

Benedictine University  
At  
Springfield College in Illinois

Spring, 2007  
Room D103  
Mondays, 6-10 pm  
3/26 – 5/28/07

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Psyc 299 (3) Research Methods in the Social Sciences

I. **Course Description:** An analysis of various theoretical approaches to the study of social sciences as well as discussion and completion of the first two chapters of an original research design. Prerequisite: Psyc/Socl-251.

II. **Textbook and Materials:**

- **American Psychological Association. *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.**
- **Gravetter, F. & Forzano, L. (2006). *Research Methods for the Behavioral Sciences*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Belmont CA: Wadsworth.**

III. **Goals, Objectives, Student Learning Outcomes, and Classroom Assessment Techniques**

A. **Goals**

- Students will have a general understanding of the importance of research in the social and behavioral sciences.
- Students will develop an increased understanding of scientific writing and reading scientific journals.
- Students will be familiar with the steps needed to develop and execute a research plan.
- Students will understand ethical guidelines as they relate to research.
- Students will be familiar with basic statistical analysis of research results.
- Students will increase their understanding of research presentation.

**B. Objectives:** The following Common Student Learning Objectives (CSLOs) adopted Dec. 9, 2004, are addressed:

- Content Knowledge (Lifelong Learning) CK-1. Know and apply the central concepts of the subject matter.
- Communication Skills (Lifelong Learning and Leadership) CS-1. Communicate effectively in oral and written forms.
- Problem Solving Skills (Lifelong Learning and Leadership) PS-2. Seek information and develop an in-depth knowledge base, grounded in research.
- Social Responsibility (Service and Leadership) SR-3. Develop good citizenship.
- Global Perspectives (Diversity) GP-1. Recognize the importance of diversity of opinion, abilities and cultures.

**C. Course Based Student Learning Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Review the primary scientific behavioral science literature, improving library research skills, increase familiarity with scientific writing and reading scientific journals; (CK-1, CS-1, PS-2)
- Develop a research idea, specifying a testable research idea, developing hypotheses on several topics in psychology; (CK-1, CS-1, PS-2, GP-1)
- Develop and execute a research plan by choosing the appropriate research method to test specific hypotheses, follow ethical guidelines, and collect data; (CK-1, CS-1, PS-2, SR-3, GP-1)
- Execute a basic analysis of research results; (CK-1, PS-2).
- Present the results of their research, including both a verbal and written presentation; (CK-1, CS-1, PS-2).

**D. Classroom Assessment Techniques**

Student learning will be assessed using pre and post testing, assignment assessments, and misconception/preconception checks.

## **IV. Teaching Methods/Delivery System**

Students will be provided pertinent course information through assigned readings, class discussions, multi-media presentations, field activities, traditional lectures and guided individual research.

## V. Course Requirements

### A. Attendance Policy

Attendance is essential for success in this course. This is an accelerated program and this course will demand self-discipline and hard work. If absence is absolutely unavoidable, the student is responsible for contacting the instructor before the missed class, and is responsible for obtaining the missed material. Students who miss 3 or more classes are in danger of failing this course.

### B. Written Assignments

Students will be required to write a research report upon completion of their research, and will also be required to submit for acceptance, a research proposal for their thesis project. APA guidelines must be followed. More specific requirements will be discussed in class.

PLAGIARISM, the presentation of work created by someone else as one's own, will result in **failure of the COURSE**.

Students will also be required to attend computer lab sessions in order to evaluate the statistical significance of their research. Students have taken statistics and it is assumed they are familiar with the use of SPSS and basic statistical analysis.

## VI. Means of Evaluation

Students are given the opportunity to earn 500 points through written assignments, homework assignments, group discussion, attendance/participation, presentations, on-line tutorials and a final exam. There will also be opportunities for extra credit.

Task	Possible Points
Journal Article Summary	50
Homework Assignments	100
Research Report	50
Research Report Presentation	75
Research Proposal	50
Research Proposal Presentation	75
Attendance/Participation	25
Final Project	75

The percentage grading scale is as follows:

90 -100	A
80 – 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
<60	E

## VII. Topical Course Outline and Calendar

Date	Assignment (Read before class)	Other
3/26	Chapters 1 & 2	Pre-test Consider research topic
4/2		3 Research articles Summaries due
4/9		Research report due/ Presentations
4/16		Research proposal due
4/23		
4/30		
5/7		Research Proposal Presentations
5/14		
5/21		
5/28		Final Research Project Due

## VIII. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Springfield College in Illinois provides individuals with disabilities reasonable accommodations to participate in educational programs, activities, and services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in college-sponsored programs, activities, and services or to meet course requirements should contact the Dean of Student Affairs as early as possible.