**PSY 200.092: Scientific Literacy in Psychology**  
Fall 2018, Stephen F. Austin State University  
Professor: Dr. Dusty Jenkins, Department of Psychology  
Professor’s Office: 215 McKibben Education Building  
Professor’s Phone: 936-468-1432  
Professor’s Email: JenkinsDD1@sfasu.edu  

*Note: Do not send Dr. Jenkins communication via D2L, as she is unlikely to get it.*

**Class time and location:**  
Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays 9:00-9:50am; EDU 269

**Professor’s office hours:**  
Mondays and Wednesdays 10:00-11:30am  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00-3:00pm

**Graduate Assistant (GA):**  
GA’s name:  
GA’s office hours:  
GA’s office location:  
GA’s contact info:

**Course Textbooks:**  
- Understanding Research Methods: An Overview of the Essentials (8th edition ONLY), by Mildred L. Patten – there is a copy available on Reserve in the SFA Library.  

**Course Description:** 3 semester hours. Topics include information literacy and APA writing, ethics, introductory concepts in psychological statistics and research methods, and interpretation of data tables and graphs. Foundation course for psychological statistics and research design, preparing students to be better consumers of psychological science. Prerequisites: Grade of D or better in PSY 133 (General Psychology); Must be a Psychology Major of Sophomore standing or higher.

**Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLO</th>
<th>Proficiency Level</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The student will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The student will understand and apply basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation.</td>
<td>Intermediate to Advanced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The student will respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.</td>
<td>Intermediate to Advanced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The student will understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues.</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
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<tr>
<td>The student will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of psychology as a science.</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):**  
Students with a passing grade in this course should be able to:  
- Demonstrate understanding of methodological issues in psychological research.
• Demonstrate the ability to locate and evaluate sources of research information through the use of library databases.
• Recognize the general format of empirical articles in psychology.
• Write a research report in appropriate scientific style according to the American Psychological Association (APA) guidelines.
• Define and describe a number of basic statistical concepts, and be able to understand their presentation in APA style tables and figures.
• Clearly present scientific information to others, both verbally and in writing.

Course Policies and Expectations

Student Academic Dishonesty:
Academic dishonesty at SFA includes both cheating and plagiarism. Penalties may include, but are not limited to, reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, resubmission of the work, make-up exam, failure of the course, or expulsion from the university. A student who wishes to appeal decisions related to academic dishonesty should follow procedures outlined in Academic Appeals by Students (6.3). Please visit http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/4.1-student-academic-dishonesty.pdf for the complete policy about academic dishonesty. In this class, all violations of academic dishonesty in this course will be enforced to the fullest extent.

Withheld Grades: At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, 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, except as allowed through policy [i.e., Active Military Service (6.14)]. 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.

Disputes about Course Grades:
In the event of a grade dispute, it is the student’s responsibility to prove that a grade has been calculated incorrectly. Hence, you should keep a record of all of your graded assignments. Please refer to university policy: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/final-course-grade-appeals-by-students-6.3.pdf

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), in Human Services Building Room 325, or at 936-468-3004 / 936-468-1004 (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/.

Civility in the Classroom: You are expected to maintain a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. All students are expected to respect other students and their ideas. Disruptive, distracting, or disrespectful behavior (including but not limit to texting, emailing, or making excessive noise) will not be tolerated. 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). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom.
Note about Communication: Any information that you share with the professor, both verbal and nonverbal, may be reiterated to other university professionals as necessary (e.g., threats to self or others, instances of sexual assault, poor class attendance or performance, etc.).

Student Resources: There are tons of student resources available on campus! Please take advantage of these as needed. Here are just a few that you might find of interest:

- Counseling Services, 3rd floor of Rusk, 936.468.2401
- Career Services, 3rd floor of Rusk, 936.468.3305
- The Health Clinic, corner of Raguet & E. College St., 936.468.4008
- Tutoring at the AARC, 1st floor of the library, 936.468.4108
- GPA calculator: https://library.sfasu.edu/GPA/#/?_k=oajjbo
- Food Pantry, 3rd floor of Student Center, 936.468.7249
- Family Crisis Center, inside the Health Clinic, 936.468.7233

Laptop Use during Class: Laptops are allowed during class but only for the sole purpose of taking notes.

Recording Lectures: Students are not permitted to record class lectures or take pictures unless a student has a documented need to do so as indicated by the Office of Disability Services.

Tardiness: Coming late to class is disrupting to students as well as to the professor. Therefore, habitual tardiness will not be tolerated. If habitual tardiness proves to be a problem, the professor will issue you a verbal warning, and afterward, additional tardiness will result in a deduction of 5 points per occasion. However, with that being said, if instances occasionally arise when you are running late for class, it is better to arrive late than to not attend at all.

Attending and Missing Class: You should make every effort to attend class. Your grade is directly impacted by your active attendance at class. If you are unable to attend class you do not need to let the professor know (with the exception of test or presentation days – see “Make-up Exam/Presentations” policies below). The professor does not provide copies of the lectures to students; therefore, if you miss class, it is your responsibility to get the notes and any class announcements from a classmate, not the teacher. You are held accountable for keeping up with class information whether present in class or not. Thus, it is in your best interest to get to know some of your classmates and perhaps exchange contact information.

Late Assignments: All assignments are due at the BEGINNING of lecture unless specifically stated otherwise. Late assignments are not accepted. Students are well aware of due dates in advance, and thus late assignments are not accepted. The instructor will not take electronic papers (i.e., sent via email) nor will she accept papers left in her box (unless previous arrangements have been arranged between the student and teacher). If you are not planning on being in class on the day an assignment is due, you should make arrangements with a classmate or someone else to turn in your assignment for you.

Make-up Exams/Presentations: If you know ahead of time that you will be absent on an exam day, please speak with the teacher and make arrangements to take the exam before the regularly scheduled exam day listed in the syllabus. On the other hand, if you are suddenly ill or have an emergency on an exam or presentation day and won’t be able to make it to class, you must meet two requirements in order to be eligible to take a make-up exam or reschedule your presentation: 1) You must inform the professor no later than the start of class that you will be absent and state the reason for your absence. If you fail to notify the professor either by phone, email, or in person, before the class starts, you will not be eligible to take a make-up exam or reschedule your presentation. 2) In addition, students must have a formal, university-approved excuse. A make-up exam or presentation date will be scheduled as soon as is reasonably possible depending on the circumstances, and the formal excuse will be
required at that time. If you do not bring your excuse to the make-up exam or rescheduled presentation, you forfeit your opportunity to take the make-up exam or presentation.

**Academic Success:** If you are experiencing some type of ongoing problem that is preventing you from attending class and/or turning in your assignments (e.g., family member’s health problems) you can chat with Dr. Jenkins about potential class-related accommodations. **Accommodations cannot be made for assignments you’ve already missed.**

The professor’s goal is to help you succeed in class. If you find yourself struggling with class concepts, please meet with the professor as soon as possible so that together we can find ways to help you do your best in this class.

**Course Requirements**

*Syllabus quiz:* There will be an open note syllabus quiz on the third day of class. This is intended to make sure that students have read and understand the syllabus and the expectations that go along with it.

*Homework Assignments:* You are expected to read all assigned readings before you come to class. To help ensure that you are doing so, you are required to turn in the answers to the “Exercise on Topic X” from each of the Topics that are assigned from the Patten textbook. You may type or handwrite the answers (as long as your handwriting is legible). Note that you DO NOT need to turn in the answers to the “Questions for Discussion” or the “For Students Planning Research” sections. Also note that you do not need to turn in anything for APA or Appendix readings – just make sure to read those sections before class.

*Group Assignments:* This class will rely heavily on group interaction. Group assignments are intended to help students apply the concepts learned in class as well as promote learning through group work, which is a skill highly desired by employers. All students will be placed into a group consisting of two to three members. Each group will work together throughout the entirety of the semester on various in-class assignments. **If you are not present in class for group work assignments, then you cannot earn the group assignment points.** Group assignment dates are announced ahead of time, but may need to be changed suddenly at the professor’s discretion.

*Presentations:* Each student will give a presentation to the class covering the content of a research article of their choice. Specific instructions will be given at a later date.

*Computer Lab Days:* For dates listed on the class calendar as “Computer Lab Days,” the class will meet in Info Lab 2 (except for the first one when we’ll meet in Info Lab 1) in the SFA Library. Dr. Jenkins will either give a specific assignment or will be available during this time for one-on-one student assistance for conducting research, writing scientific papers, and/or developing scientific presentations. Students should bring all materials pertinent to the task at hand and be prepared to actively work on their assignments during the class period. Students will earn points on computer lab days either by completing a specific assignment or by being present for the entire class period and diligently working on the assigned task. Computer lab participation points cannot be made up for any reason.

*Writing Assignments (WA):* This is a writing enhanced course. This means that 1) you must write a minimum of 3000 words or 10 pages throughout the semester, 2) you will receive instruction on APA style, 3) you will revise and resubmit at least one writing assignment, and 4) out-of-class writing assignments will account for a minimum of 20% of the course grade. In order to monitor that students are meeting the requirements for this aspect of the course, the teacher requires that students turn in their WAs in a folder. The folder should be a plain colored folder with pockets (please don’t use a plastic folder), and should not include the student’s name anywhere on it. Each time a student turns in a WA, they should include the current WA, plus the previous WAs with the instructor’s comments in the folder. Students should make substantial efforts to incorporate the instructor’s edits into
subsequent work. Failure to do so will result in a major loss of points. All WAs should be stapled and typed in 12 point Times New Roman font, double spaced, and have one inch margins at the top, bottom, and sides of paper. Failure to follow these guidelines will also result in loss of points. You are expected to write college level papers. You will be graded on things such as grammar, spelling, punctuation, organization, clarity, etc. In other words, proofread all of your assignments before turning them in! Please note that with each additional WA, grading criteria will become more stringent. Additional directions for each WA will be announced in class at a later date.

**Exams:** There will be a midterm and a final examination. The format of these exams will be fill-in-the blank and short answer. You do not need a scantron. The final exam will cover materials from the entire semester.

**Extra Credit:** Students have the opportunity to earn up to 10 extra credit points by reading a supplemental chapter and writing a brief report. Students may do this by picking and reading a chapter from “Career Paths in Psychology.” The book is available for checkout in the psychology office, at the SFA library, or in Dr. Jenkins’s office. You should read the chapter that looks most interesting as a future career, and then type a one to two page (double-spaced) paper that summarizes what you learned from that chapter. Your paper does not need to be in APA format.

**Grading**

| Point Values | Total Possible Points
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 points</td>
<td>Syllabus Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 points</td>
<td>Computer Lab Days (4 at 5 points each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 points</td>
<td>Presentation (25 points for presentation and 5 points for participation/attendance)</td>
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<tr>
<td>40 points</td>
<td>Midterm</td>
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<tr>
<td>45 points</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>60 points</td>
<td>Homework Assignments (12 at 5 points each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>50 points</td>
<td>Writing Assignment #1</td>
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<tr>
<td>50 points</td>
<td>Writing Assignment #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>50 points</td>
<td>Writing Assignment #3</td>
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<tr>
<td>65 points</td>
<td>Group Assignments (1 at 5 points; 6 at 10 points each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(10 points</td>
<td>Extra Credit</td>
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**Important:** Because one of the main goals of this class is to improve your writing, if you do not turn in at least 2 of the WAs, you will receive an F in the course regardless of how many points you earned in the class.

**Grade Distribution**

**Note that you must earn at least a “C” in this class in order to advance to PSY 330: Statistics. Final grades are firm! I will not round up your grade for any reason. Do not even ask.**

A = 376 points or above
B = 334 to 375.5 points
C = 292 to 333.5 points
D = 250 to 291.5 points
F = 249.5 points or below

You can keep track of your points throughout the semester by logging on to your Desire2Learn (D2L) account. Simply add all of your earned points together to determine your current letter grade.
Tentative Class Schedule

If unforeseen circumstances call for changes to the syllabus, the professor reserves the right to make the changes as necessary. Any changes will be announced during class or via email.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 8/27</td>
<td>Introduction to course policies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 8/29</td>
<td>Intro to empirical research; the review process; structure of research articles</td>
<td>Topics 1, 71, and Appendix G; APA pp. 9-12, 18-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 8/31</td>
<td>Syllabus quiz; Group work on intro to empirical articles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 9/3</td>
<td>Experimental vs. nonexperimental studies</td>
<td>Topics 2, 4, &amp; 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 9/5</td>
<td>Group work on intro to research articles and types of studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 9/7</td>
<td>Variables</td>
<td>Topics 5 &amp; 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 9/10</td>
<td>Hypotheses, research questions, and operational definitions</td>
<td>Topics 7 &amp; 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 9/12</td>
<td>Group work on research terms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 9/14</td>
<td>Sampling; demographics; measures of central tendency</td>
<td>Topics 20, 24, &amp; 50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 9/17</td>
<td>Standard deviation; correlations</td>
<td>Topics 51 &amp; 53</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 9/19</td>
<td>Statistical tests of significance; understanding tables and figures</td>
<td>APA pp. 125-128, 133, 151-160</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 9/21</td>
<td>Group work on intro statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 9/24</td>
<td>Computer Lab Day (Info Lab 1); Locating journal articles electronically</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 9/26</td>
<td>Locating the main points in journal articles (Directions for WA#1)</td>
<td>Topics 74 &amp; 75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 9/28</td>
<td>APA Mechanics &amp; Style</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 10/1</td>
<td>Writing without bias; Plagiarism</td>
<td>APA pp. 15-16, 71-76, 87-114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 10/3</td>
<td>Group work on APA style</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 10/5</td>
<td>Computer Lab Day (Info Lab 2) for last names A-K</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 10/8</td>
<td><strong>Computer Lab Day (Info Lab 2) for last names L-Z</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 10/10</td>
<td>No class - WA#1 due to Dr. Jenkins's office between 9-9:50am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 10/12</td>
<td>Validity and reliability; Advising tutorial for psychology course selection</td>
<td>Topics 27 &amp; 31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 10/15</td>
<td>Review for midterm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 10/17</td>
<td><strong>Midterm</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 10/19</td>
<td>APA reference citations within the body of a paper</td>
<td>Topic 19; APA pp. 169-178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 10/22</td>
<td>Synthesizing (Directions for WA#2)</td>
<td>Topics 14 &amp; 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 10/24</td>
<td>Group work on references</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 10/26</td>
<td>APA reference lists</td>
<td>APA pp. 180-182</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 10/29</td>
<td>Group work on reference lists</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 10/31</td>
<td><strong>Computer Lab Day (Info Lab 2) for last names A-K</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 11/2</td>
<td><strong>Computer Lab Day (Info Lab 2) for last names L-Z</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 11/5</td>
<td><strong>WA#2 due at BEGINNING of class; Graduate school in psychology</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 11/7</td>
<td>Ethics in Research</td>
<td>Topic 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 11/9</td>
<td>Ethics continued; <strong>Extra credit assignments due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 11/12</td>
<td>Basics to presenting scientific research (Directions for Presentations)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 11/14</td>
<td>Directions for WA#3</td>
<td>Topics 16, 17, 73, &amp; 77 and Appendix C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 11/16</td>
<td><strong>Computer Lab Day (Info Lab 2); Creating PowerPoint presentations</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 11/26</td>
<td>Individual presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 11/28</td>
<td>Individual presentations; <strong>WA#3 due at the BEGINNING of class BEFORE presentations begin</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 11/30</td>
<td>Individual presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 12/3</td>
<td>Individual presentations</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 12/5</td>
<td>Individual presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 12/7</td>
<td>Review for final exam and course wrap-up</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 12/10</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>8-10am</td>
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