these quizzes are completed.
- Project assignments will require more time to be graded. The instructor will make every effort to grade these assignments so that the students will be able to use the feedback provided.

Principles of Research in Behavioral Science - Tentative Schedule - FH 407

Week	Date	Topic	Due
1	8/26	Introduction/Ways to Know - Chp. 1A	
	8/28	Scientific Method - Chp.1B	RAT.1
2	9/4	Research Ideas and Hypotheses	RAT.2
3	9/9		
	9/11		<i>Topic of Interest</i>
4	9/16	Ethics in Research	RAT.4
	9/18		<i>Topic of Study</i>
5	9/23	Defining and Measuring Variables	RAT.3
	9/25		CITI training Certificate
6	9/30	Selecting Research Participants	RAT.5
	10/2	Module Quiz 1	IRB Protocol Form
7	10/7	Research Designs & Validity	RAT.6
	10/9	Experimental Research	RAT.7 - Measurement Scales part One
8	10/14	Between Subjects Designs	RAT.8 - Revised IRB Protocol/Scales
	10/16	Within Subjects Designs	RAT.9 - <u>Analysis of Between subjects</u>
9	10/21	Non & Quasi-experimental Designs Writing your Introduction	RAT.10 - <u>Data Analysis of W/ Subjects</u>
	10/23	Factorial Designs Part 1	<i>Title Page/Introduction</i>
10	10/28	Factorial Designs Part 2	RAT.11
	10/30	Correlational Designs Part 1	<i>Method & References</i>

11	11/4	Correlational Designs Part 2	RAT.12 - <u>Data Analysis of Factorial Designs</u>
	11/6	Descriptive Research Part 1	
12	11/13	Descriptive Research Part 2	RAT.13 - <u>Data Analysis - Correlational</u>
		Module Quiz 2	
13	11/13	Presenting Data	RAT.15
	11/15	Writing APA Reports Day 1 - study abroad	
14	11/18	Writing Reports Day 2	<i>Abstract & Discussion</i>
	11/20	Presentation Example	
15	11/25		
			<i>Table or Figure</i>
16	12/2	Presentation Day 1	<i>Presentation Poster</i>
	12/4	Presentation Day 1 - Methods	<i>Final Project</i>
17	12/9	Presentation Day 2 - Table or Figure	
	12/11	Presentation Day 3 - Final Paper	IRB Completion Report

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>].

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

Password: Your MyCT password

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): [<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.pdf) [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 Office 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 Office 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) web page [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html].

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students.

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related 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. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit the [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) web page [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines online](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf), 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 Associate Dean in 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. Subjects tutored on campus 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 have 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 from 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 40 subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Writing Center.

Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. This semester, the UWC is also offering online only hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

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 for any assistance needed with scheduling.

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 UWC is here to help!

If you have any questions about the UWC, 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 85,000 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 24 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](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

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].

Copyright Notice.

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