PSYC 3300.501: Scientific Literacy in Psychology
Online
Spring 2024

Professor: Sarah Savoy, Ph.D.
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Email: savoysc@sfasu.edu
Phone: (936) 468-5117
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 8:15-10am, Wednesday 8:30-10am
or by appointment

Class time and location: Online – [https://d2l.sfasu.edu/](https://d2l.sfasu.edu/)

General Course Description: 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. Prerequisite: PSYC 2301

Course Text and Resources:

This course will utilize the **Brightspace** learning online management system for assignment submission, grade reporting, and course communication. The Brightspace page for this class will be used to post course documents such as the course syllabus and lecture notes, and you will also be able to check your grades using this system.

To log into the Brightspace page for this class, go to [https://d2l.sfasu.edu/](https://d2l.sfasu.edu/). This will take you to the login page (your user name and password are the same ones you use to log into mySFA). If you are enrolled in this course, you should see a link for PSYC 3300 in your course list. Click on this link to access the course Brightspace page.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs):</th>
<th>Proficiency Level</th>
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<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>
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<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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**Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):**

1. Identify and describe general scientific approaches that are used in psychological research
2. Demonstrate the ability to locate and evaluate sources of research information through the use of library database resources in psychology and in the popular media
3. Read and evaluate scientific results presented in tabular and graphical form
4. Demonstrate an ability to write about scientific work while following APA style (6th edition)
5. Demonstrate an ability to correct errors in written work that should be following APA style
6. Utilize feedback from others (constructive criticism) to revise and improve written assignments
7. Identify and describe the advantages and disadvantages of the various research methods and take these advantages and disadvantages into consideration when interpreting psychological research
8. Define and describe a number of basic statistical concepts, including descriptive and inferential statistics
9. Recognize and demonstrate an understanding of ethical principles in psychological research

**Assignments:**

**Reading Quizzes (161 points).** Students are expected to participate in online reading quizzes. These assignments will occur throughout the course and will be posted in the Quizzes tab of Brightspace.
Writing Assignments (WA): This is a writing enhanced course. This means that 1) you will be required to write 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. Students should make substantial efforts to incorporate the instructor’s feedback into subsequent work. Failure to do so will result in a major loss of points. All WAs should be 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. You are urged to have someone proofread your papers (a roommate, the AARC, etc.). Additional directions for each WA will be announced in D2L under WA modules in content.

Exams: There will be a midterm and a final examination. The format of these exams will be fill-in-the blank and short answer. These assignments will be posted in the Quizzes tab of Brightspace.

Writing Assistance: Spelling and grammar will be considered when grading written assignments. If writing is not one of your strengths, it is recommended that you make an appointment to work with someone in the Academic Assistance and Resource Center (AARC). The AARC is on the first floor of the library, and they will provide technical writing assistance for student assignments and papers. Online submission and feedback are also available at: http://www.sfasu.edu/aarc/online-resources

Deadlines: All deadlines for this course are hard deadlines. Use the course schedule as your guide for course deadlines. In order to receive credit for assignments you must complete them before the deadlines listed in the course schedule. No exceptions will be made for late assignments without documented excuses (e.g., a signed note from a medical doctor or other proof of illness or death of a family member). Deadlines for all assignments are indicated clearly in the course schedule and in the Desire2Learn page. If you have a documented excuse, email me regarding a makeup.

Course Grading: Your course grade will be based on the number of points that you earn on the course assignments listed above. The total number of possible points for the course is thus 380. To earn a specific letter grade, you must meet the minimum point total for that grade. Grades will be determined as follows:
### Grade Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Quizzes</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>B = 80-89%</td>
<td>312.8-352.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Assignment 1</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>C = 70-79%</td>
<td>273.7-312.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Assignment 2</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>D = 60-69%</td>
<td>234.6-273.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Assignment 3</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>F &lt; 60%</td>
<td>&lt; 234.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points Possible</strong></td>
<td><strong>391</strong></td>
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Please note that the grading scale is firm. I do not round up if students are close to the next highest grade. I also cannot assign extra work or allow late assignments to be turned in by a student after the semester has ended in order for that student to raise his or her grade. There are no exceptions to this policy.

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### Tentative Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Read syllabus and getting started materials</td>
<td>Getting Started Module</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Introduction to course and psychological science</td>
<td>Module 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>How to start out with a good research question</td>
<td>Module 2, Topic 2 Reading Quiz due at 11:59pm</td>
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<td>2/2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>APA grammar &amp; mechanics</td>
<td>Module 3, APA Chapter 4, APA Chapter 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Research questions, hypotheses, and designs</td>
<td>Module 4, Topic 3, 4, 6, 21, 22, 23, and 24 Reading Quizzes due at 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Reviewing the literature</td>
<td>Module 5, APA p. 29-43, Topic 81 and Appendix D Reading Quizzes, due at 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/23</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Week 7 3/1 | Sampling and external validity | • Module 6  
• Topic 25, 30, and 84 Reading Quizzes due at 11:59pm |
| Week 8 3/8 | Complete Writing Assignment #1 and Midterm (No New material) | • Writing Assignment 1 due at 11:59pm  
• Midterm due at 11:59pm |
| Week 9 3/22 | Reporting results, writing the literature review  
Presenting your research, critiquing, and synthesizing | • Module 7 and Module 8  
• Topic 14, 16, 17, 83, and Appendix C Reading Quizzes due at 11:59pm |
| Week 10 3/27 | Analyzing and Interpreting Data | • Module 9  
• Topic 62 and 63 Reading Quizzes due at 11:59pm |
| Week 11 4/5 | Tables and Figures | • Module 10  
• APA Chapter 7 |
| Week 12 4/12 | Correlational design and construct validity | • Module 11  
• Topic 67 and 35 Reading Quizzes due at 11:59pm  
• Writing Assignment 2 due at 11:59pm |
| Week 13 4/19 | Measures and reliability | • Module 12  
• Topic 39 and 85 Reading Quizzes due at 11:59pm |
| Week 14 4/26 | Ethics in research; citations, plagiarism, reference list; writing without bias | • Module 13  
• APA Chapter 5, 8, & 9  
• Topics 10 and 11 Reading Quizzes due at 11:59pm |
| Week 15 5/3 | Getting more research experience | • Module 14  
• Topic 87 Reading Quiz due at 11:59pm  
• Writing Assignment 3 due at 11:59pm |
| Week 16 5/8 | Final Exam | • Final Exam due 11:59pm |
**Academic Integrity (4.1)**

The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (5.5)**

Please copy and paste the following information regarding Withheld Grades into your syllabus. Add additional information as needed to meet your departmental or course needs.

Ordinarily, 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 coursework 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 terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf.

**Students with Disabilities**

Please copy and paste the following statement and place it in your course syllabus. 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 promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.
Student Wellness and Well-Being
SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:
- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education

www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu

Crisis Resources:
- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- textCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741