Research Methods in Pastoral Counseling
PCGR 7410
SPRING 2016
Wednesdays 5:00-6:50pm

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 4:00-5:00pm; by appointment

Course Description
This course introduces master-level counseling students to the basics of behavioral research. Philosophical, ethical, and practical issues in pastoral counseling research are examined with emphasis on developing the abilities to critically examine the research literature presented in the pastoral counseling field. Students will be exposed to basic statistical procedures, quantitative and qualitative research designs, and the use of electronic resources in various aspects of research (literature reviews, collecting and analyzing data).

Course Objectives
The goals of this course are to
1) develop an understanding for the role of the scientific method
2) expose students to issues of reliability and validity in measurement and research
3) gain familiarity with basic statistical procedures and their practical application in research (e.g., measure of central tendency, significance testing, correlations)
4) introduce quantitative, qualitative and mixed method designs
5) recognize the strengths and limitations of behavioral research methods
6) increase competency in the use of electronic tools for research (psych info, SPSS, qualtrics)
7) develop skills in critiquing research studies from professional journals
8) increase competency in communicating research ideas in written and oral form

Required Texts


Readings assigned on Blackboard

Grading Requirements
Class Participation 20%
Article Critiques 40%
Research Proposal 20%
Research Proposal Presentation 20%
ASSIGNMENTS

ARTICLE CRITIQUES. Students will critique four empirical studies published in academic journals. The critique will include a short explanation of the research question, author(s)' hypothesis, the methods of analysis, the results of the study, the conclusions made. This will be followed by overall impression of the study and an argument for the strengths and limitations of the study. (1-3 pages). (Learning Objectives 2, 3, 5, 7). Due Dates: FEB 10; MARCH 2; MARCH 30; APRIL 13

RESEARCH PROPOSAL. Students will design a short research proposal (quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods) on a topic of the student’s choice relevant to pastoral counseling research. Proposals should include: an abstract, introduction, literature review, methodology, and references. The project must follow APA format 5-7 pages. Final projects will be presented to the class. An introduction to the rationale for your paper AND annotated bibliography will be due on MARCH 9th. Please note, Wikipedia is not an acceptable source for material. References must be research articles from peer-reviewed journals. (Learning Objectives 1, 3, 6, 7, 8)

RESEARCH PROPOSAL PRESENTATION. Students are asked to design a power point presentation of their research proposal and present it to the class. Proposals are to be 5-10 minutes in length. In your presentation your aim is to cover all key components of your research proposal with emphasis on the argument for why your research is important and your reasons for the methodology you selected. (Learning Objectives 1,3,6,7,8)

Please note: Plagiarism of any kind will not be accepted. It is your responsibility to appropriately cite references used in your paper and your presentation. Purposeful failure to do so will result in a grade of F for the class. Please consult the American Psychological Association Style Manual for questions relative to appropriate citations. If you have any questions or need clarification, please make an appointment to see me.

COURSE OUTLINE

CLASS 1: JANUARY 20
TOPIC: INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH
RESEARCH IN PASTORAL COUNSELING
FINDING RESEARCH ARTICLES

CLASS 2: JANUARY 27
TOPIC: QUANTITATIVE VERSUS QUALITATIVE PARADIGMS
BASIC ELEMENTS OF RESEARCH
READINGS: VandeCreek, L. et al. (1994). Chapter 1: Why Ministers Don’t Like To Do Research.


CLASS 3: FEBRUARY 3
TOPIC: ETHICS IN RESEARCH
PROPOSAL WRITING
CRITIQUEING QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH ARTICLES


CLASS 4: FEBRUARY 10
ARTICLE CRITIQUE #1 DUE

TOPIC: OVERVIEW OF QUANTATIVE RESEARCH
BEAVIORAL RESEARCH & THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD
CREATING A QUESTION


VandeCreek et al (1994). Chapter 3: Moving Ahead: Concerns at the Beginning


CLASS 5: FEBRUARY 17
TOPIC	RELIABILITY & VALIDITY IN MEASUREMENT
	OBSERVATION & MEASUREMENT
	UNDERSTANDING INFERENTIAL STATISTICS

READINGS:

CLASS 6: FEBRUARY 24
TOPIC: QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH DESIGN

READINGS:
VandeCreek et al (1994). Chapter 5. Seeking to Answer the Question: Research Design
VandeCreek et al (1994). Chapter 7. Writing the Results

CLASS 7: MARCH 2
TOPIC: QUANTITATIVE DATA & DATA ANALYSIS
ARTICLE CRITIQUE 2 DUE

READINGS:

CLASS 8: MARCH 9
TOPIC: OVERVIEW OF QUALITATIVE RESEARCH
INTRODUCTION & ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE

READINGS:


Qualitative Primer on Blackboard

**SPRING BREAK & EASTER BREAK MARCH 16-28**
**NO CLASS FOR TWO WEEKS**

CLASS 9: MARCH 30
TOPIC: QUALITATIVE RESEARCH DESIGN: CASE STUDY & NARRATIVE

**ARTICLE CRITIQUE 3 DUE**


READINGS ON BLACKBOARD WEEK 9

CLASS 10: APRIL 6
TOPIC: QUALITATIVE RESEARCH DESIGN: GROUNDED THEORY & ETHNOGRAPHY

READINGS ON BLACKBOARD WEEK 10

CLASS 11 APRIL 13
TOPIC QUALITATIVE RESEARCH DESIGN: PHENOMENOLOGICAL BASED APPROACHES

**ARTICLE CRITIQUE 4 DUE**

READINGS ON BLACKBOARD WEEK 11

CLASS 12 APRIL 27
TOPIC DATA AND DATA ANALYSIS IN QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

READINGS: READINGS ON BLACKBOARD

CLASS 13 MAY 4
TOPIC CLASS PRESENTATIONS

**FINAL PAPERS DUE**