

# **Argosy University - San Francisco Bay Area**

Advanced Academic Study and Writing W-7000

Fall I 2010

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

Professor: Dr. Scott Griffith

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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This foundational doctoral course provides advanced academic study and writing processes for analyzing and evaluating current research articles, literature reviews, and dissertations. Emphasis will be placed on APA style guidelines and university publication requirements. Students will develop a perspective as scholarly practitioners, focusing within their specific discipline and program. Providing students the information and skills to navigate and successfully complete their doctoral programs and dissertations is the primary goal of this course

## **COURSE PREREQUISITES**

None

## **COURSE LENGTH**

7.5 Weeks

## **CONTACT HOURS**

45

## **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.

Session I (7.5 week courses):

Deadline for withdrawal "W": October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010

## TEXT REQUIREMENTS

Title: Dissertations and Theses From Start to Finish: Psychology and Related Fields  
Author: Cone, John D. / Foster, Sharon L.  
Edition / Copyright: 2ND 06  
Publisher: American Psychological Association  
ISBN: 1-59147-362-4

Title: Preparing Literature Reviews  
Author: Pan, M. Ling  
Edition / Copyright: 3RD 08  
Publisher: Pyrczak Publishing  
ISBN: 1-884585-76-0

Title: Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association  
Author: American Psychological Association  
Edition / Copyright: 6th/2009 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> printing  
Publisher: American Psychological Association  
ISBN: 1-4338-0561-8

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Computer: PC: As a general guideline, students should have computer specifications of a Pentium III CPU or greater, Windows 2000 or XP, and 1 GB RAM.

MAC: As a general guideline, students should not have computer specifications less than a MAC G4 processor, MAC OS X 10.4, and 1 GB of RAM.

Software: Microsoft Office Professional (including Word, Excel, PowerPoint,

Access, and Outlook)  
Norton Antivirus  
Adobe Acrobat Professional

Peripherals: N/A

Browser: PC: Courses are best viewed using Microsoft Internet Explorer 8.0 or Mozilla Firefox 3.5.

MAC: Courses are best viewed using Safari 4.0 or Mozilla Firefox 3.5.

## **MATERIALS REQUIREMENTS**

None

## **COURSE COMPETENCIES**

By the end of the course, students will:

1. Develop a perspective as a scholarly practitioner through reading, writing, and reflection.
2. Understand the stages of the dissertation process at Argosy University.
3. Apply research skills to access scholarly information resources.
4. Evaluate information from scholarly sources to assess their quality and credibility (reliability, validity, accuracy, authority, timeliness, point of view, and bias).
5. Analyze and synthesize scholarly literature in critiquing different research articles.
6. Apply advanced academic writing skills and APA style to develop a literature review based on the chosen research question.
7. Utilize appropriate citation and referencing skills associated with dissertation and scholarly writing to avoid plagiarism.
8. Incorporate academic writing skills into multimedia presentations.
9. Develop a dissertation plan incorporating research question(s) and literature review.

## **TOPICAL OUTLINE**

### **Module 1**

- Exploring Impostor Syndrome
- Becoming a Scholar-Practitioner

### **Module 2**

- Using Paraphrasing and Proper APA Citations

### **Module 3**

- Exploring Dissertation and Its Process

### **Module 4**

- Writing Annotations and Critiquing Journal Articles

### **Module 5**

- Reflecting on the Relationship Between the Research Topic  
and the Literature Review

### **Module 6**

- Writing Scholarly Papers

### **Module 7**

- Presenting Research

### **Module 8**

- Analyzing the Course Objective

## **EDUCATION COMMITMENT**

The following outlines the requirements and key factors for success in online learning and important policies and practices you need to know.

### **Participation**

Successful learning online requires you to actively participate in this course. Participation is measured by recording the posting date on which you make a substantive posting in the course. Doctoral students are required to have substantive participation, at a minimum of 2 days per week.

Everyone's comments are important. The diversity of the experience among members of your class will enhance learning. All students will be treated equitably within the classroom. Discussion and all communications are required to be respectful. All activities will follow

standards set forth in the Argosy University Catalog and the Student Handbook for Online Students.

All assignments must be posted by the due dates. You may post assignments prior to the due date during the week the assignment is due.

### **Attendance**

In this blended class, attendance is required for all 4 days. Weekend days begin at 9:00 AM and end at 5:00 PM.

The student is expected to attend the **Discussion Area** by participating in the discussion a minimum of 2 days per week. Participation is measured by recording the date of each entry a student makes on the system when that student interacts with the course in a meaningful way. Examples of meaningful interaction include responses to assignments, commenting on the work of others in critiques, discussion questions, or a question you might have for the faculty or the group.

For absence due to prolonged serious illness or personal emergency the student is expected to contact the faculty as soon as possible. For absence due to technical problems, the student is expected to contact the faculty immediately after notifying the appropriate technical support. Failure to notify the faculty will be considered a missed deadline. All assigned work must be completed regardless of the reason for absence.

### **Plagiarism**

Academic Dishonesty and 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. Naturally, in much academic writing, authors often refer to and rely upon works, published and unpublished, of others. When incorporated properly, reliance upon authoritative sources adds knowledge and credibility to the document that the author is preparing. However, without proper documentation, the reader may be misled in attributing certain writings to the author when such is not the case. In effect, the author has passed off the work of another as if it were his or her own. When this happens, the author has committed a form of academic dishonesty known as plagiarism. Among the harms from plagiarism are that the writer of the original material suffers from lack of recognition of his or her contributions. The original writer and publisher may also be damaged by an infringement on their copyright, which is an exclusive right to copy or reproduce materials that is protected by law.

Students found to have committed academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, shall be subject to disciplinary action, which may include dismissal from Argosy University.

To avoid plagiarism, all sources relied upon, whether quoted directly or paraphrased, must be documented through normal scholarly references and 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 ([www.apastyle.org](http://www.apastyle.org)). (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 all 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 to also constitute 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 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 and research skills and detect potential cases of academic dishonesty. Questions about plagiarism may be directed to your dean, chair or instructor.

### APA Style Requirements

Minimum required elements of APA style for written assignments in first year courses include the following:

- Cover page that meets APA style requirements of elements and formatting (i.e., title of paper, name, course number/course name, Argosy University, semester or term and year, running head in left header, and page number in right header)
- Body of paper with critical voice (e.g., synthesis of opinions/ comments) supported by paraphrasing of credible sources using the two styles of APA citing (out-of-text and in-text) with correct punctuation; avoid use of 1<sup>st</sup> person singular "I" (except personal reflection papers) and 2<sup>nd</sup> person singular "you;" use of third person plural "we" acceptable to reflect universal human experience
- Quoted passages to include author, year, and page number; emphasis on paraphrasing with minimal use of quotations to support critical voice
- Reference page that meets APA style requirements to include appropriate sources (e.g., no Wikipedia), references that match citations (e.g., no references listed that are not also cited), and correct formatting/punctuation
- APA style formatting to include 1" margins, running head in left header, page number in right header, Times New Roman 12 point font, left justification of all passages, indentation of 5 spaces for new paragraphs, 1 ½ line spacing and double sided pages (modified APA in spirit of promoting "green" for MACP program)

- Grammatical and punctuation errors edited to address incomplete sentences, run-on sentences, awkward sentences, inconsistent verb tense, inconsistent pronoun use, redundancy of ideas/words, use of extremes or superlatives (e.g., “always,” “never,” “very,”) and conversational or idiomatic language

### **Modules and Days of the Week**

The course is divided into eight modules. The first week of class will be **Module 1**, the second week **Module 2**, and so on. Each of the first 7 modules have seven days, **Module 8** has three days. The first day of the first module varies according to the start of the semester, and is not based on the first weekend class day.

### **Grading**

Students must demonstrate an understanding of course material by:

1. Actively participating in all aspects of the course a minimum of three (any three) days per week.
2. Utilizing professional terminology in class discussion.
3. Accurately relating course material to "real world" situations, utilizing text and other reference materials and personal experience where applicable.
4. Thoroughly and accurately completing assignments, papers, projects, quizzes, group projects, exams, etc. and submitting them on time. All work must be received by the set deadlines. Late work is not accepted without mitigating circumstances.
5. Each graded assignment will carry a weight that will be a fraction of 100 percent. Assignments will reflect a percentage of the total possible points based on the requirements and competencies determined by each individual course.

Points are assigned for each assignment criterion, (an assignment criterion is a detailed expectation for a specific assignment) which have been established for the purpose of completing and evaluating each assignment to a given set of expectations. Each criteria item has a value up to four points, each point communicates a level of achievement for a definite expectation: 4=Excellent, 3=Satisfactory, 2=Minimum achievement, 1=Attempt, 0=No effort.

There will be at least one, and usually more, distinct criteria specified for each item to be delivered within an assignment, the criteria will assist the student in completion of the assignment and assist the facilitator in the evaluation and grading of the student's work. The total points from assignments may be combined with possible "extra achievement points" for project-based assignments only; these points will take into account creativity, critical thinking, etc. things that don't have specific checkpoints to follow.

Student grades will be determined using the Argosy University point scale:

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

Grades of “D+” and “D” are used at the undergraduate level only.