

**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 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 challenge questions: 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 for any missed lectures or discussion sections. Under extenuating circumstances, however, they can be approved on a case-by-case basis. Communicate in a timely manner with either Arthur or Michael to explain and discuss impediments.

Final Letter Grades will be calculated based on the following total points (no rounding up beyond rounding to the closest one decimal place):

A	> 93 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. **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.*

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/