

Psychology 458 Experimental Psychology 43205
SEA 2.114 MWF 1:00 - 3:00
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Office Hours: MWF 3-4
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Text: Basic Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences (3rd Edition), by Kenneth D. Hopkins, B. R. Hopkins, Gene V. Glass

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the various issues involved in conducting psychological research. Minimally this includes the design, analysis, and reporting of experiments. In this course we will also attempt to focus on the less tangible but ultimately more important issue of how one asks a good question - a question that leads the way to learning something that you don't already know.

Requirements:

1. There will be a 45 minute examination every second Monday. These exams will consist of 2 or 3 questions requiring short essays or solutions to specific problems.
2. During the semester the class will construct a number of illustrative experiments. For 2 of these experiments, each student will analyze the data and write a summary of the experiment in a form that would be acceptable in a psychological journal such as *Human Perception and Performance*.
3. Each student will undertake a final project. As part of this project, the student will (a) develop their own research question, (b) formulate an experiment that addresses some aspect of this question, (c) conduct the experiment, (d) analyze the data, (e) give a short informal talk describing the research, and (f) write a written report in the style of a scientific paper.

Grading:

Examinations - 20%
Reports of Illustrative Experiments - 30%
Final Project - 50%

General Policy: Attendance in class is required. One unexcused absence is allowed. Further absence will result in a 1/2 final grade penalty. To be specific; 2 unexcused absences will result in a final grade of A being recorded as an A-. If you must be absent please contact the instructor or the TA.

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY.

This course carries the Quantitative Reasoning flag. Quantitative Reasoning courses are designed to equip you with skills that are necessary for understanding the types of quantitative arguments you will regularly encounter in your adult and professional life. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from your use of quantitative skills to analyze real-world problems.

This course carries the Writing Flag. Writing Flag courses are designed to give students experience with writing in an academic discipline. In this class, you can expect to write regularly during the semester, complete substantial writing projects, and receive feedback from your instructor to help you improve your writing. You will also have the opportunity to revise one or more assignments, and you may be asked to read and discuss your peers' work. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from your written work. Writing Flag classes meet the Core Communications objectives of Critical Thinking, Communication, Teamwork, and Personal Responsibility, established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.