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Texas A&M University - Central Texas

Psychology Thesis (1 credit hour)

PSYC 5198 110, CRN 80328

Online Fall (Aug. 28 – Dec. 15, 2023)

This is a 100% online course and uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [https://tamuct.instructure.com/].

Instructor and Contact Information

Instructor: Prof. Coady Lapierre, Ph.D., LSSP

Office: 318 G Warrior Hall Email: lapierre@tamuct.edu

Office Hours

On Campus: Mon. & Wed. 4 - 6 PM CST/CDT

Online: Tue. & Thur. 1-4 PM CST/CDT Email for additional times or appointments

Student-instructor interaction

Email (lapierre@tamuct.edu) is the preferred communication method. Students can expect a 48 business hour response window under normal circumstances. Students are free to book office appointments through the instructor, the department, or Bookings.

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

SAFEZONE. SafeZone provides a public safety application that gives you the ability to call for help with the push of a button. It also provides Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate emergency information quickly via push notifications, email, and text messages. All students automatically receive email and text messages via their myCT accounts.

Downloading SafeZone allows access to push notifications and enables you to connect directly for help through the app.

You can download SafeZone from the app store and use your myCT credentials to log in. If you would like more information, you can visit the SafeZone website [www.safezoneapp.com].

To register SafeZone on your phone, please follow these 3 easy steps:

- 1. Download the SafeZone App from your phone store using the link below:
- o iPhone/iPad: [https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756]
- o Android Phone / Tablet [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp]
- 2. Launch the app and enter your myCT email address (e.g. {name}@tamuct.edu)
- 3. Complete your profile and accept the terms of service

For updates on COVID information, please monitor the University website [https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/]

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Overview and Description

Independent research course in which a student proposes and completes an original, quantitative research project in conjunction with three graduate faculty members who serve on the thesis committee. Scheduled when the student is ready to begin thesis. No credit awarded until proposal and thesis are approved, respectively. Six hours of thesis credit is required.

Prerequisites: PSYC 5300 and PSYC 5301 and successful completion of 12 additional credit hours in the degree plan and permission of the Chair of the thesis committee or Department Chair.

Course Objective

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 *Thesis Manual* provided by the Office of Graduate Studies.

Student Learning Outcomes

Course objectives and content will be addressed through the creation of an original research project that will be completed in two phases (i.e., proposal and thesis). The student, under the guidance of a faculty advisor, will utilize sound research methods for the social sciences. In this course, students will:

- 1. Demonstrate comprehension and application of fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories. Students will identify and summarize relevant psychological theories and research in a content area of specialization to contextualize the thesis proposal and final thesis project.
- 2. Demonstrate application of factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends). Students will compute and present appropriate statistical techniques given the data collected in the project such as measures of central tendency and variability, correlation coefficients, regression, analysis of variance, and/or chi-square. Students will demonstrate their ability to compute and present appropriate descriptive and inferential statistical analysis of data on the final thesis project.
- 3. Analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view. Students will read and summarize in writing the development of research on the variables of interest, read multiple research studies on the variables targeted in the thesis and integrate the information in writing to support the position, acknowledge in writing relevant research information that contradicts or is otherwise inconsistent with the arguments in the thesis, write a justification for the proposed thesis research that is based on limitations, shortcomings, and/or gaps in existing research, and write research hypotheses that are directly supported by existing empirical research.
- 4. Synthesize academic content from the program to improve thinking, problem solving, and decision making. Students will develop and design a novel project supported by existing empirical research to address problems, issues, or gaps in knowledge. Students will integrate research results with existing research and theory in the content area of specialization to draw conclusions support by data gathered during the thesis project.
- 5. Demonstrate skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing. Students will utilize appropriate APA style to write summaries of existing research articles and base the justification for the thesis proposal on existing research, write a proposal for the thesis research and revise it based on committee feedback, and write a final report of the thesis research and revise it based on committee feedback.
- 6. Demonstrate specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field. The student will:
- 1. craft, in conjunction with a faculty mentor, an original research idea.
- 2. research information related to the thesis project using online tools including the TAMUCT library's databases.
- 3. summarize existing peer-reviewed research on the topic and note where more information is needed.
- 4. write an original research proposal in APA style and defend it during an oral presentation to the thesis committee.
- 5. submit defended research plans through the Institutional Review Board process (for human subjects).
- 6. engage in data collection according to the approved plan and in a manner consistent with training on federal requirements.
- 7. use statistical computing software (e.g., SPSS) to analyze quantitative data collected through research and interpret it.
- 8. propose directions for future research.
- 9. write the final thesis to conform to the guidelines stated in the TAMUCT *Thesis Manual* and defend it during an oral presentation to the thesis committee and interested others.

Required Reading and Textbook(s)

Reading

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, Institutional Review Board (2015). Institutional Review Board (IRB) Guidelines and Procedures Handbook.

Texas A&M University-Central Texas, Office of Graduate Studies. (n.d.). Thesis manual.

Texas A&M University-Central Texas, Department of Counseling and Psychology Master of Science in Experimental Psychology Program (Fall 2017). *Procedures for preparing a thesis*.

Software for Semester 2:

IBM Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) Standard GradPack v. 24. This computing software is widely used to compute statistical analyses and is available for students to use on University computers free of charge. Alternatively, students can rent a subscription to SPSS for their personal computers. Students can purchase a 6-month or 12-month lease for the program via one of many online vendors. The STANDARD GradPack is recommended instead of the BASE GradPack. 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

Training

Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (2015). Human Subjects Research. Retrieved from https://www.citiprogram.org/

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

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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students will complete this course through independent study with days and times for meetings with the professor scheduled on a regular basis throughout the semester. All components of the research project will be submitted according to the course calendar. The following assignments are required for successful completion of the course.

Semester 1

Article Summaries -Rubric in Thesis course.

*Final Written Proposal –Rubric in Thesis course.

Oral Proposal Defense -Rubric in Thesis course.

IRB Submission - Pass/Fail

Semester 2

Data Collection - Pass/Fail

Submission of Raw Data and Statistical Analysis Output to Thesis Chair - Pass/Fail

*Final Written Thesis -Rubric in Thesis course.

Oral Thesis Defense – Rubric in Thesis course.

Thesis Submission to Office of Graduate Studies - Pass/Fail

All assignments must be written in a student's own words. No credit will be awarded for quoted or plagiarized material on any assignment. Quoting or paraphrasing that closely mirrors the source will receive no credit even if properly cited. Students must write original sentences conveying the information they have learned to the reader (i.e., paraphrasing) and properly cite the source of the information to receive credit for writing.

All assignments should be written in proper APA style. Students must follow the APA style guidelines provided in the *Publication Manual* and use online style resources provided by the American Psychological Association at www.apastyle.org For final thesis formatting, the TAMUCT *Thesis Manual* takes precedence over APA style.

Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

All requirements for the Semester 1 or Semester 2 Thesis courses must be completed successfully before the student can be awarded credit for the Thesis courses. Until all assignments for each semester are completed successfully, students will be assigned "In Progress" status for the course(s). Students are required to remain enrolled in a Thesis course until all assignments are completed, and no guarantee is implied that the thesis can be completed in two semesters though students should work diligently to meet this expectation.

Rubrics for all assignments are located in the Thesis course in Canvas. Awarding final credit for the thesis courses will be based on a pass/fail grading system in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in the Office of Graduate Studies *Thesis Manual*.

Posting of Grades

All feedback will be sent via the class Inbox after the assignment is received. The professor will read, provide comments and record grades within 5 business days of receiving the assignment. The student should not hesitate to ask the professor about any grade or concern.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Assignments*	Due Dates
Thesis Proposal (16-Week Semester 1)	
Task 1: Thesis Concept Paper to Potential Committee Members	By week 2
Task 2: Committee Selection	By week 3
Task 3: Initial Draft (thesis statement, literature review, method section)	By week 6
Task 4: Multiple Revisions of Proposal Draft with Chair/Committee	Ongoing
Task 5: Final Proposal to Committee (thesis statement, literature review, method section with proposed statistical design)	By week 12
Task 6: Proposal Defense with Committee (Presentation with Q&A – 1 hour)	By week 13
Task 7: Final Thesis Proposal with Edits to Committee	By week 14
Task 8: Proposal Approval Form forwarded to Department Chair	By week 15
Task 9: IRB Protocol Completed, Revised, and Submitted to IRB	By week 16

^{*}Submitted for plagiarism review with revision prior to submission to the Thesis committee.

Final Thesis Project (16-Week Semester 2)

Task 10: Await IRB Approval, Create Materials (Surveys, Handouts)Weeks 1-4**Task 11: Data Collection, Analysis, and Discussion/ImplicationsWeeks 5-7Task 12: Initial Draft of Completed Thesis Project Paper to CommitteeBy week 8Task 13: Multiple Revisions of Thesis Project Paper with Chair/CommitteeOngoing

Task 14: Final Thesis Project Paper (all APA style sections with full statistical analysis)

~By week 9~

2 weeks prior to OGS deadline
Task 15: Final Thesis Defense Meeting with Committee (must be scheduled a minimum of 2 weeks in advance)

~By week 10~

1 week prior to OGS deadline
Task 16: Final Thesis Paper Edits to Committee

~By week 11~
See OGS deadline

Task 17: Thesis and Approval Forms Forwarded to Office of Graduate Studies (OGS)

~By week 12~

Task 18: All Thesis Materials Prepared for Publication (UMI)

See OGS deadline

Task 19: Required Bound Copies of Thesis and CD with all materials provided to University and Department Offices

See OGS/Department deadlines

*The professor reserves the right to amend this syllabus at any time. If revisions are necessary, the professor will make every effort to provide as much advanced notice as possible.

~These are approximate dates. Exact dates for OGS deadlines are provided on the University Calendar.

**A minimum of 4 weeks must be provided for IRB review of Exempt projects. If students propose an Expedited project, a minimum of 6 weeks must be provided for IRB review. If students propose a project that requires a full board review, a minimum of 8 weeks for IRB review must be provided. Students should not expect to complete a project that requires full board review by the IRB in only two semesters. Additional semesters of coursework using the variable credit hour option for thesis courses should be considered. Plan accordingly.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari browsers. Canvas will run on Windows, Mac, Linus, iOS, android, or any other device with a modern web browser. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [https://tamuct.instructure.com/] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [https://tamuct.onecampus.com/] by clicking on the "TAMUCT Online Canvas" tile. You will then log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help tab, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can search the support articles or use the Email, Call, or Chat buttons at the bottom of the support pop-up to contact the Canvas Help Desk.

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

Online Proctored Testing

Texas A&M University-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires identity verification or proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or headset). Proctorio requires use of the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in installed.

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

Warrior Center for Student Success

The Warrior Center for Student Success is a comprehensive academic support department at A&M-Central Texas, dedicated to fostering an environment of excellence and empowerment among its student body. The center offers a wide range of programs and services to ensure every student reaches their full potential, and is a haven for students seeking guidance, resources, and a strong support network to excel in their educational journey.

ADA Access and Accommodations: Texas A&M University-Central Texas ensures that students with disabilities have equal access to educational opportunities by providing appropriate accommodations and support services. If you believe you have a physical, learning or socio-emotional disability requiring reasonable accommodations, please visit <u>Access and Inclusion</u> [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html] for more details or contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential.

Success Coaching and Peer Mentoring: Our experienced Success Coaches work one-on-one with students to develop personalized action plans, set academic goals, and build effective study strategies, time management skills, and resilience. Our Peer Mentors provide a valuable support system, offering guidance, encouragement, and a relatable perspective to help students navigate their academic and personal challenges. For more details call 254-501-5836 or 254-501-5928 or visit Academic Support [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/academic-support.html]. Click the link to schedule a session (virtual or in-person) with a success coach https://grub50 or visit WH, 111.

Testing Services: We offer a secure and comfortable environment for students and members of the community to take courses and distance learning exams, as well as placement tests and professional certification exams. Our Testing Service also offers resources and support referrals for testing related challenges (test anxiety, learning disabilities, etc.) and supports all approved ADA accommodations. Call (254) 519-5830 or visit the <u>Testing Center</u> [https://www.tamuct.edu/testing-center/].

Tutoring and Supplemental Instruction Services: Our team of qualified Tutors and Supplemental Instructors assist students in various non-writing subjects, promoting academic comprehension and enhancing learning outcomes. Click the link to schedule a tutoring session with a TAMUCT tutor (virtual or in-person) or view tutor availability bit.ly/43Q6wNz. You may also chat live with a remote tutor 24/7 for a variety of subjects through our partnership with Tutor.com, an online tutoring platform that is free to all TAMUCT students. To learn more please visit Tutoring Services [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/academic-support.html#tutoring] or call (254) 501-5836 or visit the Tutoring Hub in Warrior Hall, 111.

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. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the Student Conduct Office. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more information regarding the student conduct process, [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may submit a referral, [https://cm.maxient.com/reporting.php?TAMUCentralTexas].

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the Drop Request Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[https://federation.ngwebsolutions.com/sp/startSSO.ping?PartnerIdpId=https://eis-prod.ec.tamuct.edu:443/samlsso&SpSessionAuthnAdapterId=tamuctDF&TargetResource=https%3a%2f%2fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2fSubmit%2fStart%2f53b0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612].

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Records and Admissions Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed form to the Records and Admissions 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 Records and Admissions 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.

Pregnant and/or Parenting Students Rights and Accommodations

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant, experiencing pregnancy-related conditions, and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs, (254) 501-5909, can assist students who are pregnant, experiencing pregnancy-related conditions, and/or parenting by provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodations. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible through the Pregnancy & Parenting webpage [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html]. For more information, please visit Student Affairs [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html]. 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].

<u>Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972</u> specifically prohibits discrimination against a student based on pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery from any of these conditions [https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.html].

Students experiencing any form of discrimination due to any of these conditions are encouraged to reach out to the Title IX Coordinator, 254.519.5716, titleix@tamuet.edu, Founders Hall 317B, or the Associate Dean of Student Affairs, 254.501.5909, Warrior Hall 105.

Title IX Rights and Reporting Responsibilities

Texas A&M University-Central Texas is committed to creating a safe and open learning environment for all students. If you or another student has experienced any form of gender discrimination or sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, and/or sex-based stalking, help and support are available. Our university strongly encourages all members of our campus community to report incidents and seek support for gender discrimination and sexual misconduct through the Title IX Office. You may contact the Title IX Office at 254.519.5716, titleix@tamuct.edu. Founders Hall 317B, or learn more by visiting the Title IX webpage [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

Please be aware that that under <u>Title IX</u>, <u>Texas Senate Bill 212</u>, and <u>System Regulation 08.01.01</u>, [https://policies.tamus.edu/08-01-01.pdf] all university employees are mandated reporters and are required to disclose information about suspected or alleged violations as listed above and defined in System Regulation 08.01.01. If the Title

IX Office receives information about an incident, they will reach out to offer information about resources, rights, and procedural options as a member of the campus community. Although I have an obligation to report, you will, in most cases, control how your case will be handled. When working with the Title IX Office you will have access to resources and accommodations but also have the opportunity to express if you wish to move forward with an investigation. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the options available to you as a student. Community members are not required to respond to this outreach.

If you or another student wishes to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact the Student Wellness & Counseling Center, [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-counseling.html], 254.501.5955, or swacc@tamuct.edu, located in Warrior Hall Room 207L or the Student Support Advocate, 254.501.5978 or ssa@tamuct.edu, located in founder Hall Room 317D.

University Library & Archives

The University Library & Archives provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 350 electronic databases containing approximately 1,203,947 eBooks and 134,750 journals, in addition to the 96,879 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 virtually through WebEx, Microsoft Teams or in-person at the library. Schedule an appointment here

[https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments]. 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 workspaces, 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 <u>Library website</u>

[https://tamuct.libguides.com/index]

University Writing Center

Located in Warrior Hall 416 and online, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University—Central Texas (A&M—Central Texas) is a free service open to all A&M—Central Texas students. The face-to-face hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday and Thursday in Warrior Hall 416. Online tutoring is available Monday thru Thursday from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 12:00-3:00 p.m.

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!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via WCOnline [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor.

OTHER 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 Wellness and 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 <u>Title IX webpage</u> [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the referral online

[https://cm.maxient.com/reporting.php?TAMUCentralTexas].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the <u>Behavioral Intervention Team</u> website for more information [https://www.tamuct.edu/bit]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5805.

While this syllabus represents the direction and scope of this course, it is subject to change.