Syllabus – Fall 2014
COUN 625: Research Applications

Instructor Contact Information

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For Students Needing Special Accommodations

Students requesting accommodations for disabilities initially should discuss such accommodations with the instructor. I can arrange for certain accommodations (e.g., extra testing time; quiet testing environment). Other accommodations (e.g., reader, scribe, interpreter, communication assistance) must be provided for through the Academic Support Committee. For more information, please contact the Director of Disability Resources and Services, Halladay Student Services Building, Room 303D, (903) 886-5835.
Texas A&M University-Commerce Procedure A12.08.10

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Student's Guide Handbook, Polices and Procedures, Conduct)
Texas A&M University-Commerce Procedure A12.08.11

Course Descriptions

Catalog Description

Research Application. 3 semester hours.
A doctoral course that focuses on the development of research skills and inquiry methods. The student is exposed to various quantitative and qualitative approaches. In addition, the course provides students with an understanding of scientific inquiry, purpose and benefits of research, research-related ethical and legal issues, and sampling procedures. Prerequisite: Doctoral status.

General Course Information

As a requirement in the doctoral program, this course surveys a variety of research tools and techniques pertinent to conducting research in general, and the dissertation in particular. Emphasis will be placed on dissertation research. Conceptual knowledge of research design and statistics and APA writing style will be covered in depth.

Course Outline

I. Quantitative designs
   A. Sampling
   B. Experimental design
   C. Instrumentation
II. Qualitative designs
   A. Sampling
   B. Theory
   C. Interviews, Observations, Document collection
III. Preparing to conduct research
   A. Selecting and narrowing a topic
   B. Writing research questions, research hypotheses, and null hypotheses
   C. Preparing proposals
      1. For DHSPC and IRB
      2. For dissertation
      3. Proofreading and editing proposals
   D. Writing literature reviews
   E. Identifying and discussing assumptions, limitations, and delimitations
IV. Ethical and Legal considerations
   A. Responsible conduct in research and scholarship online training

B. Protection of human subjects online training

V. Dissertation Process

Course Objectives

Students will:

1. study and learn to apply scientific writing skills
2. study and apply APA style in their writing
3. learn to evaluate research, research methods, and literature pertinent to counseling and the counseling profession
4. become familiar with research and dissertation processes
5. learn differences between dissertation writing and writing for publication in professional journals
6. learn the application of various quantitative and qualitative research methods
7. learn ethical and legal considerations related to research
8. learn to apply varying instrumentation techniques
9. learn to address reliability, validity, and trustworthiness issues in their research
10. learn to minimalize threats to internal and external validity in research

Course Requirements

Prerequisites	Students are expected to be able to: 1) Navigate the World Wide Web using a web browser (e.g., Netscape, Explorer, Opera, Mozilla, Firefox) and a search engine (e.g., HotBot, Lycos, Google); 2) Communicate electronically via email; 3) Send attachments via email; and, 4) Use MS Word, including its "Track Changes" features.
Dissertation Review	Obtain (borrow or purchase) a dissertation relevant to their investigation topics. In 10-12 pages, offer a review of the dissertation that includes the following: 1) a paragraph stating your reasons for selecting this particular dissertation; 2) a summary of each chapter, including major subsections (I should "get the gist" of this dissertation from your summary); and, 3) reactions to strengths and weaknesses of the dissertation (The checklist in Appendix A of Pyrczak & Bruce is a valuable resource). Final grade value – 10%
Precise Preparation	You will prepare a proposal (abridged) that includes an introduction, an abbreviated literature review (or annotated bibliography), and a description of proposed methods. Detailed instructions will be provided as the course progresses. Final grade value – 30%
Proposals Editing	You will periodically review peers' proposals, providing written and oral feedback. I will review and critique written feedback. Final grade value – 10%
Ethics Training For Conducting Research	You will complete online training for responsible research conduct and human subjects protection. Final grade value – 40% (You MUST successfully complete this training in order to earn a passing grade in COUN 625.)
Active Attendance	You are expected to attend class regularly and be prepared to participate in class activities and discussions. Final grade value – 10%

Grading

A	≥ 90	Defined as consistently excellent performance which distinguishes the individual as being hard-working and highly motivated to succeed
B	80 - 89	Defined as above average performance, occasionally submitting work of superior quality distinguishing the individual as being of high caliber
C	70 - 79	Defined as average performance with little or no distinction. This is an unacceptable for a doctoral-level course.
D	60 - 69	Defined as below average performance. Considered to be a failing grade for doctoral students.
F	< 60	Defined as unacceptable performance in relation to standards.

Course Materials

Texts

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

Ling Pan, M. (2013). Preparing literature reviews (4th Ed.). Glendale, CA: Pyrczak.

Pyrczak, F., & Bruce, R.R. (2011). *Writing empirical research reports: A basic guide for students of the social and behavioral sciences* (7th Ed.). Glendale, CA: Pyrczak.

Supplemental Materials

As copyright laws permit, supplemental materials will be distributed and/or made available.