

Argosy University San Francisco Bay Area  
Department of Counseling Psychology  
MA Counseling Psychology  
Syllabus  
Course Title  
Research and Evaluation  
Course Number PC6521  
Fall Semester 2008

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

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 10 AM-12:30 PM and Wednesdays 10 AM-2 PM

Required Texts:

Elmes, D. G., Kantowitz, B. H. & Roediger, H. L. (2006). *Research Methods in Psychology*. 8<sup>th</sup> ed., Thomson Wadsworth. ISBN 05324609767

American Psychological Association (2001) *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed., American Psychological Association., ISBN # 978-1557987914

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 and all fact-to-face meetings. It is the professor's experience that to maximize the student learning she or he needs to attend the class site at least times a week. You will put about five to six hours into the course a week not including weekly reading. I will keep track of student attendance through the course site and if you do not attend each week than you cannot receive an "A" in the course.

Course Requirements:

The course requirements are Mid-term and Final reflection paper, weekly quizzes, and a group paper presented/final paper due during the last two or three classes.

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 (indicated by bold type). Students may not withdraw from this course after the date 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.

Fall Session I (7.5 week courses): October 6, 2008

Fall Session II (7.5 week courses): November 27, 2008

Fall Full Term (15 week courses): November 10, 2008

Weekly Textbook Quizzes:

The quizzes in this course will be administered after each week and passed out to the students in class. The quizzes will be 25-50 multiple choice or true/false questions. The answers will be reviewed the following week. Students are allowed to self-grade these quizzes to find their errors. The quizzes will be based on theoretical perspectives presented in the textbooks and class discussion. The quiz due dates are listed below;

September 2<sup>nd</sup>- **No Quiz Due**

September 9<sup>th</sup>- **Chapters 1-3**

September 16<sup>th</sup>- **No Quiz Due**

September 23<sup>rd</sup>- **Chapters 4 & 5**

September 30<sup>th</sup>- **No Quiz Due**

October 7<sup>th</sup>- **Chapters 6 & 7**

October 14<sup>th</sup>- **No Quiz Due**

October 21<sup>st</sup>- **Chapters 8 & 9**

October 28<sup>th</sup>- **No Quiz Due**

November 4<sup>th</sup>- **Chapters 10 & 11**

November 11<sup>th</sup>- **No Quiz Due**

November 18<sup>th</sup>- **Chapters 12 & 13**

November 25<sup>th</sup>- **No Quiz Due**

December 2<sup>nd</sup>- **Chapter 14**

December 9<sup>th</sup>- **No Quiz Due**

Reflection Paper:

This is an independent assignment based on reflecting on the course material discussed and reviewed. These papers need to be at least 3-4 pages in length. This reflection papers will be due at midterms and finals. The dates are included in the syllabus. These papers should answer the following questions: (1) What did I learn from the textbook or class discussion; (2) What theoretical material proved to have significant value for me and why?; (3) How can I take what I have learned in class discussion and the textbook and use it in my present or future career/life. The papers must be done in APA format. This means at minimum you must have the correct title page, level headings, paraphrasing, headers and footers, and reference page. There will be no need for an abstract page. If you need help with this requirement, please see your instructor. It is mandatory that these papers be turned in as an e-mail attachment and you can consider you paper received upon receipt of a reply from your professor that states “I have received it.” Please make sure these reflection papers or in either a Microsoft word document or “text-rich” file format.

### 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.”** 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. As part of this requirement groups are expected to present their papers in a formal presentation format. This could mean a traditional “black board or overhead” presentation or a presentation by technological means such as power point. The “way” in which the group presents their presentations is up to them. The presentation portion of this requirement is worth 50% of the total requirement.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topics &amp; Readings</u>
<b>Week 1:</b>	Overview of Psychological Research/Explanation in Scientific Psychology
<b>Week 2:</b>	Explanation in Scientific Psychology/Exploring to Literature of Psychology
<b>Week 3:</b>	Exploring to Literature of Psychology
<b>Week 4:</b>	Observation and Psychological Research
<b>Week 5:</b>	Relational Research
<b>Week 6:</b>	Basics of Experimentation
<b>Week 7:</b>	Validity and Reliability in Psychological Research
<b>Week 8:</b>	Experimental Design
<b>Week 9:</b>	Complex Design
<b>Week 10:</b>	Small-n Experimentation
<b>Week 11:</b>	Quasi-Experimentation
<b>Week 12:</b>	Conducting Ethical Research
<b>Week 13:</b>	Interpreting the Results of Research & Presenting Research Results

**Week 14: Group Presentations/Final Papers**

**Week 15: Group 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

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, 5th Edition (2001). 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](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.

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.