



Course Syllabus: Writing in Psychology

PSYC 3303 Section 101

Fall 2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Tyler Overstreet

Office: O 120

Office hours: M-F 1-2pm

E-mail: tyler.overstreet@msutexas.edu

*Please put the course name as the subject when emailing! *

Course Description

During this course you will learn how to write a proper research proposal in APA format. Early on, we will learn about APA, how to choose a topic, finding academic sources, and how to cite them. The rest of the course will focus on the individual sections of a research proposal, detailing their purpose, contents, and how to write them. You will have 4 drafts due before the final submission (Methods, Proposed Results + Discussion, Introduction).

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Kail, R. V. (2019). *Scientific writing for psychology: Lessons in clarity and style* (2nd ed.). Los Angeles, CA: Sage.

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th Ed.). (2020). Washington D. C.: American Psychological Association.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
Syllabus Quiz	15
Topic Selection	15
Sources Assignment	15
Participation	30
Methods Draft	30
Proposed Results Draft	30
Discussion Draft	30
Introduction Draft	30
Final Draft	150
Total Points	345

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	345-311
B	310-276
C	275-242
D	241-207
F	206 or less

Homework

All assignments are required to have an APA formatted cover page!

Syllabus Quiz (15 points): A short multiple-choice quiz on the contents of this syllabus.

Topic Selection (15 points): Students will select a research topic by writing one paragraph identifying the topic, why it matters psychologically, and 2-3 possible research questions, specifying the independent and dependent variables.

Sources Assignment (15 points): Students will submit 2 peer-reviewed empirical articles as an APA formatted References list.

Drafts

Methods Draft (30 points): Students will submit a draft of their methods section that contains Participants, Design, Materials, and Procedure subsections. Must include the hypothesis, research design (between or within subjects), IV & DV, etc.

Proposed Results Draft (30 points): Students will submit a draft of their proposed results. Must include restatement of what you expect the variables to do (hypothesis) and what statistical procedure would be appropriate and why.

Discussion Draft (30 points): Students will submit a draft of their discussion section. Must include dialog about what your results would mean (Discussion), practical applications, limitations, and future research.

Introduction Draft (30 points): Students will submit a draft of their introduction section, introducing the audience to the problem, a way to test it, hypothesis, and literature background citing at least 10 academic sources.

Final Draft (150 points): Students will submit their combined revised drafts of Cover page, Introduction, Methods, Proposed Results, Discussion, References as a Final Draft. Grade will be based on included content as well as revising instructor feedback.

Late Work

Late assignments will be accepted with a 5-point deduction for each day they are submitted past the deadline, unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: 8/27/26
- Deadline to file for graduation: 9/21/26
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:"10/7/26
- Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage.

Assignments will be submitted electronically through Turn-it-in in D2L. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

Participation- Students are expected to be present and show active listening skills. Attendance will be taken **6** times randomly throughout the semester. Each will be worth **5** points.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ****Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. ****Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!*** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Recording Classes

****Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor's explicit permission.*** Such recordings, when permitted, are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the professor's prior consent. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act, with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

Instructor Class Policies

Artificial Intelligence (AI)- Written assignments will be run through a plagiarism and AI checker called Turn It In. If at any point Turn It In identifies that a student used AI to complete an assignment (such as ChatGPT), an automatic grade of zero will be given to the assignment.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule:

25-Aug	Introduction/Syllabus Review	
27-Aug	Research Proposal Overview	Syllabus Quiz
1-Sep	Choosing a Topic	
3-Sep	Finding Sources	Topic Selection
8-Sep	APA Style	
10-Sep	Methods Sections	Sources Assignment
15-Sep	Methods Sections	
17-Sep	Writing Session	Methods Draft Due
22-Sep	Revising	
24-Sep	Proposed Results Sections	
29-Sep	Proposed Results Sections	
1-Oct	Writing Session	Proposed Results Draft Due
6-Oct	Discussion Sections	
8-Oct	Discussion Sections	
13-Oct	Discussion Sections	
15-Oct	Writing Session	Discussion Draft Due
20-Oct	Job Search	
22-Oct	Applying for Graduate School	
27-Oct	Introduction Sections	
29-Oct	Introduction Sections	
3-Nov	Introduction Sections	
5-Nov	Writing Session	
10-Nov	Career Planning	
12-Nov	Writing Session	Introduction Draft Due
17-Nov	Revision Process	
19-Nov	Common Mistakes	
24-Nov	Writing Session	
26-Nov	Thanksgiving	
1-Dec	Final Check	
3-Dec	Writing Session	
8-Dec		Grant Proposal Final Draft Due