

# Research Methods in Human Development

EDHD 306 (section 0101), Fall 2019

**Instructor:** Annie Yixun Li

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**Office:** Benjamin Building (EDU), Room 0210

**Office Hours:** Thursday 2:00 – 3:30 pm or by appointment

**Mailbox:** Located in Benjamin 3304 (ask at front desk)

**Meets:** Tu/Th, 12:30 – 1:45 pm

**Room:** EDU 1121

## Textbooks

- *Required:* Methods in Behavioral Research, 13<sup>th</sup> Edition by Paul C. Cozby and Scott C. Bates (ISBN: 978-0-07-803515-9)
- *Optional:* A Concise Introduction to Mixed Methods Research, by John W. Creswell (ISBN: 978-1-4833-5904-5)

## Course Description

This course addresses the scientific concepts and principles central to the study of human development and learning. Students will learn about basic research methods for studying human behavior in developmental contexts, with a particular focus on educational contexts. Major themes include goals of developmental and educational research, fundamental research designs, types of measurement, elements of good scientific writing, and ethical issues in the study of human development.

## Course Objectives

Students in EDHD 306 will be able to demonstrate:

- An understanding of the fundamental principles and theories that guide developmental and educational research
- Knowledge of all phases of the research process in the study of human development, including development of research questions and hypotheses, study design, ethical considerations, data collection, measurement, data analysis, and presentation of results
- Ability to critically evaluate research presented in professional journals and in the popular press
- Ability to formulate and plan for the investigation of a research question related to human development or education, and ability to write about the proposed investigation using the principles of good scientific writing

**Course Assessment:** 500 points total (More details will be provided in class)

- **Reading Research** (50 points): There will be two scheduled small-group activities throughout the semester due in class, each which will be worth 25 points. Both activities will have you reflect on an academic article you will have read *before* coming to class.
- **Quizzes** (35 points): There will be several *unannounced* in-class quizzes throughout the semester that will involve turning in your response to several multiple-choice questions.
- **Midterm exam\*** (100 points): The midterm exam will cover material from the first half of the course.

- **Final exam\*** (100 points): The final exam will primarily cover material from the second half of the course, but keep in mind that there are some topics from the beginning of class that we will continue to discuss throughout the semester and these topics may appear on the exam.
- **Mini-assignments for research proposal** (100 points): Students will complete four brief mini-assignments designed to help them prepare their proposal. Mini-assignments should be submitted via ELMS, each which will be worth 25 points.
- **Peer editing** (15 points): Students will bring a draft of their research proposal to the class and participate in a peer editing day in order to provide and receive feedback about the proposal.
- **Research proposal\*** (100 points): Students will take what they have learned in class and design their own study on some topic in human development. The research proposal should be submitted via ELMS.

Final course grades will be calculated based on the total number of points earned for all assessments in the course. *Unless a calculation error has been made, final grades will not be changed.* There are no exceptions to this policy. Letter grades will be assigned based on the following total point accumulation:

A+ = 487.5 – 500	A = 462.5 – 487	A- = 447.5 – 462
B+ = 437.5 – 447	B = 412.5 – 437	B- = 397.5 – 412
C+ = 387.5 – 397	C = 362.5 – 387	C- = 347.5 – 362
D+ = 337.5 – 347	D = 312.5 – 337	D- = 297.5 – 312
< 297.5 = F		

## COURSE POLICIES

PLEASE SEE THE UNIVERSITY'S WEBSITE FOR ALL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE-RELATED POLICIES AT [HTTP://WWW.UGST.UMD.EDU/COURSERELATEDPOLICIES.HTML](http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html). BELOW ARE HIGHLIGHTED POLICIES.

- **CLASS ATTENDANCE, CLIMATE & ELECTRONICS POLICY**

Students are expected to attend and actively participate in each class except in the case of illness or an extenuating circumstance. If missing class, students are responsible for obtaining additional notes from a classmate. Once class begins, students are expected to conduct themselves professionally.

*Cell phones must be turned off and put away during class unless there is an extenuating circumstance. Laptops and tablets must also be put away except for on days when needed for class (e.g., in-class activities).* Although this may pose a challenge for students who depend on their devices for note-taking, due to the nature of this course, students are often better

engaged in the course and take better notes when doing so by hand. One suggestion for note-taking is to print out lecture outlines in advance of class and take notes. Lecture outlines will be posted by the evening prior to class.

- **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

The University of Maryland, College Park has a student-administered Honor Code & Honor Pledge. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit <http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/whatis.html>. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student, you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. The code prohibits students from cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism. Instances of this include submitting someone else's work as your own, submitting your own work completed for another class without permission, or failing to properly cite information other than your own (found in journals, books, online, or otherwise). It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. Any form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated, and any sign of academic dishonesty will be reported immediately to the appropriate University officials.

To avoid any misunderstanding, all written papers and exams must include the following pledge statement handwritten or typed and signed by the student: *"I hereby declare that I am the sole author of this paper and everything presented is my own unless otherwise cited". I will not accept any papers without a signed honor pledge.*

- **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

If you have a registered disability that will require accommodation, please see the instructor so necessary arrangements can be made. If you have a disability and have not yet registered with the University, please contact Disability Support Services (301.314.7682, or 301.405.7683 TTD) as soon as possible. **You must provide official documentation.**

- **RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES**

The University of Maryland policy on religious observances states that students not be penalized in any way for participation in religious observations. Students shall be allowed, whenever possible, to make up academic assignments that are missed due to such absences. However, *students must contact the instructor well in advance **before** the absence with a written notification of the projected absence* and documentation (when available), before arrangements will be made for make-up work or exams.

- **LATE ASSIGNMENT AND MAKE-UP QUIZZES AND EXAM POLICY**

All assignments are due on the assigned date and **DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS**. Emailed assignments will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made. Late assignments will automatically drop **1** full letter grade for each **day** the paper is turned in late. Students submitting late assignments must submit a hard copy to my mailbox, located in 3304 Benjamin Building (EDHD). You must ask the receptionist for a date/time stamp for

your paper to document when you submitted your paper, before placement in my mailbox. Please do not submit papers to my office. Likewise, students are expected to take *exams* on the assigned dates and times of the exam. Missed exams will result in zero credit for the exam.

Late Assignments and Make-up exams **will be considered** if students give prior notice of absence and provide required documentation for excused absences as outlined in the undergraduate catalog. Please see below for specific guidelines for missed classes and grading events. Students claiming an excused absence must notify me as soon as possible via email and furnish proper documentation supporting their absence. *Make-up exams must be taken within 1 week of the original exam date.*

- 1. Missed single class due to illness:** Once during a semester, a student's self-authored note will be accepted as an excuse for missing a minor scheduled grading event in a single class session if the note documents the date of the illness, acknowledgement from the student that information provided in the note is correct, and a statement that the student understands that providing false information is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct. Students are expected to attempt to inform the instructor of the illness prior to the date of the missed class.
- 2. Major scheduled grading events:** Major Scheduled Grading Events (MSGE) are indicated on the syllabus with an asterisk. The conditions for accepting a self-signed note do not apply to these events. Written, signed documentation by a health care professional, or other professional in the case of non-medical reasons (see below) of a University-approved excuse for the student's absence must be supplied. This documentation must include verification of treatment dates and the time period for which the student was unable to meet course requirements. Providers should not include diagnostic information. Without this documentation, opportunities to make up missed assignments or assessments will not be provided.
- 3. Non-consecutive, medically necessitated absences from multiple class sessions:** Students who throughout the semester miss multiple, non-consecutive class sessions due to medical problems must provide written documentation from a health care professional that their attendance on those days was prohibited for medical reasons.
- 4. Non-medical excused absences:** According to University policy, non-medical excused absences for missed assignments or assessments may include illness of a dependent, religious observance, involvement in University activities at the request of University officials, or circumstances that are beyond the control of the student. Students asking for excused absence for any of those reasons must also supply appropriate written documentation of the cause and make every attempt to inform the instructor prior to the date of the missed class.

- **COURSE EVALUATION**

Your participation in the evaluation of courses through CourseEvalUM is a responsibility you hold as a student member of our academic community. Your feedback is confidential and important to the improvement of teaching & learning at the University as well as to the tenure and promotion process. Campus will notify you when CourseEvalUM is open for you to complete your evaluations for the current semester. Please go to the website ([www.courseevalum.umd.edu](http://www.courseevalum.umd.edu)) to complete your evaluations. By completing all of your evaluations each semester, you will have the privilege of accessing the summary reports of thousands of courses online at Testudo for which 70% or more students submitted their evaluations.

- **COPYRIGHT NOTICE**

*Students may **not** audio- or video-record any classroom lectures or discussions without the express written consent from Annie Yixun Li.* If you have (or think you may have) a disability such that you need to record classroom activities, you should contact the Accessibility & Disability Service (<https://www.counseling.umd.edu/ads/>) to request an appropriate accommodation. Class meetings and course materials, including instructions, presentations, assessments, content outlines, and similar materials are the intellectual property of the course instructor and protected by legal copyright. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own personal use. You may not, nor may you allow others to, distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly whether or not a fee is charged without the express written consent of the instructor. Similarly, you own copyright in any work products that you create for this course. Copyright violations may result in referrals to the Office of Student Conduct and/or civil penalties under State and Federal law ([www.copyright.gov/title17](http://www.copyright.gov/title17)).

## **COURSE COMMUNICATION**

- **COURSE EMAIL**

Emails (via canvas) will be sent out to the class in the event of possible class cancellations and/or important announcements relating to the class. Please check for emails prior to our class meeting time, particularly during inclement weather.

- **CANVAS (MYELMS.UMD.EDU)**

Important announcements, abbreviated lecture outlines (pdf format), class handouts, and grades will be accessible to students via Canvas. It is the student's responsibility to check regularly for updates.

## **SYLLABUS DISCLAIMER**

*As the instructor, I reserve the right to alter, modify, amend, or otherwise change this syllabus; however, I will try my best not to do so. If changes must be made, you will be notified of the changes in advance if possible.*

## Tentative Course Schedule

Readings and assignments are listed for the day by which they should be **completed**.

Date	Topic	Readings	Due Today
8/27	Introduction	Syllabus	
8/29	Scientific understanding	Chapter 1 Cozby & Bates	
9/3	Where to start	Chapter 2 Cozby & Bates	
9/5	Ethical research	Chapter 3 Cozby & Bates	
9/10	APA style and plagiarism	Appendix A	
9/12	<i>Reading Day (Online)</i>		
9/17	Fundamental research issues I	Chapter 4 Cozby & Bates	
9/19	Fundamental research issues II		Mini-assignment 1: Topic
9/24	Measurement concepts I	Chapter 5 Cozby & Bates	
9/26	Measurement concepts II		
10/1	Observational methods	Chapter 6 Cozby & Bates	
10/3	Survey research	Chapter 7 Cozby & Bates	Mini-assignment 2: Measurement plan
10/8	Mid-term Exam Review		
10/10	<b>Midterm exam*</b>		
10/15	Sampling		
10/17	<i>In-Class Reading Research #1</i>	Assigned journal article	
10/22	Experimental design I	Chapter 8 Cozby & Bates	
10/24	Experimental design II		
10/29	Conducting experiments	Chapter 9 Cozby & Bates	Mini-assignment 3: Sampling plan
10/31	Complex experimental design	Chapter 10 Cozby & Bates	
11/5	Other research designs	Chapter 11 Cozby & Bates	
11/7	Results: Description	Chapter 12 Cozby & Bates	Mini-assignment 4: Study design plan
11/12	Results: Inference I	Chapter 13 Cozby & Bates	
11/14	<i>Writing Day</i>		
11/19	Results: Inference II		
11/21	Generalizing results	Chapter 14 Cozby & Bates	
11/26	<i>In-Class Reading Research #2 (Online)</i>	Assigned journal article	
11/28	Thanksgiving Recess		
12/3	Peer editing		Bring your drafts
12/5	Wrap-up, Final Exam Review		
12/9	<b>Research proposal due*</b>		
12/16	<b>Final exam*</b>	1:30 – 3:30 pm Location TBD	

\* Major scheduled grading event

\* The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus and course schedule as necessary.