Research Seminar
TR 11:00 – 12:15
Robert T McKibben Education 127

Professor: Steven Estrada, PhD
Office: ED 215 F
Email: estradasm@sfasu.edu

Phone: 936-468-1415, leave message
Office Hours: MW – 10:00 – 12:00, 2:00-3:00 or by appointment

Final Exam: Tuesday December 12th, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM


Graduate Assistant (GA): Michael Rice
Email: ricem1@jacks.sfasu.edu
Office hours: TBA

Course Description:
Students design, conduct, analyze, and write up research for presentation at a regional conference. Ideally, students will also submit their manuscript for publication. This is a writing intensive course focusing on completing an individual student research project for the purposes presentation and/or publication. In addition to understanding theory, this course provides each student the opportunity to design, conduct, and present a full-scale research project. The expectation of the course is that the final product will be a research project the student will present at a research conference (e.g., Psi Chi Student Research Conference, Southwestern Psychological Association Regional Conference) and that would be ready for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. The Research Seminar was created to serve as a capstone course to prepare students to successfully enter graduate school and to complete a graduate degree. At the end of this course, students will be encouraged to submit their work to a conference and outstanding projects will be encouraged to submit their final manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal.

Prerequisites: grade of a C or better in PSY 341 or the equivalent and a 3.0 or higher GPA.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLO</th>
<th>Proficiency Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The student will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts,</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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<tr>
<td>theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>trends in psychology.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The student will understand and apply basic research methods in</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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<tr>
<td>psychology, including research design, data analysis, and</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>interpretation.</td>
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The student will respect and use critical thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.

Advanced

The student will understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues.

Advanced

The student will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of psychology as a science.

Advanced

**Student Learning Outcomes:** By the end of this course, students should...

1. Be familiar with major psychological concepts along with an understanding of other theoretical perspectives and empirical findings.
2. Understand and apply research methods used to conduct a research experiment, ranging from research design to data analysis and interpretation.
3. Be able to use critical and creative thinking in the development of research projects, and employ the scientific approach to examine research questions.
4. Be able to use skeptical inquiry when reviewing past research.
5. Use empirical evidence and ethical principles to conduct research and analyze data.

**Course Structure:** For the most part, you will set your own class schedule. It will be your responsibility to conscientiously set your schedule and stick to it (and revise your schedule, if needed). This class meets on Tuesdays and Thursday. During most weeks we will have informal “lab meetings” on Tuesdays and open lab/work times on Thursdays. During our “lab meetings,” each student will discuss the progress he or she has made since the last meeting and will identify clear goals to be accomplished during the upcoming week. These goals should reflect upcoming due dates based on your individual course calendar. Students are expected to attend these “lab meetings” on Tuesday. Failure to attend will result in a reduction of course grade. Unless otherwise stated, students will be allowed to work in their desired location (e.g., computer lab, library, research lab) during the Thursday work days. (Note: On some Thursdays we will meet in the lab before being dismissed to work in your ideal locations. If we have a required meeting on a Thursday [announced on D2L], you are expected to attend.) Dr. Brewer and the GAs will be available for one-on-one meetings during most Thursday course sessions. Please plan to attend the Thursday work day before you ask for a separate appointment for a one-on-one meeting (exceptions will be made for students trying to meet their own self-imposed deadlines).

**Course Expectations**

**Eagerness to Learn:** Please come to class every day with an eagerness to learn. This course is hard, and it’s time consuming. You are doing something you have probably never done before. It can be scary, but Dr. Brewer and the GAs are here to help!

**Readings and APA Style:** We won’t have assigned readings for class. The APA Style Manual and the textbooks are designed to be used as references. You are expected know how to use (and
actually use) APA style, formatting, and grammar. Students who do not use APA Style will see a reduction in their course grades.

**Lab Meetings:** These meetings are designed to mirror the kinds of lab meetings you’ll have if (and when!) you enter a Ph.D. program. Please come to class each Tuesday prepared to discuss the progress you have made. Dr. Brewer may also use this time to discuss important upcoming issues, describe common statistical procedures, and discuss other topics relevant to the course (e.g., graduate school, CV writing, submitting to conferences or journals). During these lab meetings, students may not use laptops, tablets, or cell phones. Your focus should be on the person speaking during the meeting. (Occasionally, we may discuss these topics on Thursdays, and students must be present in class on those Thursdays.)

**Open Lab:** This is a time for you to make progress on your project. This will be the best time to get feedback from Dr. Brewer. These will usually happen on Thursdays.

**Participation:** You are encouraged to provide feedback to your peers both during “Lab Meetings” and via peer review.

**Class Attendance:** Class attendance is required for “Lab Meetings” on Tuesdays and when announced on Thursdays. If you must miss class for an excused reason, please provide Dr. Brewer with documentation. If the absence is planned in advance, you will need to send Dr. Brewer an email, which she will read aloud during the lab meeting. In this email you should identify the progress you have made on your project since the last week and clearly state your goals for the next week. Students who miss class for an unexcused reason will see a reduction in their course grades.

**Coming Late to Class/Leaving Early:** Students are encouraged to come to class on time and to stay for the entire class period. However, students are allowed to come late and leave early, as long as they a) do their best to minimally disrupt class when they arrive/leave and b) don’t make a habit out of coming late and/or leaving early. Students who are habitually late or leave early will see a reduction in their course grades.

**Course Assignments**

Each of the course assignments is outlined briefly below. Additional instructions will be given during class.

**Original PSY 341 Manuscript (MS):** You will need to give Dr. Brewer a copy of the final manuscript you turned in for PSY 341. If your instructor provided any feedback, please submit that feedback with your 341 MS. You should make a copy for yourself before submitting these documents to Dr. Brewer.

**Schedule and attend an individual meeting with Dr. Brewer:** Dr. Brewer will discuss your project with you. These meetings are designed to help you; please do not be intimidated. If your ideas are not well formed, Dr. Brewer may encourage you to talk with the GAs and then
book a second individual meeting at a later date. These meetings are scheduled for 30 minutes, but may require more or less time. You can schedule a meeting with Dr. Brewer by going to the following website: https://laurenbrewer.youcanbook.me/

**Individual Course Calendar:** You are the captain of your own ship. You get to decide (within reason) when each assignment is due. I encourage you to look at the course calendars for your other courses and make a schedule for this course that accommodates the tests, papers, and assignments in your other classes. For example, if you know you have a busy week in the middle of October (you have several exams, a presentation, and a paper all in the same week), don’t assign any work for this class to be due during that time. Requests to change your individual course calendar will be reviewed by Dr. Brewer on a case-by-case basis. If allowed to change your calendar, you’ll need to a) post a new calendar to D2L and b) email that calendar to Dr. Brewer (brewerle@sfasu.edu), James (KunzJ@jacks.sfasu.edu), and Stacey (KerrSA@jacks.sfasu.edu).

**CITI (Ethics) Training:** If you haven’t already done so, you will need to complete the CITI online training course on the ethical conduct of research using human participants. Upon successful completion of the course, you will be required to save and turn in the completion certificate (via D2L Dropbox). You will NOT be allowed to submit your Institutional Review Board (IRB) application to Dr. Brewer or the IRB until you successfully complete the ethics training and turn in your completion certificate. You should allot roughly 2-3 hours to complete the online trainings. Instructions for completing the CITI training can be found on D2L. If you have already completed CITI Training, please resubmit your certifications.

**IRB Application:** Before completing any research projects, researchers must have their projects approved by the IRB. You will first submit a draft of your IRB to Dr. Brewer. She will require that you make the necessary revisions and resubmit it to her. If all errors have been corrected, Dr. Brewer will sign the IRB application, get your signature, and submit the application on your behalf. If errors remain, Dr. Brewer will send the IRB application back to you and the process will continue until the application is ready to be submitted to the IRB office.

**Revised PSY 341 MS:** After Dr. Brewer and the GAs have given you feedback on project, you will need to revise and resubmit your PSY 341 manuscript (MS). The introduction and method sections from this MS will likely serve as the introduction and method sections for your final MS.

**Data Collection:** After the IRB approves your application, you will begin collecting data. You are encouraged to review your protocol and materials with the GAs before you begin collecting data. You will have access to the SONA website, so all of your participants will sign up this way. You will be strongly encouraged to collect data using Qualtrics regardless whether your study is online or in lab). Note that a 30 minute study will earn a participant 1 R-point regardless of whether the study was done online or in lab. Students will be responsible for programming their studies into Qualtrics, scheduling sessions study sessions on Sona, collecting data themselves, and granting participants credit online. Failure to follow these protocols will result in loss of access to the research pool and a reduction in course grade.
**Data Analysis:** You will be responsible for analyzing your own data (with the help of Dr. Brewer and the GAs). The textbook is a great resource, and many other wonderful resources are available online. You will be required to submit a data file and an output with your results. Please delete any outputs not relevant to the hypotheses you are testing. Failure to submit data and results will result in a reduction in course grade.

**Results, Discussion, and Abstract:** You will turn in each of these sections separately. It is suggested that you write the abstract last. For each of these assignments, you’ll need to solicit feedback from at least one peer (but ideally two or three) in this class. Your peers should sign (or type) their names and write the date in the MS after providing feedback. Please make sure to submit the peer comments with your revised assignments. Comments can be given in Track Changes in Word or via pen on a printed version of the MS.

**Peer Review of Compiled MS:** Before you submit the final draft of your MS, you need to first solicit peer feedback. Remember that your peers are busy, so allow ample time for your colleagues to give you feedback on the entire draft. Your peers should sign (or type) their names and write the date in the MS after providing feedback. You are encouraged to have someone review your MS who has never reviewed your work before. This fresh set of eyes will often give you the best perspective.

**Final MS:** At the end of the semester, you’ll submit your final MS (including peer feedback). You should take into consideration your peer’s comments and address them as necessary. You are welcome to ask Dr. Brewer or the GAs to review your MS (and they will happily review it, if they can possibly find the time - remember, they are students too). However, they will not look at your MS until you have feedback from AT LEAST one peer reviewer. Failure to submit a final MS will result in the loss of at least one letter grade in the course.

**Poster:** Rather than taking a final exam for this course, we will have a poster session, similar to the kind you’d see at a research conference. In order to prepare for the conference, you’ll need to create a poster in PowerPoint (examples and templates will be available on D2L). You are welcome to ask Dr. Brewer or the GAs to review your poster. However, they will not look at your poster until you have feedback from AT LEAST one peer reviewer. Students must be in class to present their poster on 12/15/16 from 10:30am until 12:30pm. The location will be announced shortly.

**Southwestern Psychological Association (SWPA) Conference Submission:** Students will be required to submit their research abstract for presentation at the SWPA Conference to be held in San Antonio, TX beginning March 31, 2017. If accepted, students will be encouraged to present their work the following semester. Students must submit an abstract to D2L and get that abstract approved by Dr. Brewer before submitting it to SWPA. You should submit your abstract for a poster; if you’re interested in submitting your work as a talk instead, please talk with Dr. Brewer first. If you are a Psi Chi member, you can also submit your work to be included
Grading: All students in this course must have a 3.0 or higher GPA. This high GPA is evidence of your own high standards and hard work. For that reason, all students will begin the semester with an A grade. Students may lose a letter grade for any of the following reasons (list is not exhaustive) and should see Dr. Brewer if they have any questions about their current grade in the course:

- Failure to attend required course meetings
- Repeated improper use of APA Style
- Habitually coming to class late/leaving early
- Failure to properly and ethically conduct study
- Failure to surrender copy of raw (digital or paper) data and/or results
- Failure to meet deadlines (submitting late work)
- Poor work quality

Syllabus: This syllabus is your friend! I have designed this syllabus to answer many of the questions you might have about the course. Therefore, please refer to the syllabus FIRST before emailing Dr. Brewer or the GAs.

Important: Please do not e-mail Dr. Brewer asking her to change your final grade or to provide you with opportunities for additional work to raise your grade (there is no extra credit in this course). Students who are concerned about their final grades are encouraged, however, to contact Dr. Brewer for an explanation of their final grade.

Course Policies

Submitting Work: All work will be submitted via Dropbox on D2L. You must submit your work by 11:59pm on the day it is due.

Late Work: Work is considered late if it is submitted after the due date.

Incorrect or Unreadable Files: If you submit the wrong file or the file is unreadable, work will be considered late. Please make sure you are submitting the correct files and that you save and submit your work as a .doc file (unless specified otherwise).

Document Formatting: Per the requirements of APA style, all course work should be typed into a .doc file with 1-inch margins. The text should be double-spaced and written in 12-point Times New Roman or Arial font. You do not need to submit a cover page or use a running head when submitting individual portions of your MS (i.e., SPSS output, results, discussion, and abstract).

Authorship: Typically, students are the primary and lead author for the research they complete during this course. Students may opt to thank their PSY 341 teacher, Dr. Brewer, and/or the GAs for their feedback in the Author’s Note section of the manuscript, or they may decide to
include some or all of these people as authors. It is not uncommon in psychology to have six or more authors. (The APA says that those who made “a substantial contribution” deserve authorship.) Many projects, however, require additional studies, which will likely be completed after the course ends but before the project is submitted to a journal or conference. If additional studies are needed, students must seek out a faculty collaborator (and this collaborator deserves authorship). In other words, if any of your data are collected in a faculty member’s lab or in conjunction with a faculty mentor, that faculty member needs to be an author on your work. A faculty member or student may approach you about collaborating during the poster session. You should decide how to handle this. If you are ready to be done with the project but a collaborator is interested in pursuing it, you might consider allowing the collaborator to be the lead author. In this case, you would remain on the project, but additional work might not be necessary so the person taking the lead might become the primary author. If you need help navigating authorship, please don’t hesitate to talk with Dr. Brewer.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Civility:** I expect you to act civilly at all times. This means respecting yourself, other students, and Dr. Brewer. Uncivil behavior will not be tolerated. Examples of uncivil behavior include, but are not limited to, ringing or vibrating cell phones, excessive texting, sleeping, talking when another student or I am talking, wearing headphones, using a laptop or tablet during class, disrupting the class in any manner, becoming physically or verbally aggressive, breaking student code of conduct rules, etc. Students engaging in uncivil or disruptive behavior may be asked to leave the classroom. Audio or video recordings without my permission are not allowed.

**Grievances:** I recognize that I am human and make mistakes. It is my hope that any grievances you have with me can be worked out between us via email, during office hours, or by appointment. If you feel that you have been treated unfairly, please come to me first. If you feel that I have not handled your issue in a fair manner, you may contact my department chair, Dr. Scott Hutchens (HutchensS@sfasu.edu). If you have any concerns about the GAs, please discuss your concerns with them first, and then come to me to help resolve the dispute.

**Personal reactions to topics:** Please feel free to make use of the counseling services available on campus via Counseling Services. Their phone number is (936) 468-2401. More information can be found on their website: [http://www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices/)

**Safe Space:** My office is a safe space, and I am friendly toward all groups of students including those who identify as LGBTQIA. I want you to know that you can feel safe from judgmental attitudes when interacting with me. More information can be found at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Safe-space](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Safe-space) and [http://www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices/193.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices/193.asp)

**Copyright Statement:** Many of the materials in this course are copyrighted. They are intended for use only by students registered and enrolled in this course and only for instructional activities associated with and for the duration of the course. They may not be retained in
another medium or disseminated further. They are provided in compliance with the provisions of the Teach Act.

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1):** Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism. All forms of academic dishonesty will be dealt with seriously and immediately. Please respect SFASU, yourself, and Dr. Brewer enough not to participate in academic dishonesty.

*Definition of Academic Dishonesty:* Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assignment; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to: (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper or presentation without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy and the appeals process at:

[http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp) and [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_appeals_students.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_appeals_students.asp)

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54):** At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Student Behavior:** Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy 10.4). Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on coursework may be referred to the iCare Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

**Students with Disabilities:** To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the
accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

F-1 Visa Holders: There are important federal regulations pertaining to distance education activity for F-1 Visa holders. All students with an F-1 Visa should follow the instructions at the following link to make sure they are in compliance: http://sfaonline.sfasu.edu/f1visaholders.html

Syllabus Change Policy: This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus, course schedule, and exam dates as necessary. I will announce any changes both in class and on D2L.

Disclaimer: If you disagree with the policies described in this syllabus, you should consider dropping the course. By remaining in this course, you acknowledge and accept the policies as stated herein and accept the policies as stated or amended during the course of the semester.

Important Dates

9/1 – Last day to register
10/26 – Last day to drop course and/or withdraw from university (with WP/WF grades)
11/15 – Last day to apply for May graduation
11/24 – Thanksgiving (no class)
11/28 – Last day to withdraw from SFA
12/1 – SWPA submission
12/15 @ 10:30am – Poster Session

Web Resources

SFASU OWL (a brief introduction to APA style): https://mytutor.sfasu.edu:8080/owl/research/5
Purdue OWL (an extensive guide to APA style): https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/
More web resources will be posted to D2L.
## Course Calendar

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Submit finished workbook</td>
<td>8/31-09/12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schedule and attend individual meeting with Dr. Estrada to discuss your study</td>
<td>8/31-9/2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submit Individual Course Calendar</td>
<td>9/6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete CITI training (instructions on D2L)</td>
<td>9/6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submit IRB application to Dr. Brewer for review</td>
<td>9/8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submit IRB application to IRB <em>(no later than 9/16)</em></td>
<td>9/13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submit revisions to 341 Intro and Method <em>(no later than 10/13)</em></td>
<td>9/22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collect Data (all participants); enter data, if needed <em>(final data collection by 11/3)</em></td>
<td>9/6 - 11/3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analyze data and submit SPSS Output</td>
<td>11/10</td>
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<td>Submit Results section (w/peer feedback). Included tables and figures,</td>
<td>11/17</td>
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<td>Submit Discussion (w/peer feedback)</td>
<td>11/17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submit Abstract (w/peer feedback)</td>
<td>11/17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compiled draft reviewed by peer</td>
<td>11/22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final MS submitted to Dr. Brewer (w/peer feedback; no later than 12/1)</td>
<td>11/29</td>
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<tr>
<td>First draft of abstract to Dr. Brewer for Feedback</td>
<td>11/29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final abstract Submission to SWPA Conference</td>
<td>12/1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submit completed poster to Dr. Brewer <em>(no later than 12/6)</em></td>
<td>12/1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poster presentation (during finals week)</td>
<td>12/15 (10:30-12:30pm)</td>
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