The first 2 pages cover the policies common to *all* sections of PSYC 2317, for *all* professors teaching the course. *Beginning on page 3, you will find information that is specific to Dr. Barr's PSYC 2317 class.*

Common Course Syllabus, Revised August 2023

Course Number: PSYC 2317	**Department**: Behavioral Sciences	**Title**: Statistical Methods in Psychology
Discipline: Psychology	**Campuses**: Levelland, Reese	**Satisfies Core Curriculum Requirement?** No
Prerequisites: none	**Credit**: 3 **Lecture**: 3 **Lab**: 1	**Available Formats**: Face-to-face

Course Specific Instructions: For face-to-face classes, each instructor will attach his/her course specific instructions.

Textbook: 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 at https://irl.umsl.edu/oer/25

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.

Course Evaluation: See instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in evaluating student performance.

Student Learning Outcomes/Competencies: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
1. Compute and interpret empirical and theoretical probabilities.
2. Define and explain the characteristics of data based on their reliability, validity, and scales of measurement.
3. Interpret visual representations of data, such as graphs and tables.
4. Compute and interpret descriptive statistics, such as mean, median, and mode; standard deviation and range; and transformed scores.
5. Compute and interpret inferential statistics and tests, such as z test, t test, ANOVA, and Chi-Square.
6. Calculate, evaluate, and interpret simple linear correlation/regression.
7. Construct and interpret confidence intervals.
8. Examine, analyze, and compare various sampling distributions.
9. Formulate, perform, and interpret hypotheses tests.
10. Identify the appropriate statistical analyses for given research problems, questions, hypotheses, and data sets.
11. Apply statistical knowledge to the interpretation of psychological research.
12. Explain features and purpose of statistical software packages.   CIP # 42.0101.52 25

Core Objectives addressed:
- **Communication skills**- effective written, oral and visual communication.
- **Critical thinking skills**- creative thinking, innovation, inquiry & analysis, evaluation & synthesis of information.
- **Empirical and Quantitative skills**-the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
- **Social Responsibility**- demonstrating intercultural knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend all classes to be successful in a course. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus. When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student's responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period of time as determined by the instructor.

Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first class meeting. 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.

Student Conduct: A high standard of conduct is expected of all students. Students are subject to federal, state and local laws, as well as South Plains College rules and regulations. Any student who fails to perform according to expected standards may be asked to withdraw. Failure to comply with lawful direction of a classroom teacher relative to maintaining good order is considered misconduct on the part of the student. Repeated violations of disrupting a class may result in the student being dropped from that course (See Catalog/Student Guide for full policy).

Other Important SPC Policies: Found here https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/:
- Intellectual Exchange Statement
- Disabilities Statement
- Non-Discrimination Statement
- Title IX Pregnancy and Parenting Accommodations Statement
- Care Team Contact (Campus Assessment, Response and Evaluation)
- Academic Integrity (Plagiarism and Cheating) Statement
- Campus Concealed Carry Statement
- COVID-19
- Use of Artificial Intelligence

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Welcome to Statistical Methods in Psychology (PSYC 2317) with Dr. Barr!

Fall 2025, section 601 (Tuesday/Thursday 9:00 -10:45 am, SPC Downtown 2008)

HOW DO I CONTACT DR. BARR FOR HELP?

Face-to-Face Office Hours

My face-to-face office hours are at the Downtown Lubbock Campus, in room 2011. If you are unable to meet during my regularly scheduled office hours, *we can also meet by appointment*. My regularly scheduled office hours are:

- Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30-2:45 pm
- Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:15-3:30 pm
- Fridays, 9-10 am

Email

If you are unable to meet face-to-face, please send me an email at abarr@southplainscollege.edu. If you send me an email between Monday morning and noon on Friday, I will do my best to reply within 24 hours. However, if you send an email after noon on Friday or during the weekend, it may take a bit longer for me to reply.

Blackboard Messages

You may also send me a message or a request for help through Blackboard. Again, if you send me a message between Monday morning and noon on Friday, I will do my best to reply within 24 hours. However, if you send a message after noon on Friday or during the weekend, it may take a bit longer for me to reply.

Virtual Office Hours

To meet virtually via Blackboard Collaborate, please send me an email at least 24-hours ahead of your desired meeting time (preferably during my scheduled office hours listed above).

Phone

You may reach me at (806)716-4641 during my normal office hours (see above). If you call and reach my voicemail, please leave a message including your full name, your phone number, and a brief reason for your call. I will return your call ASAP.

TIPS FOR USING SPC STUDENT EMAIL

Email (and Blackboard Message) Etiquette

For your success as a student, and as a professional, you need to learn email etiquette. All emails should include:

- A brief subject line that explains your reason for emailing (e.g., "Subject: Question about the syllabus"),
- Your full name, class and section (e.g., Alexis Rose, PSYC2301, sec. 151), and
- *The use of standard English skills* (e.g., correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar).

Here is a useful guide about emailing your professors: https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2015/04/16/advice-students-so-they-dont-sound-silly-emails-essay

YES! You have FREE access to SPC Email, MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint & One Drive!

South Plains College provides students with free access to an SPC Google email account, Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and One Drive. You can access your SPC email and these Microsoft apps by going to https://office.com and using the username and password provided in your SPC acceptance letter to sign in. You can also access SPC/Outlook email through MySPC. If needed, contact the **help desk** at helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu or (806)716-2600.

Because email is one of the main forms of communication in college, you should check your SPC email at least twice a week. Please use your official SPC Student email account (NOT your personal email account, e.g., yahoo) if you are contacting me about confidential matters (e.g., grades, registration in the course, etc.).

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY & COURSE MATERIALS

Blackboard

Your reading assignments, homework submission links and other course resources are located on Blackboard. You can access Blackboard at https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com, and log in with your SPC username and password. Once logged in, you will see a list of classes in which you are enrolled. Click on PSYC2317 to enter the homepage for our class.

Access to a working computer with internet connection

Because your graded reading assignments are found on Blackboard and completed online, and you can submit homework through Blackboard, you must have regular access to a computer with the following characteristics:

- A modern operating system; class content is compatible with Mac OS and Windows 8 or later
- A modern web browser. It is recommended that students use Google Chrome to access Blackboard. Students have reported more problems using Internet Explorer, thus it is *not* recommended.
  - Link: download Google Chrome.
- A reliable internet connection. High-speed internet (e.g., Cable, DSL, fiber) is the most reliable.
- Also, the **Blackboard app for phones** can be used to access announcements, readings, videos, and grades.

FREE OER Textbook *and* Perusall Reading + Discussion App

The FREE OER (Open Education Resource) textbook we will use is: "Introduction to Statistics in the Psychological Sciences" (2021), *Open Educational Resources Collection*, by Cote, Gordon, Randell, Schmitt and Marvin. *To access the assigned and graded readings*, you must 1) log onto Blackboard, 2) click on PSYC2317 in your "Courses" list, and 3) click on the Perusall link that opens the reading app called Perusall. Perusall links are symbolized with a rocket ship icon: 🚀.

Perusall is a free app that automatically records and grades your work on reading + discussion assignments. Again, you will access the Perusall app by *first* logging onto Blackboard, and *second* clicking on Perusall links found in our course. *Do NOT log into Perusall from their homepage—if you do, your work will not sync into the Blackboard gradebook*. You can find detailed information about "How Perusall Works" in the "Start Here" module on Blackboard.

If you wish, you can download and print chapters from Perusall. You can also access a PDF of the book in the "Course Resources" folder, or the online book at this address, https://irl.umsl.edu/oer/25. However, *you can only receive a grade on reading assignments by using the Perusall assignments links in Blackboard*.

SPSS: Statistical Package for Social Sciences Computer Software

Part of our class will involve analyzing data using a **computer software program** called **SPSS**. I will provide instructions for purchasing this software online. You will purchase a digital download of the SPSS program that can be installed onto a computer **two times only**. One of the installations should be on your own reliable, personal computer (preferably a laptop). I suggest you "save" the second installation in case of a problem with your laptop.

Calculator

To complete homework problems and other calculations, you need a basic scientific calculator that has a square root key, $\sqrt{x}$, and a squaring key, x^2. Please note that you are allowed to use your phone calculator for homework or in-class activities, however phone calculators are NOT allowed on exams. Therefore, you will need a calculator *other than* the one on your phone for exams. Inexpensive options are the Texas Instrument TI-30Xa or TI-30XIIS, which cost $9.99 to $14.99.

If the costs of a calculator and/or SPSS is a problem, and/or your personal laptop is not reliable, please use this link to explore financial assistance resources: Student Resources List. You can also meet with SPC Health and Wellness to discuss financial assistance (call 806-716-2529 for an appt) or check out a loaner laptop from SPC Library Services.

HOW THIS COURSE IS ORGANIZED

This is a 16-week course, organized into 5 Units (or modules/folders) in Blackboard. In the Unit folders, you will find links to Perusall reading assignments and links for submitting homework. In-class meetings will involve reviewing and discussing the assigned reading (that you completed before class), completing practice questions, and occasionally completion of SPSS computer assignments. All exams will take place in class.

REQUIRED COURSEWORK AND GRADES

Perusall Reading + Discussion Assignments

PURPOSE: Reading each chapter will introduce you to foundational topics in statistics. By actively discussing chapter topics with classmates, you will understand reading material better. Additionally, these assignments will help you:

- acquire knowledge and improve recall of material that is key to successfully completing homework and exams,
- interact and connect with classmates,
- improve your reading, writing and discussion skills, helping you meet SPC's communication skills objective

TASK: Log in to Blackboard and use the Perusall App to read and discuss assigned chapters with classmates. Specifically:

- click on a Perusall link in Blackboard, which "launches" you into the Perusall app and into a specific chapter
- as you read, highlight SMALL sections of the text (not entire sentences or paragraphs). This will open a text box where you type comments or questions about the reading for your classmates to read and reply to
- as you read, reply to and/or upvote (e.g., "like") the comments and questions posted by your classmates

GRADING CRITERIA:

- Each Perusall assignment is worth 5 points.
- Your Persuall points (or your Perusall grades) are based on:
    - the quality of comments and questions you post (see handout re: high-quality Perusall comments),
    - the quantity (#) of your posts—aim to post 4-5 *high quality* comments/questions, but no more than 7-8,
    - how much you reply to &/or upvote your classmates' posts,
    - how much classmates reply to &/or upvote your posts,
    - active time spent on the assignment, and
    - reading and posting comments throughout the *entire* chapter
- There are 12 Perusall assignments this semester
- Your 2 lowest Perusall grades will be dropped
- Your top 10 Perusall grades will be averaged, then weighted as 15% of your final grade

Weekly Homework Assignments, submitted in class or through Blackboard

PURPOSE: Homework assignments are formative assessments that indicate how well you understand class concepts, and how well you can apply your new knowledge. In addition, homework assignments are designed so that you:

- Practice performing calculations that were demonstrated and discussed in class
- Think more deeply about concepts and terms (e.g., apply concepts to new scenarios, and/or to your own life)
- Identify which concepts and terms you understand, and which need more studying and analysis
- Understand the logic of data analysis and are better prepared for exams

TASK: For all homework, carefully read and follow the instructions. Including these:

- Write in pencil so you can easily erase and correct any errors you find in your work.
- Write neatly and large enough for me to read.
- Answer questions using complete sentences and proper grammar and punctuation.
- Leave space in between question so I can give you written feedback if needed.
- Number your problems in the same way they are numbered in the homework.
- For calculations, write the original problem and show ALL intermediate steps that lead to the final answer.
- Submit your homework in class on the due date; OR scan all pages of your homework into a single document and use the homework link Blackboard to submit your document before midnight on the due date.

GRADING CRITERIA:

- There will be approximately 12 homework assignments, each graded on a 100-point scale.
- Your two lowest homework grades will be dropped.
- Your remaining top homework grades will be averaged, then weighted as 25% of your final course grade.

SPSS Assignments, submitted in class or through Blackboard

PURPOSE: SPSS assignments are designed to familiarize students with the process of analyzing data via computer (the mode of data analysis in real-life research).

TASK: We will complete all SPSS assignments in class, as a group.

- Bring your laptop to class on SPSS assignment days
- Follow the step-by-step instructions for entering, defining and analyzing data.
- Answer questions about the analysis output on the worksheet provided (this can be completed with classmates)

Grading Criteria:

- There will be approximately 6-7 SPSS assignments, each graded on a 100-point scale.
- Your lowest SPSS grade will be dropped.
- Your remaining top SPSS grades will be averaged, then weighted as 10% of your final course grade.

Four Exams

PURPOSE: Each exam is a *summary* of your understanding and memory for the material covered in each unit.

TASK: Take the in-class exam on the scheduled exam day.

- Make sure you are prepared for exams by using the study guide and reviewing your homework and your notes.
- During the exam, you are allowed to use an 8 X 11 inch "support sheet" (a.k.a., cheat sheet).

Grading Criteria:

- There will be four exams, each graded on a 100-point scale.
- Exams contain 25 multiple choice questions and 15-20 true/false, short answer, and computational questions
- Your four exam grades will be averaged, then weighted as 50% of your final course grade.

POLICIES RE: LATE WORK OR MISSING WORK

I encourage you to work on homework assignments as soon as possible, rather than at the last minute. That way you have time to come by office hours and/or contact me if you run into a difficult problem.

Missed Perusall or SPSS Assignments

Because I drop everyone's two lowest Perusall grades and the lowest SPSS grade, there is almost no situation that will warrant an extension on these assignments. These drop grades are your safety net in case you have an emergency, or just a bad week. So, use them wisely!

Missed or Late Homework Assignment

Because it is SO important that you complete homework and keep up with the pace of the course, homework will not be accepted more that 1 day late, with a 10-point deduction. If you are absent the day homework is due, please submit your homework through Blackboard. Because I drop everyone's two lowest homework grades, homework cannot be made up if it is more than 1 day late.

Missed Exam

If a student misses an exam due to an extreme or uncontrollable circumstance (e.g., illness, hospitalization, loss of a loved one) and can provide appropriate documentation of the circumstance, they are allowed to schedule and make up the exam within one week of the original exam date, or within one week of returning to class.

OTHER IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION:

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to do their own work on all Perusall assignments, homework assignments, and exams. Please do not use AI to answer homework questions. AI (and the internet, in general) will occasionally provide incorrect answers. But more importantly, you learn the material better by doing the work yourself.

Attendance and Drop Policy

You have registered for a face-to-face class which means that the vast majority of course material will be presented in the classroom. Thus, I expect students to attend regularly, and I will take roll each day. To minimize distractions and maximize

learning, I require student to silence their phones and store them out of sight in a bag, purse or backpack (*not* in your lap, chair or on desk). I also ask everyone to please arrive on time and take care of personal needs (e.g., visit the restroom, get a drink, make a call or text, etc.) either before or after class.

I have the option to drop a student for non-attendance, incomplete work, and/or disruptive behavior; however, I let students chart their own destiny. Approach your courses with honesty, responsibility and maturity, and recognize if you cannot put appropriate effort or time into passing a course, or if your grade is beyond repair. In these cases, it is up to you to withdraw.

If you are struggling, please reach out to discuss your grade average. Based on our conversation, you can decide whether to remain enrolled or withdraw from the course. I cannot assume that a student's missing work or lack of attendance is a request to be dropped. If you choose to withdraw from the course, you may do so by completing the "Student Drop Form" found at this link: https://www.southplainscollege.edu/admission-aid/apply/schedulechanges.php .

TECHNOLOGY PROBLEMS AND HOW TO GET HELP:

Keep in mind that if a computer issue affects *only you* and not the entire class, it will not qualify for an extension on homework or Perusall assignments. To avoid unnecessary stress, you can plan for potential problems. By reviewing the solutions below, you will be less stressed and more prepared if/when an issue arises!

Technology Contingency (Backup) Plans

Problem(s)	Solution

"Argh! My internet is down!"
 	
"OMG! My computer is not working!"
 	
"Ugh! I'm out of town, and I don't have a computer [or access to the internet]."
	- Free WiFi is available at many local businesses (Starbucks, McDonald's, Chick-fil-A, United Supermarkets) and in the buildings and parking lots of many schools, including SPC campuses.
	- Create a list of friends, family, classmates, or neighbors who may allow you to borrow their computer, WiFi, or printer if needed.
	- If you're an SPC student within driving distance, computer labs with computers, printers, and internet access are available at every campus:
	    • SPC Downtown Campus: 1625 13th, Lubbock, First Floor
	    • SPC Levelland Campus: Technology Building
	    • SPC Lubbock Center: Room 109 and Room 138
	    • SPC Plainview Center: 1920 W. 24th St., Plainview, Texas
	- Public libraries in your area typically have computers available for public use.
	- If your computer breaks down, contact a local repair service (e.g., Best Buy, Office Depot) or consider buying an inexpensive computer from sites like Newegg, Amazon Marketplace, or eBay. For financial assistance in Levelland/Lubbock, check [West Texas financial assistance](insert link). You can also meet with SPC Health and Wellness staff for support (call 806-716-2529 for an appointment).
	- While traveling, check if your hotel has a computer lab for guests or if your host has a computer with internet access. If not, aim to complete your work before you leave.

Technical Support

For Blackboard issues, contact the SPC Tech Support staff at 806-716-2180, Mon-Fri, 8 am – 4 pm; or email blackboard@southplainscollege.edu or go to https://help.blackboard.com or call Blackboard Support at (800)424-9299.

For Perusall issues, follow this link to find answers to frequently asked questions: https://support.perusall.com/hc/en-us/categories/360002173133-Students, or contact Perusall Support at: https://support.perusall.com/hc/en-us/requests/new

For SPC email or other technology issues, contact the SPC help desk at helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu or (806)716-2600.

Tentative Schedule for PSYC2317, Statistical Methods in Psychology (*dates are subject to change*)

Perusall #1: Intro. to Statistics due by 11:59 pm, Wednesday 8/27

Perusall #2: Describing Data Using Distributions and Graphs due by 11:59 pm Monday 9/1

HOMEWORK #1: Introduction to Statistics due by 11:59 pm Tuesday 9/2

Perusall #3: Central Tendency due by 11:59 pm Monday 9/8

SPSS #1: Entering Data; Making Graphs to be completed *in class* on Tuesday 9/9

HOMEWORK #2: Frequency Distributions due by 11:59 pm Tuesday 9/9

HOMEWORK #3: Central Tendency due by 11:59 pm Tuesday 9/16

EXAM #1 (over Introduction, Frequency Tables & Graphs, Measure of Central Tendency) in class Thursday 9/18

Perusall #4: Spread/Variability due by 11:59 pm Monday 9/22

SPSS #2: MCT and MofV to be completed *in class* on Thursday 9/25

HOMEWORK #4: Measures of Variability due by 11:59 pm Thursday 9/25

Perusall #5: z scores, Standard Normal Distributions, Probability due by 11:59 pm Monday 9/29

HOMEWORK #5: z-scores, Normal D & Probability due by 11:59 pm Thursday 10/2

Perusall #6: Sampling Distributions due by 11:59 pm Monday 10/6

HOMEWORK #6: Sampling Distribution of the Mean due by 11:59 pm Thursday 10/9

EXAM #2 (over Measures of Variability, z-scores, Normal Distributions, Probability, and Sampling Distribution of the Mean) in class Tuesday 10/14

Perusall #7: Intro. to Hypothesis Testing due by 11:59 pm Wednesday 10/15

Perusall #8: One-Sample t-tests due by 11:59 pm Monday 10/20

HOMEWORK #7: Intro. to Hypothesis Testing due by 11:59 pm Thursday 10/23

Perusall #9: Related Samples t-test due by 11:59 pm Monday 10/27

SPSS #3: One Sample t-test to be completed *in-class* Tuesday 10/28

HOMEWORK #8: One Sample t-tests by 11:59 Thursday 10/30

SPSS #4: Related Samples t-test to be completed *in-class* Thursday 11/6

HOMEWORK #9: Related Sample t-tests due by 11:59 Thursday 11/6

EXAM #3 (over Introduction to Hypothesis Testing, One-sample t-test, and Related-Samples t-test) in class Tuesday 11/11

Perusall #10: Independent-Samples t-test due by 11:59 pm Wednesday 11/12

Perusall #11: Analysis of Variance due by 11:59 pm Monday 11/17

SPSS #5: Indep. Samples t-test to be completed *in-class* Tuesday 11/18

HOMEWORK #10: Ind. Sample t-tests due by 11:59 pm Thursday 11/20

SPSS #6: ANOVA to be completed *in-class* Tuesday 11/25

Perusall #12: Correlation due by 11:59 pm Monday 12/1

HOMEWORK #11: ANOVA due by 11:59 pm Tuesday 12/2

SPSS #7: Correlation to be completed *in-class* Thursday 12/4

HOMEWORK #12: Correlation due by 11:59 pm Tuesday 12/9

FINAL EXAM (over Independent-Samples t-test, ANOVA, and Correlation) Thursday 12/11, 8-10 am