Psychological Investigations

RES 698-002
CRN 25864
Fall 2026

Course Logistics:

Instructor Information:
Tayla T.C. Lee, PhD, HSPP
(she/her/hers)
Department of Counseling Psychology, Social Psychology, & Counseling
Ball State University, Muncie, IN

*** Information about Dr. Lee's Office Hours and scheduling an appointment with Dr. Lee outside of office hours can be in our shared Google Drive. ***

Instructor Office Hours:
Dr. Lee holds regular office hours and has a scheduling ap for making appointments outside of the regular hours. You can find information about office hours and scheduling meetings with Dr. Lee in our shared drive.

Class Meetings:
August 24 – December 11, 2026 (Fall Semester)

*** Individual meeting times and location will be arranged at the start of the semester. After that, information about meeting days/times, location, and other logistics can be found on the information sheet in our shared Google Drive. ***

Course Websites:
Canvas (Syllabus and Grades)
Google Drive (All Materials & Assignments)

Subject to Change Statement:
This syllabus is subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances. Please monitor Canvas for announcements about any changes to the course that are needed during the semester.

Course Overview:

Course Description from Catalog: For students with special aptitude: an opportunity to pursue a line of psychological investigation individually under faculty supervision. Students will be expected to read the relevant literature and to participate in designing and conducting the investigation. Time spent in the investigation may vary from one semester to a full academic year, sometimes including the summer. Prerequisite: permission of the department chairperson. A total of 6 credits may be earned, but no more than 3 in any one semester or term.

Course Textbook/Materials: Selected peer-reviewed articles and book chapters will be made available to you. There are no other required course texts or materials.

Course Objectives: This course will provide the opportunity for students to complete research project for presentation at professional conferences and/or to write manuscripts for publication in professional journals in psychological science. For either project, students will be expected to review the literature to complete a comprehensive literature review, use data to answer relevant research questions, and integrate findings into the broader literature on selected topics via a comprehensive discussion section. If the project involves collection of new data, students will have the opportunity to participate in the experiment set up, data collection, and data cleaning processes. Further, this course is designed to expose students to the collaborative writing process, where students will both write independently and receive feedback as well as collaborate with a faculty member to produce a completed presentation, poster, or written manuscript. By the end of the course, students should have completed at least one full presentation, poster, or manuscript for submission to an academic conference or peer-reviewed journal. Specific objectives for this course include:

1. Gaining a better understanding of the research and collaborative writing process, as these are skills that will be highly relevant to success both in doctoral programs, as well as academic employment.
2. Refine data analysis and interpretation skills in light of past research and develop the ability to use analyses to write informed and comprehensive discussions.
3. Acquire basic skills for generating a completed poster or presentation for submission to a national professional conference OR generating a completed written manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed academic journal.

Course Structure, Timeline, Requirements: The primary course requirement is active engagement in the research process leading to the completion of a presentation, poster, or manuscript. You and I will meet individually at agreed-upon times throughout the semester to provide supervision, review progress, and set goals for your work. Outside of these meetings, you are expected to work independently on assigned tasks, which may include conducting literature reviews, drafting sections of your paper or poster, preparing and conducting data analyses, or completing tasks related to study setup, data collection, or data cleaning. The first week of classes, we will draft a "Course Schedule" together outlining the ideal progression of your work on this project. You are responsible for maintaining steady progress on your project and for coming to each individual meeting prepared with updates, questions, and drafts for review.

Evaluation of Student Learning: This is a pass/fail course. The development of skills will be assessed through an instructor review of the final product submitted at the end of the course. Regardless of whether you complete a presentation/poster or a written manuscript, your final product must include an abstract, introduction/literature review, method, results (with appropriate tables and/or graphs), discussion, and references in APA style. A passing grade requires that you demonstrate consistent engagement throughout the semester, attend individual meetings, and submit a quality final product that meets the stated requirements.

Lab Policies:

By engaging with me in the research process for this project, you are considered a member of my lab, the P2 lab. As such the following policies apply to your work:

Course Delivery: All activities for the lab will be conducted in person. This includes data collection sessions, lab meetings, training, and individual meetings. Any announcements about a change in the

expectations for how an activity will be completed will be made via email and announced in the lab meeting.

Attendance & Participation: Active engagement is essential to your growth as a psychological scientist. You are expected to attend all scheduled lab activities, such as group meetings, trainings, data collection sessions, and individual research meetings. You should come prepared to participate in discussions, ask questions, and contribute to ongoing projects. Consistent attendance and preparation are especially important if you are working on a structured project, such as a thesis or independent study. Repeated absences or lack of engagement may result in removal from the lab or a non-passing grade if you are enrolled for credit. Please check your official BSU email regularly, as important updates and instructions will be sent there.

Lab Etiquette: As a member of the P2 lab, you are expected to follow the Ball State University Student Code of Conduct. More broadly, our lab should be a place where everyone feels respected and valued. Please be thoughtful, kind, and nonjudgmental toward other members of the lab, our research participants, and our community partners. If another person reports that you have behaved in a disrespectful, culturally insensitive, or unethical manner, you may be dismissed from the lab. Lab participation is a privilege, not a right. Claims of misconduct do not need to be formally substantiated for dismissal to occur.

Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research: You are expected to uphold the highest standards of ethical and responsible conduct in all aspects of research, including project design, data collection, data management, analysis, writing, and dissemination. These behaviors are essential for producing high-quality, trustworthy work and for maintaining public trust in psychological science. Suspected violations of ethical or responsible research conduct will be reported to your home department's Chair and Program Coordinator (if applicable), as well as Ball State's Office of Research Integrity. These individuals/offices will institute the appropriate university policy, which can include an investigation. You will be suspended from lab work and supervision until the appropriate office has resolved the concern. If a violation is substantiated, you will be dismissed from the lab and receive a non-passing grade for any associated course credits (e.g., supervised research, independent study, or thesis).

Communication Plans: Email is the primary method of communication for lab-related updates outside of meetings. You are expected to check your official BSU email regularly, as important information about assignments, scheduling, and feedback will often be shared that way. I will generally use email to provide updates, answer questions, and coordinate meetings. If you are working closely with a graduate student, they may also contact you through BSU email.

Important information is often shared verbally during lab meetings and individual check-ins. These announcements are not typically repeated in email or posted elsewhere. You are responsible for taking clear notes on anything discussed that affects your work, deadlines, or expectations. If you miss a meeting, it is your responsibility to follow up with me or a graduate student to find out what you missed.

E-mail Etiquette: Please follow these guidelines when emailing me, the lab's graduate assistants, or other members of the lab: 1) Use your Ball State email account; 2) Include the course name and a

clear subject in the subject line; 3) Format your message like a professional letter, with a greeting, a clear body, and a closing; 4) Avoid using email to that require complex explanations, such as a recounting of lectures or assignment expectations; and 5) Allow up to 48 business hours for a response. Emails received over the weekend will be answered during the following work week. Communicating this way not only increases the likelihood of a helpful reply, but also helps you build professional communication skills that are important in both academic and workplace settings.

Work Submissions & Deadlines: You are expected to complete tasks and submit assignments by the deadlines we establish. These submissions could include project drafts, literature reviews, data summaries, or other deliverables. Flexibility may be possible in certain situations, but only if you communicate with me in advance or as soon as possible when an issue arises. Failure to meet deadlines without prior communication, or a pattern of late or missed work, may result in your dismissal from the lab or a failing grade if you are enrolled for course credit. Assignments should be submitted to the appropriate Google Drive folder or as otherwise specified.

Grading and Feedback: Evaluation of your performance in lab activities is an important part of your learning experience. Whether or not you are enrolled for credit, you will receive regular feedback on your work from me and, if applicable, the lab's graduate student(s). We will do our best to provide timely, constructive feedback on your written work and participation in lab activities. While we may not comment on every communication or discussion post, we read all submitted materials. In most cases, you can expect feedback on drafts and assignments within five business days of submission. If your work with the lab is for course credit, your final grade will be based on the expectations outlined in this syllabus, and I will be the primary decision-maker in assigning grades. If you believe your final grade does not reflect your performance, you have the right to pursue a formal grade appeal through the university. If you have any questions or concerns about your progress, please do not hesitate to reach out to schedule a meeting with me.

Technology Usage: Our work relies on tools such as Microsoft Office, Google Workspace (e.g., Google Docs), and statistical software, such as SPSS. If you need help accessing or using any of these tools, please reach out to me or the lab's graduate student(s).

Closing Due to Weather: If Ball State University closes or announces a campus delay due to inclement weather, all lab-related activities scheduled during that time will be canceled. This includes data collection sessions, lab meetings, and individual research meetings, whether they are in person or remote. Please monitor official university announcements and sign up for Ball State's alert systems to receive timely updates. For more information, visit Ball State's Weather Closures and Delays page. Some important activities affected by the closure may be rescheduled. If so, you will receive an email from me or the lab's graduate student(s).

Technology in the Classroom: Research shows that using electronic devices during class can distract both you and your peers (Sana et al., 2010). Please limit the use of laptops and tablets to course-related activities during didactic portions of our work together. Cell phones should be silenced and put away.

Recording: Recording of lectures, discussions, or any classroom activity (audio, video, or photos) is not permitted without my prior written permission. Materials I share or record are for the personal

use of students enrolled in this course only and may not be distributed further. I may occasionally record class sessions to support student learning. If you have concerns about being included in these recordings, please notify me as soon as possible. Otherwise, I will assume you consent to being recorded.

Record Keeping: At times, I may save examples of student work to support teaching, assessment, or professional development. This could include using anonymized assignments in a teaching portfolio, as artifacts in a departmental review, or as examples in future courses. All identifying information will be removed before anything is shared. Unless you notify me in writing, I will assume you grant permission for your work to be used in these ways.

Registration Requirement: The official registration deadline for this course is **Sunday, August 30, 2026**. University policy requires that all students be officially registered in the courses they attend. If you are not registered by the published deadline, you may not continue attending and will not receive credit or a grade. Please verify your registration and resolve any issues before the deadline.

Withdraw Deadlines: The deadline to withdraw from a course is the 45th day of the semester. Withdrawals completed during the official withdrawal period will result in a grade of "W" on your transcript and can be processed through Banner in your MyBallState dashboard. If you are considering withdrawal from this course, review the university's deadlines and policies, and consult your academic advisor to understand the potential academic and financial implications. Late withdrawals are rarely approved and require documented, extenuating circumstances. Retroactive withdrawals after the semester ends are not permitted.

Academic Integrity: Honesty, trust, and personal responsibility are fundamental attributes of the university community. Academic dishonesty and other forms of academic misconduct threaten the foundation of an institution dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and will not be tolerated. To maintain its credibility and reputation, and to equitably assign evaluations of scholastic and creative performance, Ball State University is committed to maintaining a climate that upholds and values the highest standards of academic integrity. In this course, integrity violations on any course-related task will be addressed seriously and in accordance with Ball State University policies. At a minimum, violations will result in a grade of "0" for the assignment and may lead to additional sanctions.

For the reasons just described, you are expected to exhibit honesty in all academic endeavors. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to 1) *cheating* (i.e., using or attempting to use unauthorized materials or tools), 2) *plagiarism* (i.e., presenting someone else's work or the output of a generative Artificial Intelligence [AI] tool as your own without proper attribution), 3) *fabrication* (i.e., falsifying or inventing information, data, or references), and 4) *misrepresentation* (i.e., altering or misstating the contents of documents or other materials). Examples of academic integrity violations include but are not limited to:

- Using resources not authorized by the instructor (including devices, AI tools, hidden notes, and open books).
- Using a generative AI system or a person to complete academic assignments such as response papers, discussion posts, essays, or any other assignment when such use is not explicitly permitted by the assignment instructions or the instructor.

- Utilizing another person or a generative AI system to take a quiz, examination, or similar evaluation in place of oneself.
- Using a generative AI system for research, creative work, theses/dissertations, grant proposals, IRB-regulated work, or publication-bound work in violation of university AI policies, funder/publisher rules, IRB requirements, or discipline-specific standards.
- Presenting as one's own work the ideas, representations or words of another person or of a GenAI system without customary and proper acknowledgment of sources or of the AI tool(s) used.
- Using generative AI systems to analyze data, conduct research, or generate content that is included in an assignment (images, graphs, charts, tables, etc.) without proper documentation, citation, and attribution of this AI use.
- Using commercial study websites to find answers to graded assignments (Chegg, Course Hero, StudyPool, OneClass, etc.).
- Without the instructor's written permission, giving away, buying, or selling graded assignments class notes, exams, study guides, or other course materials to other students or to third-party vendors (Course Hero, Chegg, 24HourAnswers, etc.).
- Working with another person on any assignment other than authorized group projects.
- Sharing or allowing others to access your files, whether done with permission or not.
- Reusing your own work from another semester, course, or section.
- Sharing answers with others during exams (passing notes, texting, whispering, gesturing)
- Discussing exam questions and answers with students who have not taken the exam.
- Soliciting others to complete work for you.

If you are unsure whether something constitutes academic dishonesty or have questions, please consult with me. You can also visit the VPAA's academic integrity website (Students tab) for resources on understanding academic integrity, citing sources properly, and avoiding inadvertent academic dishonesty. More information can also be found in The Plagiarism Tutorial from UNC Libraries. To learn about BSU's academic integrity expectations and students' rights, please read the University Student Academic Ethics Policy.

A Note on Generative AI. As stated above, using generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT, DALL·E, or similar technologies) to complete assignments in full and submitting that work as your own is considered academic dishonesty. You may use AI to support your work in limited ways, such as brainstorming, organizing ideas, or checking grammar. However, any material generated by an AI tool must be clearly cited, just like any other source. There are also several important cautions you should consider when using AI. First, AI often produces material that is inaccurate, incomplete, biased, or misleading. These programs also often "hallucinate," meaning they fabricate information and references. Second, relying too heavily on AI can stifle independent, critical, and creative thinking. As such, using AI may not be in your best interest. If you choose to use AI in completing your work, you are responsible for vetting the information and citing AI-generated content appropriately. You can find out more about AI technologies available at Ball State at this website and the University's AI related policies at this website.

Plagiarism Detection: The campus subscribes to Turnitin, a plagiarism prevention service, through Canvas. You may need to submit written assignments to Turnitin. Student work will be used for plagiarism detection and for no other purpose. You may indicate in writing to me that you refuse to

participate in the plagiarism detection process, in which case I am allowed by the University's policies to use other electronic means to verify the originality of your work.

University Statement on Respect & Civil Discourse: We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse.

Disability Accommodations: If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact me (the instructor of record) as soon as possible. Ball State's **Disability Services** office coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or **dsd@bsu.edu**.

Freedom of Expression: Ball State University affirms the importance of intellectual diversity and freedom of expression and inquiry in academic settings. As members of the Ball State Community, we treat each person in the Ball State community with civility, courtesy, compassion, and dignity and respect and learn from differences in people, ideas, and opinions. For more information, please review Ball State University's Statement on Freedom of Expression, the resources on Ball State's Freedom of Expression webpage, and Ball State's Beneficence Pledge.

In alignment with Ball State University's commitment, I encourage you to engage thoughtfully with a variety of scholarly viewpoints throughout the course. Course readings, discussions, and assignments regularly ask you to engage with differing viewpoints, including those related to historical foundations, modern critiques, and alternative approaches within the field of psychology. Supplemental materials, which I will usually share via Canvas, offer you additional opportunities to explore contrasting ideas. You are also always welcome to share alternative, peer-reviewed perspectives in meetings with me, in class discussions, and in assignments.

You are also encouraged to explore a range of perspectives outside of class through events such as Constitution Day programs and talks by visiting scholars offered by the University and its associated organizations and departments. You can get information about events hosted by Ball State delivered to your email via Ball State's Communication Center. Additional resources and opportunities may also be available through the University's libraries and Multicultural Center.

Cultural holiday(s): If you anticipate missing class due to a religious holy day or cultural holiday, please inform me as early as possible so we can make appropriate arrangements.

Title IX: Ball State University is committed to providing a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students. If you or someone you know has experienced sexual harassment, including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, please know that you are not alone. The University offers support services and resources. For more information or to report an incident, please visit www.bsu.edu/titleix or contact the Title IX Coordinator at 765-285-1545 or at titleix@bsu.edu.

As your instructor, I am a mandatory reporter under the Title IX policy and required to report any information I receive about possible sexual harassment. This includes information shared in class discussions, assignments, or private conversations. After I make a report to the Title IX office, the

Title IX Coordinator will email the person who experienced sexual harassment (complainant) and invite them to schedule a meeting. If the complainant chooses to meet with the Title IX Coordinator, the Title IX Coordinator will offer supportive measures (e.g., counseling, extensions on deadlines, course-related adjustments, changes to work or class schedules, and/or referrals to campus offices), review the policy, and discuss options to move forward. If a complaint is filed by the complainant or the University, an investigation will begin following University policy. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, you may contact the Counseling Center or the Center for Survivor Support.

Pregnancy and Related Conditions: Ball State University provides reasonable modifications for students affected by pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions. Students seeking academic, housing, or other modifications are encouraged to contact the Title IX Office as early as possible to discuss available options and support. For assistance, contact the Title IX Office at 765-285-1545 or titleix@bsu.edu.

Canvas Accessibility: Canvas provides a user experience that is easy, simple, and intuitive. Special attention has been paid to making Canvas screen-readable. The Rich Content Editor encourages users to create accessible content pages (i.e. text formatting is accomplished using styles). Canvas is designed to allow limited customization of colors and schemes to be accessible for all users. The National Federation of the Blind granted Canvas the Gold Level Web Certification in 2010. Find more information by visiting the Canvas Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT).

FERPA and Privacy Statement: Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), your student records are confidential and protected. In most cases, information from your records will not be released without your written consent. To learn more about your privacy rights as a student, visit Ball State's FERPA and Privacy and Protection page.

Subject to Change: This syllabus is subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

Student Resources and Support Services:

PSYS Social Media: If you want to stay up to date on Psychological Science department news, events, scholarships, and accomplishments, I suggest you follow the Department of Psychological Science on:

- X at @BSUPsychScience
- Facebook at @ballstatepsychology
- Instagram at BSU_Dept_of_Psych_Science

Learning Center: The Learning Center offers free Tutoring and Academic Coaching for many courses at Ball State. Students can make appointments for online (Zoom) or in-person (NQ 350) appointments. To make an appointment, visit **MyBallState** and select "Navigate" or just go directly to **https://bsu.navigate.eab.com**. Testing accommodations are available for students with disabilities who have received the appropriate documentation from Disability Services. Tests may be administered in the Learning Center. For more information about Learning Center programming, visit **bsu.edu/learningcenter** or call 765-285-1006. Follow them on Instagram: BallStateLC.

Writing Center: All writers improve with practice and feedback, so as a student in this course, you are encouraged to use the Writing Center to get additional feedback on your writing. The Writing Center can help you at any stage of the writing process, whether you're just getting started and need help brainstorming or when you're wrapping up a project and just want a second set of eyes. They work with writers from all disciplines and with all kinds of writing, including essays, reports, reflections, research projects, web content, lesson plans, slideshows, poster presentations, resumes, and other digital or print texts. When meeting with the Writing Center, you can choose from three appointment types: getting started on a new project (Planning appointment), discussing an existing draft (Feedback appointment), or scheduling time to work, with a tutor on hand to keep you motivated (Accountability appointment). To schedule a free appointment, go to bsu.edu/writingcenter. They offer online appointments any time we're open, or you can meet a tutor face-to-face in Robert Bell 295 during weekdays and Bracken Library First Floor West in the evenings. Make sure you plan ahead, because appointments book quickly!

Speaking Center: The Speaking Center is a free resource available to all members of the BSU community wanting to improve their public speaking abilities. The Speaking Center offers personalized coaching designed to help you become a more confident and effective speaker. Their trained coaches provide constructive feedback and support throughout the entire speech preparation process, whether you are in the early stages of brainstorming ideas and organizing your thoughts, or you need to practice your delivery and refine your message. The Center is in the David Letterman Communication and Media Building, room 302. To schedule an appointment, please access the Center through your Navigate app or use this direct link to sign up for a time**.** Appointments are available in person, on Zoom, and in virtual reality (VR) for those interested in practicing in an immersive speaking environment.

Basic Needs Hub: If you are having difficulty affording enough food, do not have a safe and reliable place to sleep, or are experiencing an emergency or crisis, help is available through the **Basic Needs Hub**. The Basic Needs Hub has information, resources, and provides individualized support to students. To talk with a supportive staff member about your experience, receive one on one assistance, or learn more about resources, you can submit a **Basic Needs Assistance Form**.

Mental Health Services: The Ball State University Counseling Center offers free and confidential services to all students. The Counseling Center is located in Lucina Hall, Room 320. To schedule an appointment, you can contact them at 765-285-1736. Ball State also offers a 24/7 Crisis Line, which can be reached at 765-285-HOPE (4673). The Crisis Line is a mental health resource for those who are struggling with any mental health concerns, including thoughts of self-harm or suicide.

The Ball State Counseling Center sees students for a variety of reasons, some of which include homesickness, relationship concerns, anxiety, and depression. At your first appointment, you will work with a therapist to create a plan that will connect you with resources that best fit your needs. They assist students with getting connected to therapy at the Center as well as connecting students to self-help resources, other on-campus resources, and community-based resources. All Ball State students also have access to several on-demand, self-help resources through a variety of different platforms. All these resources, including a direct link to our website, can be found **here**.

There are other resources on campus available to address mental health needs. Psychological, academic, and neuropsychological evaluations are available for a small fee at the Psychoeducational

and Diagnostic Intervention Clinic in the Department of Educational Psychology. The Counseling Practicum Clinic in the College of Health also offers counseling services for a small fee.