

# **RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (PSY4700)**

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Office Hours: Wed from 12pm to 4pm,  
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## **DESCRIPTION**

This is a multi-faceted experiential learning course designed to provide students with knowledge about research and the research process in experimental social psychology. The field of experimental social psychology seeks to answer varied research questions about social life by utilizing the experimental method of manipulating variables and measuring their influence. One goal of this advanced research methodology course is for students to learn about theoretical, empirical, and statistical issues relevant to experimental social psychology. A second goal is for students to gain a deeper understanding of the decisions involved in conducting experimental social psychology research. A final goal is to provide a hands-on learning experience about the research process in an experimental social psychology laboratory.

## **MEETING TIMES/DAYS**

We will meet as a class on Fridays at noon in UH5150F. Students will also schedule individualized times throughout each week where they will complete experiential learning tasks in a laboratory setting (described below).

## **PREREQUISITES**

Students are expected to have previously taken Principles of Psychology (PSY1010) and Statistical Methods (PSY2100).

## **READINGS & MATERIAL**

*1. Primary source empirical research articles on the topic of experimental social psychology.* Readings will be provided on-line on the course Black Board page.

*2. Research Methods in Social Psychology (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition).* Aronson, Ellsworth, Carlsmith, & Hope Gonzales (McGraw-Hill; ISBN-10: 0070024669). This text provides a guide for the process of experimentation: focusing on asking the right questions, translating questions into a workable ethical design, setting up data collection, designing reliable and valid dependent variables, avoiding bias, conducting the post-experimental interviews, and writing up research results. Readings from this book will be provided on-line on the course Black Board page.

## **WEBSITE**

We will use Blackboard to post grades and reading material.  
<https://blackboard.utdl.edu/webapps/login/>

## **OBJECTIVES**

- Be trained and certified in ethical psychological research practices
- Be able to conduct a literature search on social psychological topics
- Be able to develop social psyc



## GRADING

You will earn points in the class as follows:

93 – 100% A	80 – 82% B-	67 – 69% D+
90 – 92% A-	77 – 79% C+	63 – 66% D
87 – 89% B+	73 – 76% C	60 – 62% D-
83 – 86% B	70 – 72% C-	less than 60% F

As indicated above, there are a number of components to this course. **First**, students should attend and participate in meetings. We will take attendance during these meetings and monitor participation. Students can earn up to 10 points for each meeting based on their attendance and degree of participation/engagement as determined by the instructor (130 points total). **Second**, students should submit a 1-page reaction paper on 7 occasions during the semester. These should be submitted to the instructor by the Wednesday following the class meeting. Students can choose which of the 7 weeks they want to submit reaction papers. Students can earn up to 10 points for each reaction paper (70 points total). **Third**, students should complete their experiential learning tasks each week. In total, each student will complete approximately a minimum of 6 hours of experiential learning tasks each week when signed up for 2 credit hours, a minimum of 9 hours per week when signed up for 3 credit hours, and a minimum of 12 hours per week when signed up for 4 credit hours (3 hours per credit hour). Earning all the points assumes that the student has been

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS**

Below is a schedule of topics for the class meetings throughout the semester. For the “Readings/Preparation” column, this indicates the outside work that you should be doing *before* coming to class that day.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading/Preparation</b>
1/24	Orientation to Research in Experimental Social Psychology; Training and Logistics	Read Aronson Ch. 1
1/31	Laboratory Research Demonstration and Elaboration	Read Aronson Ch. 6
2/7	Data Collection Programs: An Introduction to Qualtrics	Read Aronson Ch. 4
2/14	Programming and Experimentation in Qualtrics	Read Aronson Ch. 7
2/21	Research Findings and Data Dissemination	
2/28	<b>No class meeting – SPSP conference</b>	
3/6	Presenting Research; Empirical Research Presentations	Read Aronson Ch. 8
3/13	<b>No class meeting - Spring Break</b>	
3/20	Data Collection Methodologies in Social Psychology; Empirical Article Discussion (ecological momentary assessment)	Article TBA
3/27	Developing Research Hypotheses and Designs	Read Aronson Ch. 3;
4/3	Graduate Education in Social (and other) Psychology Programs - Day 1	
4/10	Graduate Education in Social (and other) Psychology Programs -	

### **Resources Related to Sexual or Gender-based Violence and Harassment**

The University of Toledo cares greatly about the health and well-being of our students, staff, and faculty, and takes all sexual or gender-based violence and harassment very seriously. If you have experienced sexual assault, sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, and/or stalking and want a confidential place to obtain support and information, please contact the Center for Student Advocacy and Wellness on the main campus in Health and Human Services Room 3017. You can call 419.530.2497 during regular business hours and 419.530.3431 for 24-hour assistance from a trained advocate. In-person, walk-in appointments are also available Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Center for Student Advocacy and Wellness provides free and confidential advocacy and