

South Plains College
Common Course Syllabus: PSYC 2317 (Statistical Methods in Psychology)
SPRING 2026 – Section 001

Department: Behavioral Sciences	Prerequisite: TSI reading compliance for Online
Discipline: Psychology	Available Formats: conventional and online
Course Number: PSYC 2314	Campuses: Levelland, Plainview, Lubbock Campus & Downtown Center, Online & Online Dual-Credit
Course Title: Lifespan Growth and Development	Credit: 3 Lecture: 3 Lab: 1

Course Description: This course covers descriptive and inferential statistics used in psychological research and assessment. It includes measurement, characteristics of distributions; measures of central tendency and variability; transformed scores; correlation and regression; probability theory; and hypotheses testing and inference.

Course Purpose: To acquaint students with various statistical research methods used in psychology. In addition, explain how statistics are used to analyze data collected in psychological research, and how statistics contribute to hypothesis testing in psychological research.

Course Requirements: To maximize the potential to complete this course, students should attend all class meetings and/or login to internet courses at least twice weekly. In addition, satisfactorily complete all homework assignments and examinations on time, and satisfactorily complete all other projects or papers as assigned in the course instructions.

Core Curriculum Objectives addressed:

- **Communications skills**—to include effective written, oral and visual communication
- **Critical thinking skills**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Empirical and quantitative competency skills**—to manipulate and analyze numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- **Social Responsibility**—to include the demonstrated knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Student Learning Outcomes: Students who have successfully completed this course should be to be able to:

- Compute and interpret empirical and theoretical probabilities.
- Define and explain the characteristics of data based on their reliability, validity, and scales of measurement.
- Interpret visual representations of data, such as graphs and tables.
- Compute and interpret descriptive statistics, such as mean, median, and mode; standard deviation and range; and transformed scores.
- Compute and interpret inferential statistics and tests, such as z test, t test, ANOVA, and Chi-Square.
- Calculate, evaluate, and interpret simple linear correlation/regression.

- Construct and interpret confidence intervals.
- Examine, analyze, and compare various sampling distributions.
- Formulate, perform, and interpret hypotheses tests.
- Identify the appropriate statistical analyses for given research problems, questions, hypotheses, and data sets.
- Apply statistical knowledge to the interpretation of psychological research.
- Explain features and purpose of statistical software packages.

Course Evaluation: See the instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in evaluating student performance. However, all courses will have multiple exams and written work that is designated by the instructor of record.

Attendance/Engagement Policy: Students are expected to engage in class each week in order to be successful in a course. "Engagement" includes learning activities such as attending class, submitting weekly online assignments, completing make-up work, etc. Due to South Plains College attendance policies, any student who fails to engage in three consecutive weeks during the semester or fails to attempt a minimum of two major grades may be dropped from the course with an 'X' or 'F.'

Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of "X" or "F" as determined by the instructor. Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of that policy.

It is the student's responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through MySPC using his or her student online account. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail order term paper mill;
2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
4. Missing in-text citations.

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
5. Taking an examination for another;
6. Altering grade records;
7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment;
8. Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's;
9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

Dropping a Course: Students may drop courses through Texan Connect, the Admissions and Records Office, or Advising and Testing Center through the late registration period.

After late registration has closed, a student must complete the online [Student Initiated Drop Request](#) to drop a course.

Students may also drop courses in person at any campus location by completing a Student Initiated Drop Form. Complete a [Student Initiated Drop Form](#) and return the signed form to the Levelland Admissions and Records Office, the Student Support Center at the Lubbock Downtown Center, the Lubbock Career and Technical Center, or Plainview Center. You must have a picture ID to complete the drop.

A mark of "W" will be given for student-initiated drops that occur prior to and through the last day to drop as indicated in the online Academic Calendar found here:

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/academiccalendar/index.php>.

Please refer to the follow in link for information on SPC policies regarding Intellectual Exchange, Disabilities, Non-Discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations, the Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation (CARE) Team, and Campus Concealed Carry: [Syllabus Statements \(southplainscollege.edu\)](#) OR www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/index.php

Instructor's Course Information: PSYC 2317: Statistical Methods in Psychology

Name: Dr. Andrea McCourt	Phone Number: (806)716-2458
Office: Levelland - Administration Room 127 Lubbock Downtown Campus Room 2005	Email Address: amcourt@southplainscollege.edu
Course Website: Blackboard (southplainscollege.blackboard.com)	Preferred Contact Information: Because I teach on multiple campuses, email is typically the fastest way to contact me.
Final Exam Time: Students must submit the last assignment/project during Finals Week	
Office Hours: Mondays: 11:00 a.m.-Noon and 2:15-3:15 (Levelland Campus) Tuesdays: 8:30-11:00 a.m. and 12:15-2:15 p.m. (Lubbock Downtown Campus) Wednesdays: 11:00 a.m.-Noon and 2:15-2:45 (Levelland Campus) Fridays: Virtual and On-Campus Office Hours by Appointment	

Textbook Information: Cote, Linda R.; Gordon, Rupa; Randell, Chrislyn E; Schmitt, Judy; and Marvin, Helena, Introduction to Statistics in the Psychological Sciences (2021). Open Educational Resources Collection 25. Available for download at <https://irl.umsld.edu/oer/25>

Student Access to Office 365

Microsoft Office 365 is now available to all SPC students. Students will have access to email, file storage, and Microsoft Office applications including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Publisher, Outlook, Skype and OneDrive by logging into <https://office.com> or <http://portal.office.com/account/#installs> for more apps.

All new student correspondence will be sent to their new o365 email account (student1234@southplainscollege.edu) and also forwarded to their Gmail account that will remain active.

Calculator: To complete problems on homework, in-class exercises and exams, you will need a basic scientific calculator that has a square root key, \sqrt{x} , and a squaring key, x^2 . Most of this can be accomplished with phone calculators. I will also have a few calculators available during class.

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

Respect for Fellow Students: It is the policy of South Plains College to offer all educational and employment opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability or age. All students will maintain respect for fellow classmates' personal beliefs, values, morals and life situations. In short, "Bigotry will not be tolerated." (Student Guide)

Disruptive Behavior: Please be respectful of others and their right to learn in a peaceful educational environment. Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to creating distractions, talking out of turn, talking with classmates during lecture, wandering in and out of class, chronically showing up late, chronically leaving early, or improper use of technology. "Failure to comply with lawful directions of a classroom teacher relative to maintaining good order is considered misconduct

on the part of the student. Repeated violations of disrupting a class will result in the student being dropped from the course." (See Student Guide)

Electronic Devices: Cell phones must be silenced and put away while in the classroom. Devices used for note-taking are permitted, but should be used responsibly and must not create distractions for you or others. Headphones will not be allowed during class.

Attendance & Administrative Drop Policy: Attendance will be taken during each class meeting. Students will be responsible for material presented and discussed in class. Due to South Plains College attendance policies, any student who fails to attend two consecutive weeks during the semester or fails to attempt a minimum of two major grades may be dropped from the course with an 'X' or 'F.'

Tardiness: Please do your best to manage your time well and be on time to class. If you are tardy, please enter the room quietly and take a seat as close to the door as you can get. Being late to class is disruptive to your fellow classmates. Being late to class is disruptive to your fellow classmates and is therefore subject to the same consequences listed in the Disruptive Behavior policy.

Academic Integrity: See College Catalog "Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgement, is plagiarism..." For further information and examples please see www.plagiarism.org. Handing in work that was submitted for completion of another course will not be permitted. Students found guilty of such academic dishonesty in any form will receive a zero the work in question and will be dropped from the course with an 'F' should a second offense occur.

Late work: All assignments are considered late if they are not submitted by 11:59 PM CST on the day they are due. For each week that assignments are late, a 10% deduction in the overall grade for that assignment will be enforced. Please note that some assignments (such as exams) are not accepted late without an excused absence (such as a doctor's note that the student was ill). Assignments will not be accepted after two weeks past the original due date, except with instructor permission. Assignments other than the Final Exam will not be accepted after the last official day of class.

It is the student's responsibility to plan ahead to submit assignments on time. If you are traveling, etc. and are unsure of your access to the internet, it is strongly recommended that you plan ahead and submit assignments and take quizzes early. If for some reason the Blackboard system is down and the class has trouble accessing the quiz (this is rare but has been known to happen) I will work with the class to create a new due date. The key is this: internet access is required for this course, if you are unsure of your potential access submit early!

At times, extraordinary circumstances (death in the family, verified illness, etc.) may occur in student's lives that impact their assignment submission. In these circumstances, course assignments (e.g., quizzes, written assignments, etc.) might be granted an extension from the instructor. If you feel your circumstances warrant an extension, please email the instructor within one week of the original due date.

Assignments will not be accepted after the last official day of regular classes (in other words, assignments cannot be submitted for credit during Final Exams Week)

Methods for Assessing Expected Student Learning Outcomes: Quizzes, homework/in-class assignments, exams

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS/GRADING INFORMATION:

Attendance/Participation/Engagement in Class Activities (worth up to 100 points or 10% of the course grade):

Participation includes being involved in class each week (attending class, being on time for class, participating in class activities, etc.). Part of this grade requires you to participate in discussion and activities.

Exams (worth up to 500 points or 50% of the course grade)

You will be given FOUR exams over the course of the semester. Your THREE highest exam grades will count toward your final grade at the end of the semester (your lowest exam grade will be dropped). The dates for all of the exams are listed on the course schedule. Exams will cover information discussed during lectures, textbook chapter readings, and materials and statistical problems covered in class. You will be provided with formula sheets and statistical tables, as required, to complete the exams. You will also be allowed to use a scientific, non-graphing calculator during exams.

Quizzes (worth up 200 points or 20% of the overall course grade):

Most chapters/units will have a quiz primarily based on the textbook to promote your understanding and knowledge of the material. These quizzes will allow you to take stock of your current understanding of the material. Although these are open book and open note, I strongly recommend you do the reading and review your notes first and then test your understanding via the quiz. You must work independently on the quizzes. Quizzes are designed to assess your understanding of the course materials.

Homework/Chapter Mastery Assignments (worth a total of 200 points or 20% of the overall course grade)

Throughout the semester there will be homework assignments and in-class statistical analyses.

Make-up exams: Students should make every possible effort to take each exam on the scheduled date and time. If necessary, students may only take one make-up exam during the entire semester. If you will be missing an exam, you must inform the instructor at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled exam time. If students fail to notify the instructor 24 hours prior to the exam, the make-up exam will automatically be scheduled during finals week. If you fail to attend your scheduled make-up, your grade for that exam will be a zero, no exceptions.

Grading Policy & Method of Evaluation:**Summary of Assignments**

Assignment	Possible Points
Attendance/Participation	100
Online Quizzes	200
Homework/Chapter Mastery Assignments	200
Exams	500
Total Points Possible =	1000

Final Grades will be determined by calculating the total amount of points earned by you this semester. Using the scale below, your instructor will determine the corresponding letter grade.

A = 900-1000 points

B = 800-899 points

C = 700-799 points

D = 600-699 points

F = 599 (or below) points

TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR/OUTLINE		
Calendar Week/Dates	Course Topics and Assigned Readings	Assignments <i>(due in Blackboard by 11:59 PM on Sundays unless otherwise noted)</i>
Week One January 12-18	Introduction to Statistics Review: Chapter 1 and the additional materials posted in Blackboard	
Week Two January 19-25 NO CLASS ON Monday, January 19 due to the MLK Holiday	Introduction to Statistics Review: Chapter 1 and the additional materials posted in Blackboard	Online Quiz Over Chapter 1
Week Three January 26-February 1	Describing Data Using Distributions and Graphs Review: Chapter 2 and the additional materials posted in Blackboard	
Week Four February 2-8	Describing Data Using Distributions and Graphs Review: Chapter 2 and the additional materials posted in Blackboard	Online Quiz Over Chapter 2
Week Five February 9-15	Review and In-Class Exam	Exam 1
Week Six February 16-22	Measures of Central Tendency and Spread Review: Chapter 3 and the additional materials posted in Blackboard	Online Quiz Over Chapter 3
Week Seven February 23-March 1	Z Scores and the Standard Normal Distribution Review: Chapter 4 and the additional materials posted in Blackboard	
Week Eight March 2-8	Z Scores and the Standard Normal Distribution	Online Quiz Over Chapter 4

	Review: Chapter 4 and the additional materials posted in Blackboard	
Week Nine March 9-15	Review and In-Class Exam	Exam 2
SPRING BREAK (March 16-22)		
Week Ten March 23-29	Probability Review: Chapter 4 and the additional materials posted in Blackboard	Online Quiz Over Chapter 4
Week Eleven March 30-April 5	Sampling Distributions Review: Chapters 5 and 6 and the additional materials posted in Blackboard	Online Quiz Over Ch. 5 & 6
Week Twelve April 6-12	Introduction to Hypothesis Testing Review: Chapter 7 and the additional materials posted in Blackboard	Online Quiz Over Chapter 7
Week Thirteen April 13-19	Review and In-Class Exam	Exam 3
Week Fourteen April 20-26	Introduction to <i>t</i> Tests, Related Samples, and Independent Samples Review: Chapters 8-10 and the additional materials posted in Blackboard	Online Quiz Over Ch. 8-10
Week Fifteen April 27-May 3	Correlations and Linear Regression Review: Chapters 12 and 13 and the additional materials posted in Blackboard	Online Quiz Over Ch. 12-13
Final Exams Week		Exam 4 must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Tuesday, May 6

Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus and policies, as well as notify students of any changes, at any point during the semester.