

Argosy University San Francisco Bay Area
Department of Counseling Psychology
MA Counseling Psychology
Syllabus
Course Title
Research and Evaluation
Course Number PC6521
Spring Semester 2012

Instructor: Dr. Russell A. Chapman, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM, Wednesdays 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM, Thursdays 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM.

Argosy Communication:

If you choose to use an email address other than the assigned Argosy email, please be advised that you do so at your own risk. Any difficulty receiving Argosy emails will be your responsibility.

Required Texts:

Elmes ,D.G., Kantowitz, B. H. & Roedider, H. L. (2011). *Research Methods in Psychology*. 9th ed. Thomson Wadsworth. ISBN 05324609767

American Psychological Association (2009) *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th ed., American Psychological Association., ISBN # 978-1-4338-0562-2

Course Description:

This course provides 1) a broad understanding of what works in therapeutic contexts as evidenced by research and 2) skills in accessing, evaluating, and synthesizing research literature as well as documenting sources. Content includes empirical research of theoretical frameworks; common factors for therapeutic change including extra-therapeutic change, the therapeutic relationship, expectancy, and therapeutic technique; how change happens as evidenced by research; exploration of contradictions and controversies concerning therapeutic efficacy; discernment between qualitative and quantitative research; searching for literature using the Psych Info database and the onsite library resources; taking notes and avoiding unintentional plagiarism; evaluating and interpreting research literature including statistical analysis; writing organized and cohesive research papers; citing sources using American Psychological Association guidelines.

Attendance:

All students are required to attend the course site weekly (Specifically, each student should sign into the course site 4-5 times a week, to make sure they are not drop by the university). It is the professor's experience that to maximize the student learning she or he needs to attend the class site at least 4-5 times a week. You will put about five to six hours into the course a week not including weekly reading.

Course Requirements:

The course requirements are two weekly discussion board questions w/ Student replies mandatory, Online weekly quizzes, and a individual paper and power point presentation paper presented on the course site during the last two or three classes.

Weekly DBQ's (Discussion Board Questions):

There will be weekly DBQ's on the discussion board (DB) for all students to answer. There will be 2 questions given from the course information covered in a particular week of the course. Students are required to post their answers to the questions by Fridays of the given week and have up until the Sunday of the same week to respond to another two classmates posting. All DBQ answers should include the references used in answering the question and should include proper APA style paraphrasing and quotations. Student responses or replies are calculated into the students over all module grades for any particular DBQ. A thoughtful comment is defined and posing questions to a classmate for her or his response, communicating something significant you learned from a classmate's posting, or adding an additional "perspective" of how you "perceive" the information given by the fellow student's posting. These DBQ's are graded on the student's thoughtfulness and mindfulness in the given answer and reply. There are "actual" right answers for each question, but there can be a "subjective" twist given by students when they are asked to "apply" their answer to real life circumstances. All answers are to follow APA writing style/format (Especially paraphrasing and quoting). All answers must be each student's original work and not a copy from another student's work. If there is evidence of copying, then the professor will assign a "0%" for that individual assignment. There may or may not be a relationship between weekly DBQ's and the weekly quizzes.

Posting DBQ's:

Students are highly encouraged to type all the DBQ answers out in Microsoft word processing and save them as an individual file on their home computer. Then up-load their answers to the discussion board (DB) by attachment and by "copy/paste" directly into the DB. This allows your instructor to view the assignments both ways and trouble shoots a lot of technological issues. Students who choose to type their answers "directly" into the DB may lose their information, if they lose their connection to the course site, thus, causing a lot of pain, frustration, and time consuming work for the student.

Weekly Textbook Quizzes:

The quizzes in this course will be administered through the course site and all students will have access to them the entire semester. There will be one quiz per module. Each test question will count one point toward your final tabulation of points for the semester. The quizzes will be 30-50 questions and will come right from the textbook. Each student will have only one chance or attempt at each quiz and the instructor will only reset quizzes

depending on student circumstances. The instructor's decisions on quiz resets are final. The quiz questions will be multiple choice or true/false. The students will get feedback after the quizzes are submitted.

PowerPoint Presentation of Paper:

The power point will be due week 12 of the course. The power point will cover the main topics and points of the student paper and will be posted to the DB in Module 12 or week 12. This presentation should be between 10 and 20 slides. There is no need to go over 20 slides per presentation. There will be an outline provided by the instructor on the class course site.

Final Paper/Presentation Guidelines:

The final paper will be a group project. You are encouraged to be in groups of 4 to 5, but I do allow groups with more or less depending on the circumstances. I also allow "groups-of-one." However, any student requesting to be in a group-of-one must realize that she or he will be expected to do the same level of work/performance as a group of five. The purpose of this assignment is for each group to design a research study as if the group was going to research a certain area of interest like, depression, learning disabilities and performance, ADHD, etc. The group should pick a research method or methods (multi-method research) and how they are going to apply, examine, prove their hypothesis, find their correlation, etc. All topics must be instructor approved so not to duplicate a topic presented in class. The paper and or presentations should cover the following areas; (1) Research methodology, (2) participants or population, and (3) test or measurements (including reliability and validity of the test/measurement and report back on research studies previously performed with this test, the statistical analysis and how the test is best reported and how is that report illustrated). This paper must be 15 to 20 pages, double-spaced and in APA format as stated above, with the addition of an abstract page. If a paper is not finished in APA style there will be a "one letter grade deduction." Beginning week 3 of the course each student will meet with, via e-mail, the professor to present his/her topic of interest. The due dates are stated in the weekly schedule of this document. It is mandatory that these papers be turned in online in a Microsoft word document or "text-rich" file format.

Week Topics & Readings

Week 1: Overview of Psychological Research

Week 2: Explanation in Scientific Psychology

Week 3: Exploring to Literature of Psychology

Week 4: Conducting Ethical Research

Week 5: Observation and Psychological Research

Week 6: Relational Research

Week 7: Basics of Experimentation

Week 8: Experimental Design

Week 9: Validity and Reliability in Psychological Research

Week 10: Complex Design

Week 11: Small-n Experimentation

Week 12: Quasi-Experimentation

Week 13: Interpreting the Results of Research & Presenting Research Results

Week 14: Presentations/Final Papers

Week 15: Presentations/Final Papers

Course Grading:

Grades are determined on a points scale at the end of the semester. Below is the final point scale, which will determine your final grade. However, they will be “weekly” grades recorded in an instructor grade book to allow you to view your performance along the semester. Grading is progressive throughout the semester and final grade posting dates are indicated in the course calendar.

1. 900-1000 Points = A
2. 800-899 Points = B
3. 700-799 Points = C
4. 0-699 Points = F

Point Distribution:

Quizzes	500 Points
DBQ's	200 Points
Power Point Presentation	100 Points
<u>Final Paper</u>	<u>200 Points</u>
Total	1000 Points

Library:

All resources in Argosy University's online collection are available through the Internet. Students can access the online collection by logging into the student portal and clicking on the library link. Library Resources: Argosy University's core online collection features over **48,889 full-text journals and 23,000 electronic books** and other content covering all academic subject areas including Business & Economics, Career & General Education, Computers, Engineering & Applied Science, Humanities, Science, Medicine & Allied Health, and Social & Behavior Sciences. Many titles are directly accessible through the Online Public Access Catalog at <http://library.argosy.edu>.

In addition to online resources, Argosy University's onsite collections contain a wealth of subject-specific research materials searchable in the Online Public Access Catalog. Catalog searching is easily limited to individual campus collections. Alternatively, students can search combined collections of all Argosy University Libraries.

Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism:

In an effort to foster a spirit of honesty and integrity during the learning process, Argosy University requires that the submission of all course assignments represent the original work produced by that student. All sources must be documented through normal scholarly references/citations and all work must be submitted using the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition (2009). Washington DC: American Psychological Association (APA) format. Please refer to Appendix A in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 5th Edition for thesis and paper format. Students are

encouraged to purchase this manual (required in some courses) and become familiar with its content as well as consult the Argosy University catalog for further information regarding academic dishonesty and plagiarism.

Additionally, Argosy University considers resubmission of a work produced for one course in a subsequent course or the submission of work done partially or entirely by another to be academic dishonesty. It is the student's responsibility to seek clarification from the instructor regarding how much help may be received in completing an assignment, exam or project and what sources may be used.

Scholarly writing:

The faculty at Argosy University is dedicated to providing a learning environment that supports scholarly and ethical writing free from academic dishonesty and plagiarism. This includes the proper and appropriate referencing of all sources. You are responsible for maintaining an electronic copy of any work submitted, because you may be asked to submit your course assignments through "Turnitin," (www.turnitin.com), an online resource established to help educators develop writing/research skills and detect potential cases of academic dishonesty. Turnitin compares submitted papers to billions of pages of content and provides a comparison report to your instructor. This comparison detects papers that share common information and duplicative language.

Americans with Disabilities Act Policy:

It is the policy of Argosy University to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If a student with disabilities needs accommodations, the student must notify the Director of Student Services. Procedures for documenting student disability and the development of reasonable accommodations will be provided to the student upon request. Students will be notified by the Director of Student Services when each request for accommodation is approved or denied in writing via a designated form. To receive accommodation in class, it is the student's responsibility to present the form (at his or her discretion) to the instructor. In an effort to protect student privacy, the Department of Student Services will not discuss the accommodation needs of any student with instructors. Faculty may not make accommodations for individuals who have not been approved in this manner.

The Argosy University Statement Regarding Diversity:

Argosy University prepares students to serve populations with diverse social, ethnic, economic, and educational experiences. Both the academic and training curricula are designed to provide an environment in which students can develop the skills and attitudes essential to working with people from a wide range of backgrounds.