

Research Theory and Methods

CPSE 750

Fall Semester 2015

Class Meetings: MCKB 343, Thursdays, 12:00pm - 2:50pm


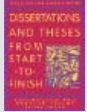
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 Office Hours: Please email for appt.

Required texts:

Heppner, P. P., Wampold, B. E., & Kivlighan, D. M. (2008). Research design in counseling. 3rd edition. Thomson, Brooks/Cole.

Heppner, P. P., & Heppner, M. J. (2004). Writing and publishing your thesis, dissertation and research: A guide for students in the helping professions. Brooks/Cole-Thomson Learning. Belmont, CA.

Helpful books for you to consider:

Image	Item	Vendor	Price (new)	Price (used)
	New Edition: Publication Manual [Pub Manual] of the American Psychological (Psych) Association Sixth (6th) Edition Required by -APA- 6th Edition; Edition 6 (1380593400) ISBN: 9781433805615	BYU Bookstore	29.95	22.50
	Dissertation and Theses from Start to Finish: Psychology and Related Fields Required by Cone, John D. American Psychological Association (APA); Edition 2 (1146463200) ISBN: 9781591473626	BYU Bookstore	29.95	22.50

Course Description and Objectives

This is an advanced course in counseling research design and methodology. It is designed to support you through the conceptualization, development, and writing of your dissertation while simultaneously introducing you to various research topics and designs namely, validity issues, ethical issues, between-group and within-subjects designs, experimental, quasi-experimental, single-subject designs, outcome, process, discovery, and qualitative research as applied to counseling and psychotherapy research. This course will provide didactic instruction, discussion

of the research process, student presentations, and applied writing assignments to achieve the course objectives.

Learning Outcomes

Dissertation Research Process. This course is designed to prepare students in the counseling psychology doctoral program to write and prepare to defend their prospectus, dissertation, and ultimately prepare a journal article for publication based upon students' dissertation research.

Prospectus Development. Students will demonstrate advanced critical thinking, advanced methodological strategies, and writing skills by producing a well-crafted Literature Review, Methods, and Data Analysis section. Students will demonstrate the ability to identify a research/dissertation topic, conceptualize their project, and prepare it for the prospectus defense.

Research Design and Methods. Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a variety of research designs and methods pertaining to counseling/counseling psychology research.

Mock Defense of Prospectus. Students will learn how to eventually and successfully defend a dissertation prospectus before a faculty committee. This experiential learning will take place in class in a mock prospectus defense before your doctoral committee chair.

Class Projects and Assignments:

Dissertation Project

Each of you will identify (if not already) a topic for a potential dissertation project, conduct a thorough literature review of that topic, develop a rationale/purpose of the study (including research questions and hypotheses), and describe your methodology in conducting the study incorporating how you plan to analyze the data. This assignment is to facilitate your experience and the process towards dissertation prospectus defense and ultimately the final defense. If you take this assignment seriously and use this opportunity to properly develop a dissertation project during this semester, it will most likely reduce your stress levels regarding this doctoral requirement, particularly towards the end of your time in this program, as you draw closer to pre-doctoral internship applications, and while you are away on internship. Please review the following details about this project.

Dissertation Part 1 (15-20 pages):

- The *Title Page, Abstract, Literature Review, Purpose of the Study (Rationale), Research Questions, and Hypotheses* sections of the **1st half of your Dissertation is due on October 29.**

Dissertation Part 2 (page amount varies):

- The *Methods* (Participants, Procedures, Instruments) and *Data Analysis* sections (your statistical or qualitative plan of how you will measure, test, observe, and analyze

data/variables of the participants in your study) of the **2nd half of your Dissertation is due by November 12.**

TIP: Start gathering and reading articles and writing your abstract, literature review, methods, and data analysis sections **as soon as possible!** I will not accept the 1st or 2nd halves of your research reports late.

Class Assignments

You will be paired with students in the class each week in which you will exchange your writing assignments for positive and constructive feedback on your writing. Your assignment is to bring **1-2 pages** of your current writing every week to receive feedback. The writing has to be new work you have done during the previous week. You cannot hand in previous work you already received feedback on. This exercise will help you to maintain a strict writing schedule every week, whether it's the pits or pretty decent writing – nonetheless you are **WRITING!! Be courageous!** Yes, it might be horrendous...so what!! There's no such thing as a perfect writer or writing – no such thing as a perfect anything for that matter. Just bring in what you have written during the previous week! Just do it!:))

Chapter Presentations

Each of you will do 2 presentations on selected parts of the chapters. I will also be presenting a lecture on that same chapter/topic and will generate additional learning and discussion objectives. However, according to the Learning Theory, it has been shown that when individuals present and teach the material they learn to others, it is more likely that they will retain the information. You are not required to summarize and present the entire chapter. You will select a section, principle, or specific subtopic to teach classmates. The presentation will last 20-30 minutes with at least 10 minutes for Q&A for further learning. Please choose below 2 chapters you would like to teach and present.

Mock Prospectus Defense

In keeping with my belief that “doing” is one of the best ways of learning, you will be required to present the work you have done over the semester in a ***mock prospectus defense***. I will simulate as close as possible what the prospectus will be like (hopefully have your chair in class to attend and ask you questions). You will prepare yourself as if you are going in to defend your dissertation proposal. Take this opportunity to present research in front of other professors and students in the department very seriously if you are planning on successfully defending your prospectus and ultimately your dissertation. Begin speaking to your chair about this immediately and schedule the Mock Prospectus Defense with her/him as soon as possible since their availability is often very limited. Please see the class calendar to schedule this with your Dissertation Chair.

Late Work

Late work will not be accepted for any reason.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is **strongly encouraged** to take advantage of the time and fine-tuning of your dissertation. If you attend and do the work outside of class, you are more likely to have a successful experience with your dissertation.

Academic Integrity

Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. Do your own work. **Plagiarism is taking someone's written work and/or ideas without proper citations.**

Points for Class Activities

Writing Assignments	50 points
Chapter Presentations	50 points
1 st part of the Dissertation	50 points
2 nd part of the Dissertation	50 points
Mock Prospectus Defense	50 points

Grading

250 points total

Your final grade in the course will be determined as:

A	93 - 100%	C	73 - 76%
A-	90 - 92%	C-	70 - 72%
B+	87 - 89%	D+	67 - 69%
B	83 - 86%	D	63 - 66%
B-	80 - 82%	D-	60 - 62%
C+	77 - 79%	Fail	00 - 59%

Disclaimer

Information contained in this syllabus may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Helpful Guidelines:

Create a dissertation plan for yourself with goals (long and short term). Start with the long-term goal of where you want your dissertation to be by the time you graduate or before internship. Then work through the intermediate steps it will take you to get there. Below are some common hurdles in the dissertation process:

1. thesis topic identified
2. literature review completed
3. thesis committee solidified

4. methods section completed
5. thesis prospectus meeting held
6. IRB approval obtained
7. data collection completed
8. data analysis completed
9. results section completed
10. discussion section completed
11. final dissertation defense meeting held
12. deans' office approval

Be sure to: estimate time requirements (e.g., 3 months, 6 months), list subgoals you will need to meet to achieve your long term goals, and build in some reinforcement for yourself along the way (movies, dinners out, etc.).

Mock Prospectus Presentation Dates:

Micah
Clark
Alicia
Danise
Adam


Chapter Presentations:

- 3: Identifying and Operationalizing Research Topics
- 4: Choosing Research Designs
- 5: Validity Issues in Research Design
- 6: Ethical Issues in Counseling Research
- 7: Between-Groups and Within-Subjects Designs
- 8: Quasi-Experimental and Time Series Designs
- 9: Single-Subject Designs
- 16: Investigator, Experimenter, and Participant Bias
- 19: Design Issues Related to Counseling Process Research
- 20: Outcome Research: Strategies and Methodological Issues

Date	Topics	Assignments
T – Sept 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Review Syllabus • Objectives of Course • Class Schedule • Assignment descriptions 	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>HWK Ch. 1 – Science and Counseling</p> <p>HH Ch. 1 – Setting yourself up for success</p> <p>HH Ch. 2. – Identifying your topic</p>
T – Sept 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and Counseling • Your dissertation! <p>Presenter/Discussion Leader Ch. 3:</p>	<p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>HWK Ch. 3. – Identifying and Operationalizing Research Topics</p> <p>HH Ch. 6. – Writing your Literature Review.</p>
T – Sept 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choosing a research design <p>Presenter/Discussion Leader Ch. 4:</p>	<p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>HWK Ch. 22. – Dissertation/Article sections</p> <p>HWK Ch. 4. – Choosing Research Designs</p>
T – Sept 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validity Issues • Advisor and Committee <p>Presenter/Discussion Leader Ch. 5:</p>	<p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>HWK Ch. 5. – Validity Issues in Research Design</p> <p>HH Ch. 10. – Working with your Advisor and Committee</p>
T – Oct 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethical Issues <p>Guest Lecturer – Tim Smith</p> <p>Presenter/Discussion Leader Ch. 6:</p>	<p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>HWK Ch. 6. – Ethical issues in Counseling Psychology</p>

T – Oct 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between-Groups and Within-Subjects Designs <p>Presenter/Discussion Leader Ch. 7</p>	<p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>HWK Ch. 7. – Between-Groups and Within-Subjects Designs</p>
T – Oct 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quasi-Experimental Designs <p>Presenter/Discussion Leader Ch. 8:</p>	<p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>HWK Ch. 8. – Quasi-Experimental and Time Series Designs</p>
T – Oct 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single-N Designs <p>Presenter/Discussion Leader Ch. 9:</p>	<p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>HWK Ch. 9. – Single-Subject Designs</p>
T – Oct 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigator, Experimenter, and Participant Bias <p>Presenter/Discussion Leader Ch. 16:</p>	<p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>HWK Ch. 16. – Investigator, Experimenter, and Participant Bias</p> <p><u>Due:</u> Dissertation Part 1</p>
T – Nov 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design Issues to Counseling Process Research <p>Presenter/Discussion Leader Ch. 19:</p>	<p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>HWK Ch. 19. – Design Issues to Counseling Process Research</p>
T – Nov 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome Research: Strategies and Methodological Issues <p>Guest Lecturer: Scott Richards Discussion Leader: Alicia</p>	<p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>HWK Ch. 20. – Outcome Research: Strategies and Methodological Issues</p>
T – Nov 19	Lectures/Topics of Choice	

	Mock Prospectus Defenses	
T – Dec 3	Mock Prospectus Defenses	
T – Dec 10	Mock Prospectus Defenses	



NEED
HELP?

Ask the Psychology Librarian

- to find articles or books
- for tips to organize or annotate sources
- to help you develop a research question

Emily Darowski, PhD • emily_darowski@byu.edu
 (801) 422.6346 • guides.lib.byu.edu/psychology

