

PSYC 2012 Syllabus

Introduction to Research Methods PSYC 2012, Section A, 3 Credits

Fall 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor: Meghan Babcock, Ph.D.

Email: meghan.babcock@psych.gatech.edu

General Course Information

Description

Introduction to methods of conducting research on human behavior. Experimental research emphasized, but course covers other methods and some statistics.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Classify research claims from popular and scientific sources and assess the evidence supporting the claims
- Read and critically evaluate empirical research papers as an informed, critical consumer
- Distinguish between experimental and correlational studies and evaluate when causal claims can be supported
- Assess reliability and validity of measurements
- Identify and interpret factorial designs
- Understand what is necessary for ethical scientific research
- Demonstrate effective writing skills

Required Course Materials

Morling, B. *Research methods in psychology* (4th or 5th ed.). New York: Norton. 4th edition ISBN: 9780393893724 or 5th edition ISBN: 9781324085805 Available at Georgia Tech Barnes and Noble Bookstore.

Empirical Articles will be available in Canvas.

Grading Policy:

Assignments

1. 3 Exams @ 100 points each | 300 points
 2. 4 Article Quizzes @ 5 points each | 20 points
 3. 6 Written Assignments @ 10 points each | 60 points
 4. In-Class Activities | 40 points
- Total Points Possible = 450 points

Grading Scale

- 403 – 450 points = A
- 358 – 402.999 points = B
- 313 – 357.999 points = C
- 268 – 312.999 points = D
- 267.999 points or fewer = F

Students taking this course pass/fail must earn a minimum of 313.00 points (letter grade minimum of “C”) or better to pass and earn a satisfactory grade (“S”).

Students earning fewer than 313.00 points will receive an unsatisfactory grade (“U”) for the course.

Description of Graded Components

1. **Exams:** A total of three (3) exams worth 100 points each will count towards your final grade. The third exam will take place during our final exam time block and *is not cumulative*. The topics for each exam will include lectures, assigned textbook and article readings, and in-class assignments. The format for Exams 1 and 2 will be multiple-choice, true or false, fill in the blank, and short answer. The format for Exam 3 will be multiple choice and true or false only and is *not cumulative*.
 - Exams will be hosted via the Honorlock digital proctoring system with Browser Guard. Honorlock is utilized for student identity verification and to ensure academic integrity. This system requires students to have access to a webcam, microphone, and reliable Internet connection with Chrome browser (I do not recommend GT VPN). You will need to use your camera to scan all four walls of your room, as well as your workspace, desk, and area around your computer to confirm the integrity of the testing environment. The exam environment should be well-lit and free from distractions and interruptions. Honorlock will record exam sessions through your webcam, microphone, and recording your screen. Honorlock reports will be reviewed after each exam. Additional details will be provided in advance of the first exam.

- The work on all exams must be your OWN work, that is, they are not to be completed with the help or aid of others or outside materials. See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/> for information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code.
2. **Article Quizzes:** There are a series of article readings that will be assigned throughout the semester. A total of four (4) Article Quizzes worth 5 points each will count towards your final grade. The purpose of the readings is to supplement the lecture material and to provide additional perspectives on the topics we cover in class. The article quizzes will be posted to Canvas and must be completed by the assigned date/time listed in the course schedule and in Canvas. The format of the 4 article quizzes will be multiple choice and true or false and you will earn points for each correct answer. The article quizzes are timed but will not require the use of Honorlock and Browser Guard.
 3. **Written Assignments:** A total of six (6) written assignments worth 15 points each will be due over the course of the semester. These written assignments are to be completed outside of class and submitted to Canvas prior to the assigned deadline in our course syllabus and in Canvas. These assignments must be typewritten. Additional information and assignment rubrics will be posted on Canvas. The topics for the written assignments can be found below.
 - (1) Sources of Information
 - (2) Claims, Validities, and Measurement
 - (3) Survey, Observation, and Sampling
 - (4) Bivariate and Multivariate Correlational Research
 - (5) Experiments and Confounding Variables
 - (6) Complex Experiments and Ethics
 4. **In-Class Activities:** Attendance is expected for our course. To further encourage active learning and ensure your understanding of the material, a series of unannounced in-class activities will be administered throughout the semester. Some activities will be completed individually, whereas others will be completed in a group via Zoom breakout rooms. Activities will be given at different points during class time (beginning, middle, or end), so it is important that you arrive to class on time and stay for the entire duration of the class. This should encourage you to attend class on time, keep up with your readings and assignments, and engage in class discussion. Credit for in-class activities will be based on your individual contribution to the in-class activity and the accuracy of your responses.

Course Policies

Attendance and/or Participation

Attendance is expected for our course. To further encourage active learning and ensure your understanding of the material, a series of unannounced in-class activities will be administered throughout the semester. Some activities will be completed individually, whereas others will be completed in a group via Zoom breakout rooms. Activities will be given at different points during class time (beginning, middle, or end), so it is important that you arrive to class on time and stay for the entire duration of the class. This should encourage you to attend class on time, keep up with your readings and assignments, and engage in class discussion.

- **Credit for In-Class Activities:** Credit for in-class activities will be based on your individual contribution to the in-class activity and the accuracy of your responses. Although I cannot predict how many activities will be given over the course of the semester, you may miss 2 activities (only 2 activities!) without any penalty to your grade.
- **Missed In-Class Activities** can only be made up with an [Institute Approved Absence](#) or an official letter from the Dean of Students and must be completed within 7 days of the original in-class activity day. No exceptions will be made to this policy. It is your responsibility to contact the instructor to make up missed activities.

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review [Georgia Tech's Honor Code](#) and the student [Code of Conduct](#).

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Core IMPACTS

Not applicable

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, [contact the Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. [The Student-Faculty Expectations](#) articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Pre- &/or Co-Requisites

Prerequisites: PSYC 1101 and an approved Statistics course (See Oscar for list of courses)

Additional Course Policies – Remote Proctoring

- Exams will be hosted via the Honorlock digital proctoring system with Browser Guard. Honorlock is utilized for student identity verification and to ensure academic integrity. This system requires students to have access to a webcam, microphone, and reliable Internet connection with Chrome browser (I do not recommend GT VPN). You are responsible for selecting a location where you are comfortable with the space being videoed and audio recorded. You will need to use your camera to scan all four walls of your room, as well as your workspace, desk, and area around your computer to confirm the integrity of the testing environment. Ideally, the exam environment should be well-lit and free from distractions and interruptions. Honorlock will record exam sessions through your webcam, microphone, and recording your screen. Honorlock reports will be reviewed after each exam. Additional details will be provided in advance of the first exam.
- Honorlock Support. Honorlock support is available 24/7/365. If you encounter any issues, you may contact them through live chat on the [support page](#), email via support@honorlock.com, or within the exam itself.
- You can learn more about Honorlock form [this student guide](#) and this [student FAQ](#).
- The work on all exams must be your OWN work, that is, they are not to be completed with the help or aid of others or outside materials. See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/> for information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code.

Campus Resources for Students

Undergraduate Student Academic Success Resources:

- A list of resources for undergraduate students' academic success and information about advising can be found at [Success at Tech](#).
- Academic Support: Academic Success and Advising (a unit in the Office of Undergraduate Education & Student Success) provides free support for your courses. Students can attend scheduled supplemental review (PLUS) sessions, stop by Drop-In Tutoring, or schedule a one-on-one appointment through Knack. To explore what options work best for you, please visit us online at success.gatech.edu/tutoring, email us at tutoring@gatech.edu, or come see us at Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons, Suite 283.

Student Well-Being:

At Georgia Tech, we are concerned about your overall physical, social, and mental well-being. A [comprehensive list](#) of wellness related resources has been compiled and maintained by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-being ([student-resource-guide \(gatech.edu\)](#))