

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

PCP 625 Research Methods for Helping Professionals

Tuesday & Thursday, 8:55 – 10:10 am

Jeffery Fulks

Spring 2003

Course Syllabus

Course Description

This course is a review of behavioral science research designs and methods appropriate for counselors and marriage/family therapists. Topics include: philosophy of science, ethical issues in research with human subjects, hypothesis formulation, experimental and quasi-experimental designs, measurement, descriptive designs, and the analysis and interpretation of data. The application of these research methods to professional settings will be emphasized.

Objectives

Successful completion of this course should enable the student to:

1. Identify, critique, and develop the various parts of a research report;
2. Understand the importance of ethical behavior in the conduct of research and the presentation of research results;
3. Identify unique characteristics and advantages of single-subject, experimental, descriptive, field, and qualitative research designs;
4. Develop research instruments with an understanding of reliability and validity of measurement;
5. Develop an understanding of the research process and methods, and their application to the evaluation of professional programs;
6. Identify potential and real problems in research regarding design, sampling, measurement, and data analysis;
7. Understand issues related to causal, measurement, internal, external validity, and statistical validity;
8. Identify potential problems related to cultural diversity, minority populations, and gender in research;
9. Understand the rationale and methods of conducting an evaluation project in professional practice settings;
10. Conduct data analysis and report results based upon data from research projects;
11. Develop and conduct a mini-research project and write the corresponding report.

Textbooks

Required:

Heppner, P.P., Kivlighan, D.M., & Wampold, B.E. (1999). *Research Design in Counseling*, 2nd Edition. Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole.

Recommended:

American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 5th Edition. Washington, DC: Author.

Course Outline

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic, Readings, & Critical Dates</u>
	<i>Philosophical and Foundational Issues in Research</i>
January	7 Course Introduction and Philosophical Issues in Research
January	9 Research and the Pursuit of Truth Readings: Heppner, Kivlighan, & Wampold, Chapt. 1
January	14 The Research Process Readings: Heppner, Kivlighan, & Wampold, Chapt. 2
January	16 Library Skills in Conducting Research Assignment: Library Skills Demonstration
January	21 Writing the Research Report Readings: Heppner, Kivlighan, & Wampold, Chapt. 19
January	23 Research Designs and Validity Issues Readings: Heppner, Kivlighan, & Wampold, Chapt. 3
January	28 The Four Validities of Research Heppner, Kivlighan, & Wampold, Chapt. 4
January	30 Ethical Issues in Research Readings: Heppner, Kivlighan, & Wampold, Chapt. 5
February	4 Exam 1
	<i>Research Designs</i>
February	6 Single-Subject Research Designs Readings: Heppner, Kivlighan, & Wampold, Chapt. 8 Assignment : Single-Subject Design Exercise
February	11, 13 Experimental Designs Between Groups and Within Subjects Readings: Heppner, Kivlighan, & Wampold, Chapt. 6, 15
February	18 Quasi-Experimental & Time Series Designs Readings: Heppner, Kivlighan, & Wampold, Chapt. 7
February	20, 25 Survey Research Issues Using Quantitative Methods and Analogue Designs Readings: Heppner, Kivlighan, & Wampold, Chapt. 9
February	27 Qualitative Descriptive Research Methods Readings: Heppner, Kivlighan, & Wampold, Chapt. 10 Annotated Bibliography due
March	4, 6 Spring Break
March	11 Exam 2

		<i>Methodological Issues in Research</i>
March	13, 18	Sampling Issues in Research including External Validity and Bias Readings: Heppner, Kivlighan, & Wampold, Chapt. 13
March	20, 25	Measurement Issues in Research including Reliability and Validity of Measurement in Research Readings: Heppner, Kivlighan, & Wampold, Chapt. 11, 12 Assignment: Select a Scale to Measure a Psychological Construct
March	27	Research Procedures to Reduce Bias Readings: Heppner, Kivlighan, & Wampold, Chapt. 14 Assignment: Journal Article Critique
April	1, 3	Program Evaluation and Outcome Research Readings: Heppner, Kivlighan, & Wampold, Chapt. 16, 17, 18
		<i>Data Analysis in Research</i>
April	8	Descriptive Statistics: Frequencies, Central Tendency and Variability Assignment: Descriptive Statistics Report
April	10, 15	Hypothesis Testing and Inferential Statistics: Bi-variate Analysis, Chi-Square, Correlations, and Linear Regression Readings: Heppner, Kivlighan, & Wampold, Chapt. pp. 275 – 280 Assignment: Inferential Statistics Exercise
April	17	Inferential Statistics: <i>t</i> -tests and ANOVA
		Mini-Research Projects Due
April	24	Final Exam, 7:30 am

Methodology

This course will be taught using a variety of teaching methods including lecture, discussion, group activities, demonstrations, and hands-on activities. Students will be immersed in the theory and concepts regarding research and research methodology. Application of course material will be required as students complete course exercises and the min-research project and the exams.

Course Requirements

Class Attendance and Participation: It is hoped that students will not miss any class sessions. When it is necessary to be absent, students should send an e-mail to the professor prior to the class session if possible to maintain communication regarding material covered in class. Excessive absences may result in the student being dropped from the course.

The material being covered will require the student to develop analytical and critical thinking skills as they relate to the use and practice of research. Students will be expected to not only be present but to also be engaged in class activities and discussion and share their thoughts and opinions with other students. Interaction with students outside of class is strongly encouraged.

Examinations and Exercises: Students will participate in three exams to demonstrate understanding of the material being studied. These exams will consist of a variety of questions assessing conceptual understanding and the ability to apply the course material to research issues.

Students will also complete approximately five exercises to be assigned at various points during the semester and a mini-research project. The exercises will be due as indicated in the syllabus or class sessions. Late submission of assignments may result in point reductions.

Professional and Ethical Conduct: Students will conduct themselves in this course as professionals, preparing projects as directed and in a timely manner. They will complete assignments and exam in an ethical manner. Plagiarism, the presentation of another's work as your own, will be considered a serious violation of the Code of Ethics and may result in failure for the course. Mini-research projects will be developed in consideration of ethical standards for researchers.

Disability Accommodation: Any student who because of a disability may need special arrangements or accommodation to meet the requirements of this course is encouraged to see me before or after class to discuss accommodations.

Grading Procedures

Grades will be based upon success in completing the course requirements as demonstrated by the accumulation of points on class activities and assignments, exams, and the research proposal. It is expected that students will adhere to ethical standards of the seminary in completing course requirements. Each requirement will be weighted separately as listed below.

<u>Requirement</u>	<u>Total Points</u>	<u>Percent of Grade</u>
Exams	300	50%
Class Activities and Exercises	150	25%
Journal Article Critique	25	4%
Annotated Bibliography	25	4%
<u>Mini-Research Project</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>17%</u>
Totals	600	100%

Grade Distribution

Grades will be assigned on the basis of total points. The probable breakdown of grades will be determined in a manner similar to the following table.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>
A	540 - 600	D	360 - 419
B	480 - 539	F	< 360
C	420 - 479		

Selected Bibliography

American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 5th Edition. Washington, DC: Author.

Buros, O.K. (ed.) (1940 -) *Mental Measurements Yearbook*. New Jersey: Highland Park.

Campbell, J.A. (1988). Client acceptance of single-system evaluation procedures. *Social Work Research and Abstracts*, 16(3), 15-20.

Corcoran, K., & Fischer, J. (1994). *Measures for Clinical Practice*, 2nd Edition. New York: Free Press.

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- Polansky, N.A. (1989). There is nothing so practical as a good theory. *Child Welfare*, 65(1), 3-15.
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- Tracey, T.J.G., & Glidden-Tracey, C.E. (1999). Integration of theory, research design, measurement, and analysis: Toward a reasoned argument. *The Counseling Psychologist*, 27, 299-324.

Specific Data

Syllabus prepared by Jeffery Fulks, December 2002.

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Office Hours: By appointment

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.