

**EDP 381C-2 (10575): Research Design and Methods for Psychology and Education**  
**Fall 2019, Tues/Thur, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm**  
**SZB 268**

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### **Course Description**

This course will introduce essential concepts and methods used in quantitative empirical research in the fields of education and psychology, in order to prepare students both to be informed consumers of research and to conduct empirical research of their own. The course is organized around four main themes: measurement, populations and sampling, experimental causal research, and quasi-experimental causal research. On each theme, we will read relevant theoretical and methodological literature, discuss empirical research in light of those concepts, and develop research proposals using the methods that we discuss. Throughout, emphasis will be placed on building intuition and heuristics regarding research designs and methods.

### **Learning Goals**

By the end of this course, you should be able to...

- Identify and describe the important operational features of different types of research designs (e.g., surveys, randomized experiments, quasi-experimental designs).
- Identify major strengths and weaknesses of different research designs.
- Critique the design of published studies that use quantitative, empirical research methods in terms of construct validity, internal validity, and external validity.
- Formulate clear, well-motivated research questions.
- Construct proposals for empirical research studies using a variety of different research designs.

### **Pre-Requisites**

- EDP 380D Psychometric Theory & Methods or equivalent training
- EDP 380C-4 (Correlation & Regression Methods) or EDP 380C-6 (Statistical Analysis of Experimental Data)

## Readings

- Readings posted on Canvas.
- Recommended text: Remler, D. K. & Van Ryzin, G. G. (2015). *Research Methods in Practice: Strategies for Description and Causation*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- Recommended text: Shadish, W. R., Cook, T. D., & Campbell, D. T. (2002). *Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Generalized Causal Inference*. Boston, MA: Houghton, Mifflin and Company.

## Assignments

There will be three short (3-5 page) writing assignments given over the course of the semester. You are expected to complete these assignments individually. Each assignment will involve writing either A) a brief “sketch” of a research proposal or B) one component of a research proposal.

## Research Proposals

It is impossible to learn how to ride a bicycle only by reading about how to pedal and balance. Likewise, one of the best ways—if not the only way—to learn how to design empirical research studies is through practicing (occasionally falling, getting back in the saddle and pedaling again, falling, getting back in the saddle...). Therefore, a major component of this course involves developing two realistic research proposals that use the methods and tools covered under each theme of the course. For each proposal, you will develop an initial draft, submit it for feedback from your peers, and then revise and resubmit final drafts. **Only the final drafts of the proposals will be graded.** You are encouraged (though not required) to work on each project in a group of up to three students; all students in the group will receive the same grade on the project.

## Writing

I expect that individual assignments and research proposals will be well composed, following the style and tone of an academic paper. I would encourage students who need assistance with their writing to seek help from the Sanger Learning Center (<http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/slc/grad>), which offers free tutoring services for graduate students.

You will need to cite other scholarly work in your assignments, following APA6 format. I highly recommend using reference management software such as [Microsoft EndNote](#) or [Zotero](#). Software like this will make it much easier to format your citations and reference lists, and it will make your life much easier when it comes time to write longer, more complex documents such as QPs and dissertations.

## Article Discussions and Synthesis

Over the course of the semester, we will read and discuss a number of empirical research articles that use the designs discussed in each section of the course. The goal of discussion is to *identify* and *critically assess* the most important aspects of the study, while making connections to the concepts we have discussed in class. All students are expected to study the assigned articles in advance and contribute to in-class discussion.

Students will work individually or in pairs to act as “synthesizer” for one article. As “synthesizer”, you have two jobs:

1. Study the article in detail, so that you can act as the expert on any aspects of the procedures or results where there are questions or points of confusion. If you have questions that you would like to discuss as a class, prepare them in advance.
2. After class, write a short (1.5-2 page), critical summary of the article that explains the key strengths and limitations of the study. This summary should synthesize the class discussion. I will grade it and then share it on Canvas with the class.

## Evaluation

- Proposals (42%). There will be two proposals. Each proposal has two due-dates: one for a draft that will be distributed for peer feedback and a second for a final draft. Late submissions on the first draft will lose the benefit of peer review, and will lead to final drafts being marked down 20% per day. Late submissions on the final draft will be marked down 20% per day.
- Peer reviews (8%). Students’ reviews of their peers’ proposals will be evaluated for thoroughness, relevance, and constructiveness. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- Assignments (30%). Three individual writing assignments will be given over the course of the semester.
- Article synthesis (8%). Each student will act as synthesizer for one article over the course of the semester.
- Discussion question responses (6%). Each student is expected to read the article to be discussed and to post a response to the accompanying discussion question on Canvas in advance of the class discussion.
- Class participation (6%). Students are expected to attend class meetings and to be informed, active participants in class discussions. Besides asking and answering questions during class discussion, other modes of participation include coming to office hours to discuss the course material (but not to discuss grades). Class participation will be evaluated based on the instructor’s global impression over the entire semester.

A tentative rubric for assignment of final grades is listed below. ***The instructor reserves the right to modify this rubric.*** Square brackets correspond to  $\leq$  or  $\geq$ ; rounded parentheses correspond to  $<$  or  $>$ .

A	[90, 100]	C+	[74, 77)
A-	[87, 90)	C	[70, 74)
B+	[84, 87)	C-	[67, 70)
B	[80, 84)	D	[60, 67)
B-	[77, 80)	F	[0, 60)

### **Attendance**

Students are responsible for all of the material presented during class meetings. If a student must miss a class, it is their responsibility to obtain and thoroughly review notes or summaries of the material that they missed. Frequent or unexcused absences will adversely affect a student's participation grade.

### **Academic Integrity**

Following the University's honor code, students are expected to maintain absolute integrity and a high standard of individual honor in scholastic work. All assignments (projects and presentations) must be completed with the utmost honesty, which includes acknowledging the contributions of other sources to your scholastic efforts; avoiding plagiarism; and completing assignments independently unless expressly authorized otherwise. *Assignments containing any plagiarized material will not be accepted.*

### **Email and scheduling etiquette**

Here is some unsolicited advice about emailing your professors:

- Treat correspondence by email (and over Canvas messages) as professional communication, using formal salutations ("[Dear Professor X](#)", "Dear Dr. Whatsyourface") unless and until it is clear that informal salutations ("Hey again", "What's Up, Yo!") are welcome. Being overly casual tends to convey the impression that you do not take your coursework seriously.
- When requesting a meeting with a professor (or other busy person), it is courteous to *list your full availability* over a reasonable window of time. This allows the person you're trying to meet to pick a time that is convenient to their schedule (which is likely very busy and complicated), rather than forcing them to list their availability, write back to request yours, or forgo control of their schedule.

### **Carrying of Handguns**

Students in this class should be aware of the following university policies:

- Individuals who hold a license to carry are eligible to carry a concealed handgun on campus, including in most outdoor areas, buildings and spaces that are accessible to the public, and in classrooms.
- It is the responsibility of concealed-carry license holders to carry their handguns on or about their person at all times while on campus. Open carry is NOT permitted, meaning that a license holder may not carry a partially or wholly visible handgun on

campus premises or on any university driveway, street, sidewalk or walkway, parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area.

### **Accommodations for students with disabilities**

The university is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive learning environment consistent with university policy and federal and state law. Please let me know if you experience any barriers to learning so I can work with you to ensure you have equal opportunity to participate fully in this course. If you are a student with a disability, or think you may have a disability, and need accommodations please contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). Please refer to SSD's website for contact and more information: <http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/>. If you are already registered with SSD, please deliver your Accommodation Letter to me as early as possible in the semester so we can discuss your approved accommodations and needs in this course.

### **Religious Holidays**

By UT Austin policy, students must notify the instructor of a pending absence due to religious observance at least fourteen days in advance. If the student must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, the student will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence, with no penalty.

### **Emergency Evacuation Policy**

Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform the instructor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the instructions of the instructor.
- Do not re-enter a building unless you're given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

## Tentative Schedule and Readings

### *Introduction*

8/29 - Types of research questions

- Remler & Van Ryzin (2015), "Research in the Real World" - Chp. 1

9/3 - Posing research questions

- Remler & Van Ryzin (2015), "Theory, Models, and Research Questions" - Chp. 2.
- Masia Warner, et al. (2016). Can school counselors deliver cognitive-behavioral treatment for social anxiety effectively? A randomized controlled trial. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 57(11), 1229-1238.

9/5 - Reading, summarizing, and critiquing research

- Grissom, J. A., & Redding, C. (2016). Discretion and disproportionality: Explaining the underrepresentation of high-achieving students of color in gifted programs. *AERA Open*, 2(1), 1–25. doi:10.1177/2332858415622175
- Carter, S. P., Greenberg, K., & Walker, M. S. (2017). The impact of computer usage on academic performance: Evidence from a randomized trial at the United States Military Academy. *Economics of Education Review*, 56, 118–132. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.econedurev.2016.12.005>

9/10 - The validity typology, construct validity

- Shadish, W. R., Cook, T. D., & Campbell, D. T. (2002). *Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Generalized Causal Inference*. Boston, MA: Houghton, Mifflin and Company. Chps. 2-3.

### *Measurement*

9/12 - Reliability and validity

- Hoyt, W. T., Warbasse, R. E., & Chu, E. Y. (2006). Construct validation in counseling psychology research. *The Counseling Psychologist*, 34(6), 769-805.
- (Recommended further reading) Remler & Van Ryzin (2015), "Measurement" - Chp. 4.

9/17 – More validity, questionnaire design

- Clark, L. A., & Watson, D. (2019). Constructing Validity: New Developments in Creating Objective Measuring Instruments. *Psychological Assessment*. Advance online publication. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/pas0000626>
- Schwarz, N. (1999). Self-reports: How the questions shape the answers. *American Psychologist*, 54(2), 93–105.

9/19 - More design issues in descriptive and associational research

- Forscher, P. S., Cox, W. T., Graetz, N., & Devine, P. G. (2015). The motivation to express prejudice. *Journal of personality and social psychology*, 109(5), 791.
- Miller, F. G., Johnson, A. H., Yu, H., Chafouleas, S. M., McCoach, D. B., Riley-Tillman, T. C., Fabiano, G. A., & Welsh, M. E. (2018). Methods matter: A multi-trait multi-method analysis of student behavior. *Journal of School Psychology*, 68, 53-72.

### ***Populations and sampling***

9/24 - External validity, probability sampling

- (Recommended reading) Remler & Van Ryzin (2015), "Sampling" - Chp. 5.

9/26 – Stratification

- Groves, et al. (2009). *Survey Methodology*. Chps. 1 & 4.

10/1 – Multi-stage (cluster) sampling

- Claessens, A., Engel, M., & Curran, F. C. (2015). The effects of maternal depression on child outcomes during the first years of formal schooling. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 32, 80-93.

10/3 – Non-probability sampling

- Kennedy, C., Mercer, A., Keeter, S., Hatley, N., Mcgeeney, K., & Gimenez, A. (2016). Evaluating Online Nonprobability Surveys. Pew Research Center.
- Hauser, D., Paolacci, G., & Chandler, J. J. (2018). Common Concerns with MTurk as a Participant Pool: Evidence and Solutions.  
<https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/uq45c>

10/8 - Missing data

- Baraldi, A. N., & Enders, C. K. (2010). An introduction to modern missing data analyses. *Journal of School Psychology*, 48(1), 5–37.
- Cantor et al. (2015). Report on the AAU Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct. Read Section 2 (Methodology) and Appendix 4 (Non-response bias analysis).

10/10 – Secondary data analysis

- Fahle, E. M., & Reardon, S. F. (2018). How Much Do Test Scores Vary Among School Districts? New Estimates Using Population Data, 2009–2015. *Educational Researcher*, 47(4), 221-234.
- Sewell, A. A., Jefferson, K. A., & Lee, H. (2016). Living under surveillance: gender, psychological distress, and stop-question-and-frisk policing in New York City. *Social Science & Medicine*, 159, 1-13.

- (Recommended further reading) Remler & Van Ryzin (2015), "Secondary Data" - Chp 6.

10/15 – Discussion of descriptive research projects

### ***Causal research: Randomized experiments***

10/17 – Replicability and pre-registration

- Munafò, M. R., Nosek, B. A., Bishop, D. V. M., Button, K. S., Chambers, C. D., Percie Du Sert, N., ... Ioannidis, J. P. A. (2017). A manifesto for reproducible science. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 1(1), 1–9. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-016-0021>
- van't Veer, A., & Giner-Sorolla, R. (2016). Pre-registration in Social Psychology - A discussion and suggested template. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 67, 2–12. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jesp.2016.03.004>
- (Recommended further reading) Nosek, B. A., Spies, J. R., & Motyl, M. (2012). Scientific Utopia: II. Restructuring Incentives and Practices to Promote Truth Over Publishability. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 7(6), 615–631. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1745691612459058>
- (Recommended further reading) Gehlbach, H., & Robinson, C. D. (2017). Mitigating Illusory Results through Pre-Registration in Education. *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19345747.2017.1387950>

10/22 – Experimental and quasi-experimental designs

- Kim, Y., & Steiner, P. (2016). Quasi-experimental designs for causal inference. *Educational Psychologist*, 51(3-4), 395-405.
- (Recommended reading) Remler & Van Ryzin (2015), "Causation" - Chp. 11.

10/24 - Simple randomized experiments, design choices

- Park, D., Ramirez, G., & Beilock, S. L. (2014). The role of expressive writing in math anxiety. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied*, 20(2), 103–111. <https://doi.org/10.1037/xap0000013>
- (Recommended further reading): Remler & Van Ryzin (2015), "Randomized Experiments" - Chp. 14.

10/29 - Block-randomization and covariate adjustment

10/31 - Cluster-randomized designs

- Bloom, H. S. (2005). Randomizing groups to evaluate place-based programs. In H. S. Bloom (Ed.), *Learning More from Social Experiments: Evolving Analytic Approaches* (pp. 115–172). New York, NY: Russell Sage Foundation. **Read pp. 115-134 and 141-157.**



11/5 – Power analysis

11/7 - Field issues: compliance, fidelity, and attrition

- Shadish, W. R., Cook, T. D., & Campbell, D. T. (2002). *Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Generalized Causal Inference*. Boston, MA: Houghton, Mifflin and Company. Chp. 10, pp. 314-340.

11/12 - Some examples of experiments

- Freeman, D., Sheaves, B., Goodwin, G. M., Yu, L.-M., Nickless, A., Harrison, P. J., ... Espie, C. A. (2017). The effects of improving sleep on mental health (OASIS): a randomised controlled trial with mediation analysis. *The Lancet Psychiatry*, 366(17), 1–10. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2215-0366\(17\)30328-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2215-0366(17)30328-0)
- Lipsey, Farran, & Durkin (2018). Effects of the Tennessee Prekindergarten Program on children’s achievement and behavior through third grade. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, forthcoming.
- Early, D., Berg, J. K., Alicea, S., Si, Y., Aber, J. L., Ryan, R. M., & Deci, E. L. (2015). The Impact of Every Classroom, Every Day on High School Student Achievement: Results From a School-Randomized Trial. *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness*. doi:10.1080/19345747.2015.1055638

### ***Causal research: Quasi-experiments***

11/14 - Statistical adjustment

- (Recommended reading) Remler & Van Ryzin (2015), "Observational Studies" - Chp. 12
- (Recommended reading) Remler & Van Ryzin (2015), "Using Regression to Estimate Causal Effects" - Chp. 13.

11/19 – Matching

- Lindsay, C. A., & Hart, C. M. D. (2017). Exposure to Same-Race Teachers and Student Disciplinary Outcomes for Black Students in North Carolina. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 39(3), 485–510. <https://doi.org/10.3102/0162373717693109>

11/21 - Regression discontinuities

- Bergman, P., & Hill, M. J. (2018). The effects of making performance information public: Regression discontinuity evidence from Los Angeles teachers. *Economics of Education Review*, forthcoming.
- Bloom, H. S. (2012). Modern regression discontinuity analysis. *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness*, 5(1), 43–82.

11/26 - Interrupted time series

- Shadish, W. R., Cook, T. D., & Campbell, D. T. (2002). *Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Generalized Causal Inference*. Boston, MA: Houghton, Mifflin and Company. -Chp. 6. **Read pp. 171-206.**
- (Recommended further reading) Remler & Van Ryzin (2015), "Natural and Quasi Experiments" - Chp. 15.
- (Recommended further reading) Hallberg, K., Williams, R., Swanlund, A., & Eno, J. (2018). Short comparative interrupted time series using aggregate school-level data in education research. *Educational Researcher*, 0013189X18769302.

### 12/3 - Single-case designs

- Horner, R. H., & Odom, S. L. (2014). Constructing single-case research designs: Logic and options. In T. R. Kratochwill & J. R. Levin (Eds.), *Single-Case Intervention Research: Methodological and Statistical Advances* (pp. 53–90). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- Barton, E. E., & Ledford, J. R. (2017). Effects of Reinforcement on Peer Imitation in a Small Group Play Context. *Journal of Early Intervention*. <http://doi.org/10.1177/1053815117748409>

### 12/5 – Discussion of causal research projects