TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY – TEXARKANA

Course Number: PSY 540
Course Title: Research Literature and Techniques
Course Time: T/R 5:30 – 9:30 PM
Course Credit: 3 Semester Credit Hours (3-0)
Faculty: Dr. Angela M. Sikorski
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Office Hours: TBA

Course Description: Review and research studies produced by investigators in student's major field with emphasis on investigative and verification techniques employed. Demonstrate competence in using systematic research techniques by investigation and formal reporting of a problem. (Replaces IS 595 for Counseling Psychology majors).

Course Schedule: NOTE: This schedule is tentative. I reserve the right to alter the schedule as necessary.

Date	Topics / Facilitator(s)	Assigned Reading	Assignments	Quizzes
July 14	Welcome; Introduction to Science in Counseling; Research Training; Research Topics & Critical Thinking ***-Sikorski-***	H: Ch. 1 -3		
July 19	Choosing Research Designs; Validity; Ethics	H: Ch. 4 – 6	DQ1	
July 21	Research Methods	H: Ch. 7 - 9	DQ2	Quiz 1 (Ch. 1 – 6)
July 26	Research Designs, Cont.	H: Ch. 10 – 11	Lit Review 1 DQ 3	
July 28	Independent and Dependent Variables	H: Ch. 12 - 13	DQ 4	
Aug. 2	Data Analysis & Statistical Methods – Parametric & Non Parametric ***-Sikorski-***	M: Ch. 8	DQ 5	Quiz 2 (Ch. 7 – 13)
Aug. 4	Selecting a Sample; Multicultural Research	H: Ch. 14 – 15	Lit Review 2 DQ 6	
Aug. 9	Bias in Research; Analogue Research	H: Ch. 16 – 17	DQ 7	
Aug. 11	Outcome Research; Methodological Issues in Research	H: Ch. 18 - 19	DQ 8	Quiz 3 (Ch. 14 – 17 & M Ch. 8)
Aug. 16			Proposals Due	Quiz 4 (Ch. 18 – 19)

Required Texts:

1. Research Design in Counseling, 3rd Edition (2008). P. Paul Heppner, Bruce E. Wampold & Dennis M. Kivlighan, Jr. ISBN-10: 053452348X ISBN-13: 9780534523480

2. Critical Thinking about Research: Psychology and Related Fields, 1st Ed. (2008). J.Meltzoff. ISBN-13: 978-1-55798-455-5

Student Learner Outcomes: At the end of the course the students understand the various ways in which social scientists observe, measure, and interpret behavior.
Students will also know how to properly develop, research, and write a research proposal.

Presentations (100 points): Students will facilitate discussion on one chapter (50 points) and two practice articles (50 points) of their choosing. For the chapter presentation, students will select on one – two main points within the chapter to more fully discuss with the class. In doing so, students will obtain at least two external sources that add to the main point(s) selected as a discussion topic. Sources may include journal articles, electronic media, and other professional references. For the journal article, students will fully present the practice article assigned, i.e., discuss the introduction/rationale, methods, results, and conclusion. The presentation will end with a group discussion & critique of the research article. The presentation schedule will be established during the first day of class.

Research Proposal (100 points): The research proposal will discuss a topic of your choosing and how you will examine that topic. The design and methodology discussed in the proposal must reflect a thoughtful analysis of the material covered during class and in your text.

Discussion Questions / Participation (70 points): On the days a student is not presenting a chapter, he/she must create three discussion questions based on the assigned reading. Each student will ask at least one of their discussion questions during class. To earn full credit the discussion questions should be reflective in nature, and indicate that the student has critically thought about the material. For example, asking "What is quantitative research?" is not acceptable, but asking "Qualitative research seems to give one more perspective on a topic of study. Why, then, is quantitative research performed more frequently?" is. The later question reflects critical thinking, which is what you want to do! Discussion questions must be typed and will be turned in at the beginning of class.

Literature Search & Review (100 points): two reviews, 50 points each – must critique a paper of your choice. The review must be written in APA style. Again, critical thinking is key. In addition to summarizing the research article students are expected to analyze it. What strengths and weaknesses were there? Was the rationale for the research logical? Was the methodology flawed? How might you have performed the research?

Quizzes (80 points): There will be four in-class quizzes each worth 20 points covering material discussed in class and the assigned readings. The quizzes may include essay, short answer and multiple choice items.

Grading: You may earn up to 450 points in this course:
4 quizzes X 20 points each = 80 points
Research proposal = 100 points
7 Discussion Questions x 10 points each = 70 points
Presentations = 100 points
2 Literature search & reviews x 50 points each = 100 points

Points Earned	Letter Grade
405 - 450	A
360 - 404	B
315 - 359	C
270 - 314	D
213 and below	F

Statement of ADA: Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations through the A&M-Texarkana Disability Services Office by calling 903-223-3062.

Academic Dishonesty: "Academic honesty is expected of students enrolled in this course. Cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of research data, plagiarism, and copying or undocumented use of materials from any source constitute academic dishonesty, and may be grounds for a grade of "F" in the course and/or disciplinary action. The student is responsible for reading and understanding the
University Policy on Academic Integrity" (Faculty Senate Statement on Academic Honesty). Any act of academic dishonesty will normally result in an "F" in this course and referral to the university judicial system.

A&M-Texarkana Email Address: Upon application to Texas A&M University-Texarkana an individual will be assigned an A&M-Texarkana email account. This email account will be used to deliver official university correspondence. Each individual is responsible for information sent and received via the university email account and is expected to check the official A&M-Texarkana email account on a frequent and consistent basis. Faculty and students are required to utilize the university email account when communicating about coursework.

University Drop Policy: To drop this course after the 12th class day, a student must complete the *Drop/Withdrawal Request Form*, located on the University website (http://tamut.edu/Registrar/droppingwithdrawing-from-classes.html) or obtained in the Registrar's Office. The student must submit the signed and completed form to the instructor of each course indicated on the form to be dropped for his/her signature. The signature is not an "approval" to drop, but rather confirmation that the student has discussed the drop/withdrawal with the faculty member. The form must be submitted to the Registrar's office for processing in person, email (Registrar@tamut.edu), mail (P. O. Box 5518, Texarkana, TX 75505) or fax (903-223-3140). Drop/withdraw forms missing any of the required information will not be accepted by the Registrar's Office for processing. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the form is completed properly before submission. If a student stops participating in class (attending and submitting assignments) but does not complete and submit the drop/withdrawal form, a final grade based on work completed as outlined in the syllabus will be assigned.