



PCP 625 Research Methods for Helping Professionals

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Fall 2009
Thursday Evenings 6:00 – 8:45 PM

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a review of behavioral science research designs and methods appropriate for counselors and marriage/family therapists. Course topics include: philosophy of science, ethical issues in counseling research, hypothesis formulation, experimental and quasi-experimental research designs, data capture, measurement, analysis of data, interpretation and presentation of data. The application of these research concepts to professional counseling will be emphasized.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify the relationship of research to counseling or clinical psychology.
2. Identify variables in counseling and clinical psychology.
3. Write research questions and hypotheses associated with counseling or clinical psychology research.
4. Write an APA style literature review of a topic related to counseling or clinical psychology.
5. Describe methods of sampling from human populations.
6. Identify ethical issues to consider when conducting counseling or clinical psychology research.
7. Summarize factors related to reliability and validity of counseling or clinical psychology measures.
8. Describe basic experimental and nonexperimental designs along with threats to internal and external validity.
9. Describe the difference between descriptive and inferential statistics.
10. Describe and identify the use of measures of central tendency.
11. Explain basic statistical concepts (e.g., correlation, t-test, ANOVA)
12. Prepare a basic research proposal.
13. Demonstrate the ability to integrate Christianity and counseling or clinical psychology.

TEXTBOOKS*

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th Edition. Washington, DC: Author.

Patten, M. L. (2009). *Understanding Research Methods* (7th Edition). Pycszak Publishing: Glendale, California. ISBN 1-884585-83-3

*You will also be assigned to read original journal articles available from the library.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Gravetter, F. J. & Wallnau, L. B. (2002). *Essentials of Statistics for the Behavior Sciences*, (4th, ed.) St. Paul, MN: West Publishing Company.

Kazdin, A. E. (2003). *Research design in Clinical Psychology*, (4th. ed.). New York: Allyn & Bacon.

Warner, R. M. (2008) *Applied Statistics: From Bivariate through Multivariate Techniques*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

METHODOLOGY

The format of the course will consist of lectures, class discussions, case studies, multimedia presentations, assignments, internet research, and participation in an ongoing research project, a midterm examination, and a final comprehensive examination.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Note. All written assignments should be prepared using APA style when applicable and delivered on time via an email attachment.

Attend class each week and notify the professor by email if you are unable to attend.

Participate in class discussions.

Prepare for class by staying current with assigned readings and turning in assigned work on or before the due date.

Summarize counseling research articles following an example.

Participate in a research project and prepare a reflection paper based on your experience.

Prepare an APA style literature review on an approved topic related to your degree. The manuscript should be 12-14 pages.

Use PowerPoint to present your literature review to the class.

Prepare an APA style research proposal.

Use PowerPoint to present your research proposal to the class.

Prepare for the midterm and final exams.

GRADING PROCEDURES

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Research summaries	50	5
Tests, quizzes, and other assignments	100	10
Literature review manuscript	150	15
Literature review presentation	100	10
Research proposal manuscript	150	15
Research proposal presentation	100	10
Midterm exam	150	15
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>20</u>
Total Points	1,000	100

GRADING: LETTERS AND QUALITATIVE COMMENTS

A+	= 98+ %	Work exceeds that of most students
A	= 94-98%	Excellent graduate work
A-	= 90-93%	Outstanding work
B+	= 87-89%	Very good, many strengths evident
B	= 84-86%	Good, Some strengths evident
B-	= 80-83%	Good,
C+	= 77-79%	Satisfactory and shows promise
C	= 74-76%	Acceptable
C-	= 70-73%	Marginally acceptable
D+	= 67-69%	Less than acceptable, some changes required
D	= 64% -66%	Unsatisfactory, changes required
D-	= 60%-63%	Unsatisfactory, many changes required

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Geoffrey W. Sutton, Ph.D. June 30, 2009. This document is intended to provide a general orientation to the course. The instructor reserves the right to make modifications to the schedule and specific assignments during the semester. This syllabus was modeled on previous editions prepared by Johan Mostert, D. Phil. and the course professor.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Aguinis, J. (2004). *Regression Analysis for Categorical Moderators*. New York: Guilford.
- Aiken, L.R. & Groth-Marnat, G. (2006). *Psychological Testing and Assessment* (12th ed.). New York: Allyn & Bacon
- American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 5th Edition. Washington, DC: Author.
- Campbell, D. & Stanley, J. (1963). *Experimental and Quasi-experimental Designs for Research*. Dallas: Houghton Mifflin.

- Cone, J.D. & Foster, S.L. (1993). *Dissertations and Theses from Start to Finish*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- Everett, B.S. (2001). *Statistics for Psychologists*. Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.
- Field, A. (2005). *Discovering statistics using SPSS* (2nd ed.). London: Sage.
- George, D. & Mallery, P. (2005). *SPSS for Windows Step by Step: A Simple Guide and Reference: 11.0 update* (5th ed.). New York: Allyn & Bacon.
- Gravetter, F.J. & Wallnau, L.B. (2005). *Essentials of Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences* (5th ed.). Pacific Grove, CA: Wadsworth.
- Grimm, L. & Yarnold, P. (Eds.) (1995). *Reading and Understanding Multivariate Statistics*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- Grimm, L. & Yarnold, P. (Eds.) (2000). *Reading and Understanding More Multivariate statistics*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- Heppner, P.P., Kivlighan, D.M. Jr., Wampold, B.E. (1999). *Research Design in Counseling* (2nd ed.). New York: Wadsworth.
- Kazdin, A. (2003). *Research Design in Clinical Psychology* (4th ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.
- Kerlinger, F. & Lee, H. (2000). *Foundations of Behavioral Research* (4th ed.). New York: Wadsworth.
- McGuigan, F.J. (1997). *Experimental Psychology: Methods of Research* (7th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- Mertler, C. & Vannatta, R. (2005). *Advanced and Multivariate Statistical Methods*, (3rd ed). Glendale, CA: Pyrczak.
- Nunnally, J. (1978). *Psychometric theory*. St. Louis: McGraw-Hill.
- Pittenger, D. (2003). *Behavioral Research: Design and Analysis*. New York: McGraw Hill.
- Spicer, J. (2005). *Making sense of multivariate data analysis*. New York: Sage.
- Tabachnick, B. & Fidell, L. (2001). *Using Multivariate Statistics* (4th ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.
- Thomas, J.C. & Hersen, M. (Eds.). (2003). *Understanding Research in Clinical and Counseling psychology*. Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.

Journal Resources (Examples)

Be sure you become familiar with the range of journals that contain articles often relevant to counseling and clinical psychology as well as marriage and family therapy. Include journals related to Christianity or Religion and Psychology.

Families, Systems, & Health

Journal of Christianity and Psychology (JPC)

Journal of Counseling Psychology (JCP)

Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology

Journal of Family Psychology

Journal of Marriage and the Family

Journal of Marriage and Family Counseling

Journal of Marital and Family Therapy

Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling

Journal of Psychotherapy Integration

Journal of Psychotherapy Practice and Research

Journal of Psychology and Theology (JPT)

Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy

Journal of Spirituality in Mental Health (JSMH)

Pastoral Psychology

Psychology of Religion and Spirituality

Psychotherapy Research