

# Argosy University

## COURSE SYLLABUS

FP6030

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### Research and Evaluation

**Instructor:** Jennifer (Jenna) Frischknecht Holden, J.D. Psy.D.  
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**Text:** *Research and Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*  
Author: John W. Creswell  
ISBN 13: 978-1-4129-6557-6  
ISBN10: 1412965578

#### **Course Description:**

In this course we will look at several approaches to research design and its application to clinical practice. As our textbook's title indicates, these several approaches will include qualitative research design, quantitative research design, and designs that involve a mixture of these approaches combined with other methodologies. With regard to the application of these designs to clinical practice, we will learn to review research with an educated and critical eye, as well as to begin forming research methods that will be useful and necessary in clinical forensic settings.

**This course format consists of frequent contact, and as such students are required to log on to the course's website and post internet responses and commentary regarding course content *three times per week*. Assignments and papers are to be submitted to the course instructor via email unless otherwise noted.**

#### **Final Date to Drop the Class:**

To receive a "W" grade a student must officially drop this class by the date listed below that corresponds to this course's term and length. Students may not withdraw from this course after this date. If a student chooses to discontinue course work after the final drop date, the student may receive an "F" grade for the course.

*Summer Session I (7.5 week courses): June 13, 2010*  
*Summer Session II (7.5 week courses): August 4, 2010*  
*Summer Full Term (15 week courses): July 17, 2010*

**Technology and Assignment Deadlines:**

This course is conducted via an on-line format. As earlier noted, this format will require students to actively participate in the course (e.g., posting on the discussion board) at least three times each week. The course instructor will post weekly lectures, weekly discussion questions, and occasional assignments (3) by the Monday of each week no later than 7 p.m. Pacific Standard Time (PST). All student responses to discussion questions (which require at least three postings per week) are due by the Sunday of each week no later than 5 p.m. Pacific Standard Time (PST). Each of the three written assignments, as well as the final project for the course, will be due to the course instructor via email no later than midnight Pacific Standard Time (PST) of its respective date. No late work will be accepted without prior permission from the course instructor.

**Course Length:**

This course will begin on Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup> (05/10/2010) and will end on Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup> (06/30/2010).

**Program Outcomes:**

This course meets several of the program outcomes with regard to the Argosy University's Master of Arts degree program in Forensic Psychology:

*Program Outcome One:* Students will demonstrate knowledge of the theoretical concepts and methodological approaches to the psychological bases of behavior as it relates to the practice and application of forensic psychology.

*Program Outcome Three:* Students will demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate the existing literature and body of knowledge in assessment, evaluation, and research methods in forensic psychology.

*Program Outcome Four:* Students will use leadership, consultative, and ethical knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will allow them to succeed as a part of a professional team, capable of expanding the role of psychologists within society.

**Course Objectives:**

Students will have a thorough understanding of the accepted research approaches utilized in the professional clinical psychology and forensic psychology realms, including the differences and similarities between them;

Students will be able to understand the application of various research approaches to specific research needs and circumstances, including the ethics of this application in various contexts;

Students will be able to more critically review scholarly research in the realms of

clinical and forensic psychology;

Students will begin to understand how to themselves engage in appropriate and ethical research, including the choosing and outlining of a research design for a given context in the forensic psychology realm.

**Weekly Reading and Assignment Table:**

	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Readings/Topic(s)</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
<b>1</b>	May 10th-16th	<i>Chapters 1 and 2:</i> -Overview -Selection of a Research Design -The Lit Review	3 posts to discussion questions
<b>2</b>	May 17th-23rd	<i>Chapter 3:</i> -Theory and its central place in research	3 posts to discussion questions, Written Assignment #1 due by the end of the week at midnight (05/23/10)
<b>3</b>	May 24th-30th	<i>Chapter 4:</i> -Writing a research proposal -Ethical considerations	3 posts to discussion questions
<b>4</b>	May 31st-June 6th	<i>Chapters 5 and 6:</i> -Writing an introduction and purpose statement	3 posts to discussion questions, Written Assignment #2 due by the end of the week at midnight (06/06/2010)
<b>5</b>	June 7 <sup>th</sup> -June 13th	<i>Chapter 7:</i> -Research questions and hypotheses	3 posts to discussion questions
<b>6</b>	June 14 <sup>th</sup> -June 20 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Chapters 8 and 9:</i> -Quantitative and Qualitative Procedures	3 posts to discussion questions, Written Assignment #3 due by the end of the week at midnight (06/20/10)
<b>7</b>	June 21 <sup>st</sup> -June 27th	<i>Chapter 10:</i> -Mixed Methods Procedures	3 posts to discussion questions
<b>8</b>	June 28 <sup>th</sup> -June 30th		No posts required, Final Project due by midnight on the last day of class (06/30/10)

**Rubric for Grading the course's three written assignments and final project:**

Grade	Requirements
A = 90-100	Assignment/Project is <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• well thought out with proper grammar/writing skills</li> </ul> AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in appropriate APA format</li> </ul> AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provides <b>excellent</b> coverage of material</li> </ul>
B = 80-89	Assignment/Project is <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• well thought out with proper grammar/writing skills</li> </ul> BUT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is missing one component of APA format</li> </ul> OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• coverage of material is <b>adequate</b></li> </ul>
C = 70 – 79	Assignment/Project has <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>poor</b> grammar/writing skills present</li> </ul> OR (one or more of the following) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APA format is <b>inadequate</b></li> <li>• Insufficient number of references provided</li> <li>• <b>limited</b> coverage of material</li> </ul>
F = <70	Assignment/Project is (one or more of the following) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• disorganized</li> <li>• coverage is not adequate</li> <li>• does not conform to APA format</li> <li>• there is evidence of <b>plagiarism</b></li> <li>• paper not submitted</li> </ul>

**Overall Grading Criteria (for the course's final grade):**

*Grading Scale*

*Grading requirements*

<b>A</b>	100 – 93
<b>A-</b>	92 – 90
<b>B+</b>	89 – 88
<b>B</b>	87 – 83
<b>B-</b>	82 – 80
<b>C+</b>	79 – 78
<b>C</b>	77 - 73
<b>C-</b>	72 – 70
<b>F</b>	69 and below

<i>Attendance/participation (Posting to discussion questions 3x/week)—50 points each week for an overall total of 350 points</i>	<i>35%</i>
<i>Written Assignments (3)—100 points each for an overall total of 300 points</i>	<i>30%</i>
<i>Final project—350 points</i>	<i>35%</i>
<i>1000 points total</i>	<i>100%</i>

## **Library**

*All resources in Argosy University's online collection are available through the Internet. The campus librarian will provide students with links, user IDs, and passwords.*

Library Resources: Argosy University's core online collection features nearly 21,000 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>. Detailed descriptions of online resources are located at <http://library.argosy.edu/misc/onlinedblist.html>.

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. Students are encouraged to seek research and reference assistance from campus librarians.

Information Literacy: Argosy University's Information Literacy Tutorial was developed to teach students fundamental and transferable research skills. The tutorial consists of five modules where students learn to select sources appropriate for academic-level research, search periodical indexes and search engines, and evaluate and cite information. In the tutorial, students study concepts and practice them through interactions. At the conclusion of each module, they can test their comprehension and receive immediate feedback. Each module takes less than 20 minutes to complete. Please view the tutorial at <http://library.argosy.edu/infolit/>

## **Academic Policies**

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, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition (2009)*. Washington DC: American Psychological Association (APA) format. Please refer to Appendix A in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

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 may be asked to submit your course assignments through "Turnitin," ([www.turnitin.com](http://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.

### **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.