PSYC 4443 Research Methods
Spring 2017

Instructor: Dr. Joe Dickson
Section # and CRN: CRN - 20033 - PSYC 4443 - P01
Office Location: Don K. Clark, JJP Building Rm. 251
Office Phone: 936-261-5218
Email Address: jwdickson@pvamu.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1pm – 5pm; Wednesdays 10am – 3pm; Thursdays 1pm – 5pm
And By Appointments
Mode of Instruction: Face To Face
Course Location: Juvenile Justice Building 260
Class Days & Times: TR 11:00am - 12:20pm.
Catalog Description: Work in designing and carrying on research projects both in laboratory and in more life-like situations. The use and understanding of appropriate statistical procedures are emphasized.
Prerequisites: PSYC 2613 and 9 additional hours of 2000-3000 level psychology courses.
Co-requisites: None

PVAMU Library: phone: (936) 261-1500; web: http://www.tamu.edu/pvamu/library/
University Bookstore: phone: (936) 261-1990; web: https://www.bkstr.com/Home/10001-10734-1?demoKey=d

Student Learning Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

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<tr>
<th>Program Learning Outcome # Alignment</th>
<th>Core Curriculum Outcome Alignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Empirical and Quantitative Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Critical Thinking &amp; Communication</td>
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Course Requirements & Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

**Exams** – written tests designed to measure knowledge of presented course material
**Homework and Proposal Sections**– Students will produce a research proposal during the semester. The proposal will be submitted in sections per the instructions given in class. Students will be given feedback on the sections prior to submitting the final full proposal. See course schedule for due dates.
**Final Research Proposal** – Individual written proposal – Final Product
**Class Participation/Quizzes** – daily attendance and participation in class discussions or in class assignments

Grading Matrix

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Value (points or percentages)</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>3 exams (15% each)</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposal section submissions and oral presentation</td>
<td></td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes, Attendance and Participation</td>
<td></td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Proposal</td>
<td></td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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**Grade Determination:**
A = 100 – 90pts;
B = 89 – 80pts;
C = 79 – 70pts;
D = 69 – 60pts;
F = 59 pts or below

**Taskstream**
Taskstream is a tool that Prairie View A&M University uses for assessment purposes. At least one of your assignments is **REQUIRED** to be submitted as an "artifact," an item of coursework that serves as evidence that course objectives are met. More information will be provided during the semester, but for general information, you can visit Taskstream via the link in eCourses.
Formatting Documents: Microsoft Word is the standard word processing tool used at PVAMU. If you're using other word processors, be sure to use the “save as” tool and save the document in either the Microsoft Word, Rich-Text, or plain text format. All documents should conform to requirements outlined in the APA Publication Style Manual, 6th edition.

General policy:

1. Students must make every effort to attend all lectures and remain for the duration of each lecture.
2. All cell phones and media devices must remain on silent mode and out of sight during lecture. Please review the Policy Statement regarding this matter posted on ecourses. 
3. Make-up examinations will be considered only in cases of medical or other very serious emergencies. Formal documentation of the emergency will be required for consideration for make-up work or examinations. 
4. Students must make every effort to be on time for evaluation and lecture. 
5. No sleeping or excessive, unrelated talking during lecture. 
6. Gentlemen must remove hats during lecture.
Disrespectful and/or disruptive behavior of any sort will not be tolerated during lecture.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1: Go over syllabus, Uncommon Sense and the Scientific Method</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter (s): Chapter 1</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Homework Assignment:</strong> Find, print, and read 1 empirical research article</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 2: The Practice of Psychological Research</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter (s): Chapter 2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Homework Assignment:</strong> Begin search for articles related to your topic</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 3: Essentials of APA report writing</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter (s): Chapter 12</td>
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<td><strong>Homework Assignment:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 4: Ethics in Behavioral Research</th>
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<td>Chapter (s): Chapter 3</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 5: Conceptualization and Measurement</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter (s): Chapter 4</td>
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| Assignment (s): **Homework Assignment:** Bring in 7 articles related to your topic. (Email PDF version or bring in paper copies by beginning of class) |

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<tr>
<th>Week 6: Exam #1 Bring a Scantron (Chapters 1-4; 12)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sampling and Survey Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Causation and Experimentation: Single-Factorial Designs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter (s): Chapter 5 &amp; Chapter 6</td>
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<th>Week 7: Review Exam 1 – Writing Research Questions &amp; Hypotheses</th>
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<td>Chapter (s):</td>
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<td><strong>Week 8:</strong> Writing the introduction</td>
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<td>Chapter (s):</td>
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<tr>
<th>Homework Research Topic and Hypotheses</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter (s):</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 9: Review Hypotheses</th>
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<tr>
<td>Small-N and Single-Subject Designs</td>
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<td>Chapter (s):</td>
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| Homework Assignment: |

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<tr>
<th>Week 10: Review Articles</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 11: <strong>Writing the introduction and literature review</strong></th>
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<td>Chapter (s):</td>
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Week 12: Continue work on Introduction and Literature Review
Exam #2 Online

Week 13: Writing the Method Section, Design, Analysis Plan and Conclusions

Homework Assignment: Introduction and Literature Review Due
Continue work on Method, Design, Analysis and Conclusions in class

Week 14: Continue work on Method, Design, Analysis and Conclusions

Homework Assignment: Method Design, Analysis and Conclusions due

Week 15: Feedback and polishing the final proposal,
Resubmissions of Introduction and Literature Review due
(optional for grade increase if improvements made)

Final Proposal due 5/8/2017 8:00 am No Exceptions

There is no Final Exam for this class. Your final proposal is your final exam and is worth 30% of your overall grade. This is due May 8, 2017 by 8:00am on Turnitin.com No late papers will be accepted

Extra Credit Opportunities

Psychology graduate students and department faculty at Prairie View are actively engaged in research. You may participate in department research projects and earn extra credit in this course. Participating in research both helps advance our knowledge about psychology and is an excellent way of getting to know how such research is conducted. You'll encounter research methods firsthand and after the study is completed you will be informed of its purpose and given an explanation of the study.

You may volunteer to participate in up to 3 credits worth of experiments for an extra credit value of 15 points (5 per credit), added to your final proposal paper. This extra credit will be added to your cumulative course grade. A research credit is 60 minutes of time. A half-credit is 30 minutes. You may participate in less than 3 credits, where each credit will be worth 5 points. Descriptions of the experiments and lists of time slots available are on the psychology experiment website. You will need to make a login onto the site (pvamu.sona-systems.com). An easy way to find the website is to go to pvamu.edu/cojjp, then select “Undergraduate”. Then select the “Experiment Sign-up” option. At that point, you will probably need to click on the “New Participant” option in the bottom left and fill out the form. After you create a login, you can log in and see descriptions of the experiments and times available, and you may sign up for open times. Please make a note of when and where the study is to take place. Students who fail to show up for a study at the agreed-upon time may be penalized a credit. You may also come back to check on the title and where you are supposed to be for an experiment under My Sign-ups. All research participation must be completed no later than November 8th (3 weeks prior to the last day of classes). Extra credit will be given only for participation in approved departmental research projects that appear on the website.

If you would prefer not to participate in the research, there is an option of writing a short paper reviewing research to obtain the same extra credit value of 5 points. Each paper written will be worth the equivalent of one credit; in other words, each paper written will be worth 5 points of extra credit. You may also do a combination of research participation and writing short papers to earn the maximum extra credit of 15 points. See the alternative extra credit section below for more information.
**Extra credit should not replace studying. If you are struggling with the course material come see me as soon as you are having trouble. In this course, the material builds on itself so it is important that you do NOT fall behind.**

**Student Support and Success**

**John B. Coleman Library**
The library and its partners have as their mission to provide resources and instructional material in support of the evolving curriculum, as a partner in Prairie View A&M University's mission of teaching, research, and service and to support the University's core values of access and quality, diversity, leadership, relevance, and social responsibility through emphasis on ten key areas of service. It maintains library collections and access both on campus, online, and through local agreements to further the educational goals of students and faculty. [https://www.pvamu.edu/library/](https://www.pvamu.edu/library/)

**Phone: 936-261-1500**

**The Learning Curve (Center for Academic Support)**
The Learning Curve offers Tutoring via peer tutoring. The services include workshops (i.e., Save My Semester, Recalculate Your Route), seminars (i.e., Tools You Can Use: TI-84), group review sessions (i.e., College Algebra Topic Reviews, GRE Preparation), group study opportunities (i.e., TSIA, HESI, Study Break, Exam Cram), and test-taking strategies (How to take Notes, Study Buddy, 5 Day Study Guide). The Learning Curve is a nationally certified tutoring program through the National Tutoring Association. The peer tutors are trained and certified by the coordinator each semester. Location: J.B. Coleman Library Rm. 207F. Phone: 936-261-1561

**The Center for the Oversight and Management of Personalized Academic Student Success (COMPASS)**
The Center for the Oversight and Management of Personalized Academic Student Success (COMPASS) is designed to help Prairie View students in their second year and beyond navigate towards graduation by providing the following services: Academic Advisement, Targeted Tutorials for Personalized Learning, Campus-Wide Referrals, and Academic & Social Workshops. Location: J.B. Coleman Library Rm. 306. Phone: 936-261-1040

**Writing Center**
The Writing Center provides student consultants on all aspects of the writing process and a variety of writing assignments. Writing Center consultations assist students in such areas as prewriting, brainstorming, audience awareness, organization, research, and citation. Students taking on-line courses or courses at the Northwest Houston Center or College of Nursing may consult remotely or by email. Location: Hilliard Hall Rm. 121. Phone: 936-261-3724.

**Student Counseling Services**
The Student Counseling Services unit offers a range of services and programs to assist students in maximizing their potential for success: short-term individual, couples, and group counseling, as well as crisis intervention, outreach, consultation, and referral services. The staff is licensed by the State of Texas and provides assistance to students who are dealing with academic skills concerns, situational crises, adjustment problems, and emotional difficulties. Information shared with the staff is treated confidentially and in accordance with Texas State Law. Location: Owens-Franklin Health Center Rm. 226. Phone: 936-261-3564

**Testing**
The Department of Testing administers College Board CLEP examinations, the HESI A2 for pre-nursing majors, LSAT for law school applicants and MPRE for second-year law students, the Experiential Learning Portfolio option, the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment, which determines college readiness in the state, and exam proctoring, among other service such as SAT and ACT for high school students. Location: Delco Rm. 141. Phone: 936-261-4286

**Office of Diagnostic Testing and Disability Services**
As a federally-mandated educational support unit, the Office of Disability Services serves as the repository for confidential disability files for faculty, staff, and students. For persons with a disability, the Office develops individualized ADA letters of request for accommodations. Other services include: learning style inventories, awareness workshops, accessibility pathways, webinars, computer laboratory with adapted hard and software, adapted furniture, proctoring of non-standardized test administrations, ASL interpreters, ALDs, digital recorders,
livescribe, Kurtzweil, and a comprehensive referral network across campus and the broader community. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 317. Phone: 936-261-3585

Veteran Affairs
Veterans Services works with student veterans, current military and military dependents to support their transition to the college environment and continued persistence to graduation. The Office coordinates and certifies benefits for both the G.I. Bill and the Texas Hazlewood Act. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 323. Phone: 936-261-3563

Office for Student Engagement
The Office for Student Engagement delivers comprehensive programs and services designed to meet the co-curricular needs of students. The Office implements inclusive and accessible programs and services that enhance student development through exposure to and participation in diverse and relevant social, cultural, intellectual, recreational, community service, leadership development and campus governance. Location: Memorial Student Center Rm. 221. Phone: 936-261-1340

Career Services
Career Services supports students through professional development, career readiness, and placement and employment assistance. The Office provides one-on-one career coaching, interview preparation, resume and letter writing, and career exploration workshops and seminars. Services are provided for students at the Northwest Houston Center and College of Nursing in the Medical Center twice a month or on a requested basis. Distance Learning students are encouraged to visit the Career Services website for information regarding services provided. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 217. Phone: 936-261-3570

University Rules and Procedures

Disability Statement (Also See Student Handbook): The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Evans Hall, Room 317, or call 936-261-3585/3.

Academic Misconduct (See Student Handbook): You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures.

Forms of Academic Dishonesty:  
1. Cheating: deception in which a student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations.

2. Academic misconduct: tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.

3. Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.

4. Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else’s words, ideas, or data as one’s own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting them as one’s own work also constitutes plagiarism.

Nonacademic Misconduct (See Student Handbook) The university respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either (1) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class, (2) the inability of other students to profit from the instructional program, or (3) campus behavior that interferes with the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive
behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students under nonacademic procedures.

**Sexual Misconduct (See Student Handbook):**
Sexual harassment of students and employers at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

**Title IX Statement**
Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) is committed to supporting students and complying with the Texas A&M University System non-discrimination policy. It seeks to establish an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you experience an incident of sex- or gender-based discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual assault or attempted sexual assault, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, the faculty member must report the basic facts of your experience to Ms. Alexia Taylor, PVAMU’s Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you privacy or confidentiality, there are individuals who can meet with you. The Title IX Coordinator is designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies and can assist you with understanding your options and connect you with on- and off-campus resources. The Title IX Coordinator can be reached by phone at 936-261-2123 or in Suite 013 in the A.I. Thomas Administration Building.

**Class Attendance Policy (See Catalog for Full Attendance Policy)**
Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Attending all classes supports full academic development of each learner whether classes are taught with the instructor physically present or via distance learning technologies such as interactive video and/or internet.

Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student’s course grade being reduced or in assignment of a grade of “F”. Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class during regular semesters and summer terms. Each faculty member will include the University’s attendance policy in each course syllabus.

**Student Academic Appeals Process**
Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rests with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor's assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.

**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**Minimum Recommended Hardware and Software:**
- Intel PC or Laptop with Windows 7; Mac with OS X; Smartphone or iPad/Tablet with Wi-Fi
- High speed Internet access
- 8 GB Memory
- Hard drive with 320 GB storage space
- 15” monitor, 800x600, color or 16 bit
- Sound card w/speakers
- Microphone and recording software
- Keyboard & mouse
- Most current version of Google Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer or Firefox

**Note:** Be sure to enable Java & pop-ups in the Web browser preferences

**Participants should have a basic proficiency of the following computer skills:**
- Sending and receiving email
- A working knowledge of the Internet
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word (or a program convertible to Word)
- Proficiency in the Acrobat PDF Reader
- Basic knowledge of Windows or Mac O.S.

**Netiquette (online etiquette):**
Students are expected to participate in all discussions and virtual classroom chats as directed. Students are to be respectful and courteous to others on discussions boards. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated.

**Technical Support:**
Students should go to [https://mypassword.pvamu.edu/](https://mypassword.pvamu.edu/) if they have password issues. The page will provide instructions for resetting passwords and contact information if login issues persist. For other technical questions regarding eCourses, call the Office of Distance Learning at 936-261-3283.

**Communication Expectations and Standards:**
Emails or discussion postings will receive a response from the instructor, usually in less than 48 hours. Urgent emails should be marked as such. Check regularly for responses.

**Discussion Requirement:**
Online courses often require minimal to no face-to-face meetings. However, conversations about the readings, lectures, materials, and other aspects of the course can take place in a seminar fashion. This will be accomplished by the use of the discussion board. The exact use of discussion will be determined by the instructor.

It is strongly suggested that students type their discussion postings in a word processing application and save it to their PC or a removable drive before posting to the discussion board. This is important for two reasons: 1) If for some reason your discussion responses are lost in your online course, you will have another copy; 2) Grammatical errors can be greatly minimized by the use of the spell-and-grammar check functions in word processing applications. Once the post(s) have been typed and corrected in the word processing application, it/they should be copied and pasted to the discussion board.