

**PS211 B1: Introduction to Experimental Design
FALL 2025**

Lecture: MoWeFr 10:10 AM – 11:00 AM (B1)
Discussion: Friday 11:15 AM – 12:05 PM (B2) or 12:20 PM – 1:10 PM (B3)
Location: CAS 306

Instructor: Arthur Lee
e-mail: artlee@bu.edu
Office: 64 Cummington Mall, Room 160
Hours: Wednesday 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

T. Fellow: Michael Pascale
e-mail: mpascale@bu.edu
Office: 111 Cummington Mall, Room 250A
Hours: Monday 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM
Wednesday 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is an introduction to the research methods for psychology. We will learn how to systematically create knowledge about the world.

BOOKS & OTHER COURSE MATERIALS

There are no required materials for this class. Lecture notes will be updated weekly for your convenience. Links to lecture notes, additional readings, and homework materials will be available at <https://exp-des.github.io/>. Submissions of assignments will be done through Blackboard.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

Assignment	Points
Attendance	20pt
Discussion Exercises	5pt
Research Proposal	15pt
Data Analysis	20pt
Quizzes	4pt x 10
Total points	100pts

Attendance: taken at every lecture for 0.5 pts, for expected 40 lectures.

Discussion Exercises: During some discussion sections, there will be in-class worksheet assignments. Each student will be required to turn in a complete worksheet by the end of class. Worksheet assignments will be graded according to effort and degree of completion. If more time is needed, with permission, students may complete the worksheet as homework due by the next discussion.

Research Proposal: 1 page, 12 pt font, double spaced, due on Oct 1st through blackboard. Based on the materials you've learned in class, submit a brief proposal for a research project that you'd like to do, if you had all the resources in the world. It is recommended to get one feedback on your proposal from Arthur or Michael before your final submission on blackboard. Detailed instructions will be given separately.

Data Analysis: 2 pages, 12 pt font, double spaced, due on the last day of class, Dec 10th, through blackboard. You'll have access to some datasets that you can explore and apply the materials that you've learned in this class. The datasets will be available on <https://exp-des.github.io/>. It is recommended to get one feedback on your proposal from Arthur or Michael before your final submission on Blackboard. Detailed instructions will be given separately.

Quizzes: During some discussion sections, there will be short closed-book quizzes comprising of 2~4 questions (5 minutes) that tests the materials covered in the lectures up to but not including the day of the quiz. These will be closed-book quizzes.

*Extra points: The key skill of research is to critically think about a problem that you haven't seen before. In each quiz, there will be one or two questions that require you to think beyond rote knowledge and apply what you've learned in class to solve real-world problems. Any score that you get on these questions are extra points.

Make-up quizzes or discussion exercises are generally not allowed. Under extenuating circumstances, however, we can make arrangements on a case-by-case basis. In either way, timely communication with Arthur and Michael is important for upcoming or past absences.

Final Letter Grades will be calculated based on the following total points after rounding off to the first decimal.

A	> 93.0 pts	C+	77-79.9 pts
A-	90-92.9 pts	C	74-76.9 pts
B+	87-89.9 pts	C-	70-73.9 pts
B	84-86.9 pts	D	60-69.9 pts
B-	80-83.9 pts	F	< 60 pts

1. **Academic Conduct Code.** Any violation of academic honesty or plagiarism will result in a failing grade. Please see <http://www.bu.edu/academics/cas/policies/academic-conduct/>.
2. **AI policy.** You may use generative AI tools to assist you in your assignments. Please exercise caution, however, as AI tools can often generate incorrect information that you will be responsible for. If you do use AI tools, you must acknowledge the use of AI tools in your assignments with an appropriate citation (<https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>) and append your usage log (e.g., chat history) to your submission so that we can better diagnose if and where something went astray. Uncited use of AI will be considered a violation of academic honesty.
3. **Accommodations.** Boston University works to provide reasonable accommodations for those with documented disabilities. If you have disability-related accommodations for this class, please reach out to me within the first two weeks and provide copies of your paperwork from disability services. *If you are a student with a disability or believe you might have a disability that requires accommodations, please contact the Office for Disability Services (ODS) at (617) 353-3658 or access@bu.edu to coordinate any reasonable accommodation requests. ODS is located at 25 Buick Street on the 3rd floor.*
4. **Mandated Reporter.** Arthur and Michael are mandated reporters. This means that we have a responsibility and requirement to report potential instances of sexual misconduct, harassment, discrimination, and retaliation. Students experiencing any form of prohibited discrimination, harassment, or sexual misconduct should know there are confidential resources on campus that can help. Students are not required to participate in an investigation or resolution process to receive supportive measures including reasonable academic support. To learn more about reporting at Boston University or to understand your rights under our policies please visit the Equal Opportunity Office at bu.edu/eoo or contact them at eoo@bu.edu.

Additional Resources for Students

SERVICE	WEBSITE
Accessibility: Resources & Service	http://www.bu.edu/disability/
Education Resource Center	http://www.bu.edu/erc/
Writing Center	http://www.bu.edu/writingprogram/the-writing-center/
Counseling & Psychological Services	https://www.bu.edu/shs/