

**The College of Education and Behavioral Sciences**  
**Houston Baptist University**  
**Course Syllabus**  
**PSYC 3410-01 - Experimental Psychology**  
**Spring 2016**

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**Course Description:** Experimental psychology is an applied research course for psychology majors. Basic research methods and terminology will be presented and practiced in the classroom and then the same basic research principles practiced and applied in a laboratory setting. Students will be expected to participate in the early stages of designing a quantitative research study to include: identifying a research idea, critically reviewing relevant literature, formulating testable hypotheses, identifying the sample population, choosing an appropriate research design, outlining the methods and proposed analyses, and practicing and conducting applied statistical analysis on simulated data.

**Course Sequence in Curriculum and Prerequisite Information:** This course is required for all undergraduate psychology majors. The prerequisite for this course is PSYC 1313 and PSYC 2301. This course is a prerequisite for PSYC 4390.

**Date and Time of Class Meeting:**

MW 10:00am-11:15am, Atwood 2, room 203  
F 10:00am-10:50am, Atwood 2, room 203

**Instructor:**

Amanda Ford, LMSW, Ph.D.  
Phone: 713-478-6126  
Office Hours: by appointment  
E-mail: [aford@hbu.edu](mailto:aford@hbu.edu)

**Required Course Materials:**

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, DC: APA.  
ISBN: 1-4338-0561-8

Bordens, K. S., & Abbott, B. B. (2014). *Research design and methods* (9<sup>th</sup> ed.).  
New York, NY: McGraw Hill.  
ISBN: 978-0-07-803545-6

**Relation to the Purpose Statement of the University:** The mission of Houston Baptist University is to provide a learning experience that instills in students a passion for academic, spiritual, and professional excellence as a result of our central confession, "Jesus Christ is Lord." Given that Houston Baptist University is founded on Christian principles and values, this course is taught in a manner that encourages honesty and accountability. Open inquiry and the integration of scholarship, service, and spirituality will be supported in this course. In accordance with Houston Baptist University's purpose this course endeavors to:

- 1) Provide a supportive atmosphere for students from all backgrounds which fosters intellectual and social interaction in the learning process,
- 2) Encourage academic excellence, freedom, and objectivity
- 3) Promote the development of critical and creative thinking, compassion, responsibility, and continuing interest in learning.

**Relation to the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Goals and Purposes:**

The mission of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences is to prepare students to be effective citizens and professional educators, administrators, counselors, and researchers who reflect Christ in their work and service.

To accomplish this mission, we will provide students with the following:

- the courses and mentoring necessary for a solid pedagogical grounding in their discipline;
- essential learning experiences that will provide opportunities to develop both knowledge and wisdom; and
- an understanding of their Christian mission and calling to influence individuals and the larger society.

This course contributes to students pursuing an undergraduate degree in psychology by providing an education program that is “committed to academic excellence in an intellectually free and objective environment...” that provides “physical resources and a campus environment which acknowledges the uniqueness of the individual...and encourages the development of the whole person.” Thus, this course endeavors to:

- 1) Provide students the opportunity to develop interpersonal communication skills,
- 2) Promote the development of critical thinking skills,
- 3) Create a learning environment based on constructivist teaching/learning strategies,
- 4) Contribute to the student’s degree program by enhancing his/her basic understanding of the scientific and systematic study of behavior and mental processes.

**Course Objectives:** PSYC 3410 is designed to explore the foundation of experimental psychology with a focus on research findings, and the facilitation of critical thinking when engaging in and evaluating behavioral science research. The course includes basic terminology and concepts of experimental research and students will develop a working knowledge of how major processes work based on current research findings. Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify research methods
2. Describe major experimental findings
3. Demonstrate proficiency in writing experimental summaries

**Teaching Strategies:** Teaching methods may include class discussion, lectures, mock-group work, demonstrations, projections, videos, written reports and small/large group activities. Students are encouraged to participate by asking questions, giving examples, offering opinions, and sharing thoughts/ideas about the material.

## Assessment of Learning

**Course Requirements:** There will be a total of 375 possible points this semester from graded assignments. To calculate your score, divide the total amount of points earned by the total amount of points possible and then multiply by 100. Final course grades will be determined as follows:

1. Exams (best 3 out of 4) – 30 points each
2. Proposal Topic Presentation & Handout – 10 points
3. 1<sup>st</sup> 15 Articles – 5 points
4. Introduction Section First Draft (FD) – 30 points
5. Method Section First Draft (FD) – 15 points
6. Results Section First Draft (FD) – 5 points
7. Discussion Section First Draft (FD) – 20 points
8. Research Proposal Paper – 100 points
9. Oral Presentation – 20 points
10. CITI Program Training- 10 Points
11. Final Exam – 70 points

Final course grades will be determined based on “final percentage correct” using the following scale:

- 90-100 = A
- 80-89 = B
- 70-79 = C
- 60-69 = D
- 0-59 = F

**Extra Credit:** Extra credit is not offered in this class. The answers to all exam questions will be provided in class or within the text.

### Graded Assignments:

**Exams:** There will be 5 exams (including the cumulative Final Exam) throughout the semester which will cover information presented in class as well as in the assigned readings. One exam (the lowest) will be dropped, but the Final Exam will not be dropped. The format of the exams throughout the semester and the Final Exam will include multiple choice, matching, true/false, and/or short answer questions. All exams, with the *exception* of Exam 2 and the Final Exam, will be taken on Blackboard. Once you have opened the test on Blackboard DO NOT hit the BACK BUTTON and DO NOT REFRESH your page as you will not be permitted to finish taking the test. You must take this test in a single sitting and under no circumstances will you be given a second opportunity to reopen the test. You will be shown a single question at a time, and must answer it; you will NOT be permitted to go backwards to change answers. DO NOT attempt to take these tests using a smart phone, or Ipad; you must use an actual computer/laptop. You will have from 10:00am-11:15am to complete the test. Scores for the test will be posted as soon as the test has closed. For Exam 2, students who are more than 10 minutes late will not be permitted to take the exam. **No make-up exams will be given.** It is advisable to take all exams at the scheduled time. However,

since your lowest grade will be dropped, you will be able to drop the zero for the test you missed.

**Activities & Exercises:** In-class assignments and homework will be assigned according to the topic being discussed. Guidelines and procedures will be provided. Assignments must be turned in within the first 10 minutes of class, otherwise it is considered late and will not be accepted. If you are going to miss a class, make sure you turn in assignments beforehand. Do *not* slip assignments under my office door or email them to me; all assignments must be handed to me.

**Research Proposal:** An independent Research Proposal written in current APA style is required. You will electronically submit your proposal to the plagiarism prevention software, Turnitin.com on or before a paper's due date, as well as turn in a hard copy. Failure to submit the proposal will result in a zero, so make sure that you don't wait until the last minute to submit your paper in case there are technology issues. Your proposal will also be presented in class orally using Powerpoint for 10 minutes. Presentation guidelines and procedures will be provided. Attendance is mandatory for all oral presentations. Strict documentation for any absence is required. If an oral presentation is missed due to a documented emergency absence, the student will be required to present the oral presentation for the next semester course and an Incomplete will be given. Peer evaluations (informed by the text and lecture) of oral presentations are also a graded component of this course. You are required to attend the presentations of your peers.

### **Student Evaluation of Faculty and Course**

Students will complete faculty appraisal forms as regularly administered by the University.

### **Class Policies**

**Students are required to read the University Classroom Policy addendum to this course syllabus that is included on Blackboard. In addition to the class policies listed here, it includes basic class policies that apply in all HBU classes.**

**Absence and Tardy Policy:** In the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, students must attend at least 75% of class sessions in order to receive a passing grade in the course. This means that if you are absent more than 25% of our class meetings, the course grade will be "F" no matter what test and paper scores might be. You are expected to attend class regularly. You will greatly benefit from attending and participating in class, and your grades will undoubtedly reflect whether you come to class or not. If you miss class you are still responsible for any information, instructions, handouts, changes, etc. that are covered, as well as any assignments due or given on that day; it is *your* responsibility to obtain the information. For approved HBU events, you must submit your official excused form at least one week prior to the date in order for all assignments and attendance to be excused & rescheduled.

**Late Work Policy:** Exams will be distributed during the first 10 minutes of class. If you are late to class, you will not be permitted to take the assessment. Graded assignments are due within the first 10 minutes of class. If you are late to class, you will not be allowed to submit your assignment for a grade.

**Missed Exams:** Make-up exams are **NOT** available. Exams will be distributed during the first 10 minutes of class. If you are late to class, you will not be permitted to take the exam. Since only 3 of the 4 exams will be counted toward your final grade, you will be able to miss an exam without it negatively impacting your grade; however, I recommend that you arrive to class in a timely fashion. If you are going to miss class, you must complete your graded assignments *before* the missed class.

**Blackboard:** Blackboard is an online course system that provides course material and handouts from class. If you are enrolled in my course, then the course has already been added to your account. I will be posting course material and handouts on Blackboard throughout the semester. It is imperative to check Blackboard regularly. Lectures will also be posted on Blackboard as long as class attendance and participation maintains at least 75%. However, if more than 75% of the class is consistently absent, lectures will no longer be posted on Blackboard. In addition, your semester exams, with the *exception* of Exam 2 and the Final Exam, will be administered on Blackboard.

**Classroom Etiquette:** I will be respectful of you and your time; I expect the same from you towards me and towards your peers. The “Movie Theatre” policy will be implemented throughout the semester (i.e. don’t be late, don’t eat during class, don’t talk while someone else is, and silence cell phones). Since students are often distracted during class, therefore, computers, ipads, and cell phones are prohibited, and will be confiscated.

**Changes to the Schedule:** While most of the information presented in this syllabus will remain the same, some changes may be necessary as the class progresses. You are responsible for any changes that are made to the syllabus and schedule during the semester. I strongly recommend you exchange information with at least two classmates in the event that you need to get information covered in class or have a last minute question.

**Extra Help:** Help IS available! This is a small class, and each of you has ample opportunities to obtain assistance if you need it. I have office hours listed at the top of the syllabus. If you cannot make it to my office hours, email me and we can schedule an appointment. Do not wait until the day before the test to ask for help.

**Academic Honesty:** The College has implemented a clear policy with regard to academic honesty, a policy that will be strictly enforced in this class. Please refer to the student catalog for more information.

**Academic Accommodations:** Students needing learning accommodations should inform the professor immediately and consult the Academic Accommodations section of the HBU Classroom Policy posted on Blackboard. Documentation of Difficulties- If an education

student fails to demonstrate an acceptable level of performance on one or more professional educator standards during any class or field experience, a form is filed in the Education Office (a PMID: Progress Monitoring & Intervention Documentation). If two such forms occur, a conference is held in which difficulties are identified and means for improvement are explored. [Sometimes specific interventions will be required.] A third form will result in a committee hearing to review difficulties and means for improvement and to determine conditions for continuance in the program. Professional standards include knowledge, skills and dispositions.

### Hints For *Successfully* Completing the Course

1. **Come to class.** Very few students are capable of learning this course's content on their own. **VERY FEW.** Do not assume that you are one of them.

2. **Keep up with the information.** Review your notes after each class, and read the assigned text pages soon after the corresponding class lecture. Ideally, the text pages should be read the same day as the lecture or the day before or after. *Under no circumstances should you wait until the night before the exam to read the text.* Reading the text regularly will help reinforce what you learn in class and prepare you to correctly answer exam questions on information covered in the book.

3. **Seek help.** It is your job to get a C or better in this class, and my job to help you do so. I can help you take better notes, learn effectively from your notes, devise effective study strategies, etc. If you can't make it to my office hours, send me an e mail and make an appointment to see me with **specific** questions. Do not wait until you have failed the first 2 exams to seek help. Do **not** ask me if you can write a paper in order to salvage your grade.

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"When I'm stressed, I pet the cat.  
When the cat is stressed, she pets me."

### PSYC 3410 Tentative Outline

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>DUE</u>
W	1/20	Introduction	
F	1/22	Explaining Behavior & Getting Ideas for Research Brainstorm Day	<b>Signed Student Contract</b>
M	1/25	Explaining Behavior & Getting Ideas for Research Brainstorm Day	Ch. 1 & 3
W	1/27	Explaining Behavior & Getting Ideas for Research	Ch. 1 & 3
F	1/29	Choosing a Research Design	<b>Proposal Topic</b>
M	2/1	Choosing a Research Design	Ch. 2
W	2/3	Developing and Evaluating Theories of Behavior	Ch. 4
F	2/5	Literature search	
M	2/8	<b>Exam 1 (Ch. 1-4)</b>	
W	2/10	Critical Thinking & Mini Article Review	<b>Mini Article Review</b>
F	2/12	Literature search	
M	2/15	Writing a Research Paper in APA Style	APA Ch. 3
W	2/17	<b>Library Resources- Location: TBA</b>	
F	2/19	Literature search	
M	2/22	APA- Introduction	APA Ch. 4 & 6 <b>1<sup>st</sup> 15 Articles</b>
W	2/24	APA- Method	
F	2/26	APA- Abstract & Avoiding Plagiarism	
M	2/29	APA- Results & Discussion	APA Ch. 7 & 8
W	3/2	<b>Peer Review- Introduction</b>	
F	3/4	Making Systematic Observations	Ch. 5 & <b>Intro. FD</b>
M	3/7	<b>Exam 2 (APA Style)</b>	
W	3/9	Participants & Ethics	Ch. 6
F	3/11	Participants & Ethics (cont.)	Ch. 7
<b>SPRING BREAK: MARCH 14-18</b>			
M	3/21	<b>Peer Review- Method</b>	
W	3/23	Nonexperimental Research	Ch. 8 & <b>Method FD</b>
<b>EASTER HOLIDAY: MARCH 25</b>			
M	3/28	Survey Research	Ch. 9
W	3/30	<b>Exam 3 (Ch. 5-9)</b>	
F	4/1	<b>Peer Review- Results &amp; Discussion</b> Research Designs	Ch. 10-11
M	4/4	Inferential Statistics	Ch. 14

W	4/6	Inferential Statistics con't	<b>Results/Discussion FD</b>
F	4/8	<b>Workshop Day</b>	
M	4/11	<b>Research Proposal</b> via Turnitin.com by 11:59pm	<b>Research Proposal-</b> digital copy uploaded
W	4/13	<b>Exam 4 (Ch 10,11,14)</b>	
F	4/15	<b>Peer Review- Oral Presentation</b>	<b>Research Proposal-</b> hard copy
M	4/18	SPSS Demo	
W	4/20	Final Exam Review- Blackboard Discussion	
F	4/22	Final Exam Review- In class	
M	4/25	<b>Oral Presentations</b>	
W	4/27	<b>Oral Presentations</b>	
F	4/29	<b>Oral Presentations</b>	
M	5/2	<b>Oral Presentations</b>	
W	5/4	<b>Oral Presentations</b>	
F	5/6	<b>Oral Presentations</b>	<b>CITI Training Completion Certification</b>
M	5/9	<b>Reading Day: No Class</b>	
<b>FINAL EXAMS (MAY 10-13)</b>			

\*\*\*The above procedures and schedule may be subject to change based on the discretion of the professor.

Please note,

The last day to add a class is January 22nd

The last day to drop without a "W" is February 3rd

The last day to drop with a "W" is April 1st

### Person Responsible for Developing this Syllabus

Dr. Darby Hawley has developed this syllabus according to the recommendations of the Department, College, and University.

***Amanda Ford, LMSW, PhD***

Instructor's Signature

***January 18, 2016***

Date



## COURSE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS - PSYC 3410 - Spring 2016

### Syllabus Statement

I am aware of all topics described in the course syllabus. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- course description; course sequence in the curriculum and prerequisite information;
- instructor information and learning resources;
- relation to the mission of the University and to the goals and purposes of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences;
- course learning objectives;
- state and national standards covered (TexES competencies, IDA standards, etc);
- topical outline and learning strategies;;
- assessment for learning: requirements & grading standards;
- **HBU CLASS POLICIES: -the University document posted on Blackboard;**
- additional policies for this class: attendance, late work, missed tests and electronic devices;
- the possibility of changes to the syllabus. [The content of this syllabus and the attached agenda are subject to change at the discretion of the professor.]

### Professional Integrity Statement

To maintain and uphold the highest level of professional integrity and honesty, cheating and plagiarizing are not allowed. . If a student cheats and/or plagiarizes, then the student will receive a "0" for the assignment and/or fail the course

Cheating is a catch-all term for not doing your own work. Any attempt during a test to consult with notes or another person or to look at another's test constitutes cheating. If answers are shared in any way, both students will receive the same penalty for cheating. Using stolen tests or "borrowed" tests (any test that is not readily available to all members of the class) to study for an exam is cheating. Within the broader view of cheating is the idea of using someone else's work in place of your own. This is called plagiarism and is not allowed.

### DO NOT:

- copy another person's paper/project/work or part of that and turn it in as your own;
- copy a paper/project from the Internet and turn them in as your own;
- copy another paper/project (or cut and paste parts of Internet articles), make changes to it, and submit it as your own;
- include the work of others without documentation/reference (If seven or more words are taken directly from another source it must be quoted and referenced.);
- submit a paper/project or large parts of a paper/project you have done for another class at HBU or another institution to this class. (Always get a professor's approval before using a prior work or topic from a different class.);
- have someone write parts or all of your paper/project/work
- share your work with others;
- change references or make up references;
- falsify fieldwork documentation

By signing this page, **I affirm** that I have read and understand the contents of this course **Syllabus Statement, the Professional Integrity Statement, and the University Class Policies**. I understand that at any time during the course, I may request clarification, if needed.

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Printed Name

Signature

Date

[After reading the course syllabus and this page, please **print and sign this** form then turn it in to the professor.]