

ARGOSY UNIVERSITY SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title: FP6030 Research and Evaluation –sections OLA, OLB, OLC

Term: Summer 2007 (5/7/07 – 6/27/07)

Instructor: Susan Guzzo, Psy.D.
Phone: 510/282-0680
Email: sguzzo@argosyu.edu
Office hours by appointment

Required Text:

Bordens, K.S., & Abbott, B.B. (2005). Research design and methods, sixth edition. New York: McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 0-07-288764-8

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide a graduate-level survey of the fundamentals of research design and methodology as it pertains to psychological research. Included in this course is a brief review of statistical methods utilized in research. Students will learn about the various methods of experimental design for both quantitative and qualitative research, as well as sampling, analysis, and interpretation of results. Cultural and ethical issues related to research will also be explored.

Course Objectives:

As a result of the material covered in this survey course, students will develop the ability to scrutinize research from a critical perspective, and to evaluate the validity, value, and viability of research claims and studies. Students will establish the necessary understanding of underlying research concepts in order to develop the following skills:

- 1) formulate research hypotheses and experimental designs
- 2) read and interpret statistical analysis of research data
- 3) discern the differences between different experimental designs, both qualitative and quantitative
- 4) evaluate the quality of existing psychological and forensic research studies
- 5) identify the cultural and ethical implications of research methods and outcomes

Method of Instruction:

This course is taught in an online format that involves posted lecture material, discussion groups, and assignments. Online course curriculum will be presented on the Argosy Internet platform. Since online discussion is the heart of effective online learning, students are expected to post to the discussion board to demonstrate their full engagement with the material (a minimum of three times per week). Assignments should be emailed to the instructor at the above email address and are due by 5pm on their respective due dates. **No late work will be accepted without prior permission from the instructor.**

Course Requirements:

Reading: Chapters from the textbook will be assigned, in addition to lecture notes and other articles posted on eCollege. Students will also be reading additional related material to complete course assignments.

Class Participation: The discussion forum is the place where we can come together to share ideas, questions, and perspectives on the course material, and otherwise interact with the concepts being presented. Because this is a strictly online course, it is expected that all students participate in the discussion postings each week (an Argosy requirement), posting a minimum of three times per week. There may also be weekly assignments posted that students will be expected to complete. (25% of grade)

Quantitative Research Design Paper: Students will develop a quantitative research design in the domain of psychology and describe it in written format (per handout distributed in the first two weeks of class). The paper will be due the last week of class, in APA format and approximately five to eight pages. As part of this assignment a brief outline and description will also be delivered online. (25% of grade)

Qualitative Research Design Online Presentation: Students will explore a qualitative research method and develop a research study on any subject within psychology using that method. These designs will be presented online to peers during the last two weeks of class, approximately five pages. (25% of grade)

Final Exam: To confirm students' comprehension and integration of course material, to be posted in the sixth week of class. (25% of grade)

Not reading the syllabus or online curriculum will not be considered a valid excuse for not knowing or fulfilling course expectations.

Weekly Schedule:

Reading assignments are due in the week they are presented. Please check reading assignments online as they may be subject to change.

Week 1 (5/7/07): Introduction to the Scientific Method
Chapters 1 through 3

Week 2 (5/14/07): Experimental Method
Chapters 4 through 6

Week 3 (5/21/07): Experimental Design
Chapters 9 and 10

Week 4 (5/28/07): Statistics
Chapters 11 and 12

Week 5 (6/4/07): Statistical Methods for Understanding Research
Chapters 13 and 14

Week 6 (6/11/07): Qualitative Methods

Chapter 7

Week 7 (6/18/07): Qualitative Methods, continued

Reading TBA

Week 8 (6/25/07): Survey Methods

Chapter 8

Student Performance Evaluation Criteria and Procedures:

Criteria for Class Participation

Grade	
A = 90+	Student actively participated in discussions in >80% of class sessions; nearly all comments were thought provoking and incorporated material from the assigned readings
B = 80 – 89	Student actively participated in discussions in >80% of class sessions; most of the comments were thought provoking and incorporated material from the assigned readings
C = 70 – 79	Student participated in discussions in >70% of class sessions; comments/questions demonstrate a surface level understanding of course topics
F = <70	Student participated in <70% of class sessions; comments/questions did not demonstrate an understanding of course topics, or student did not participate in class discussions.

Criteria for Class Presentation

Grade	
A = 90+	Presentation is well organized and provides excellent coverage of the topic area; informative visual aids provided to the instructor and classmates
B = 80 – 89	Presentation is well organized and provides adequate coverage of the topic area
C = 70 – 79	Coverage of material is marginal; presentation is slightly disorganized
F = <70	Presentation is disorganized and does not provide adequate coverage of the topic area, or presentation was not completed by student.

Criteria for Papers

Grade	
A = 90+	Paper is in appropriate APA format, well thought out and provides excellent coverage of material
B = 80 – 89	Paper is well thought out, but is missing one component of APA format OR coverage of material is adequate

C = 70 – 79	Insufficient number of references provided AND limited coverage
F = <70	Paper is disorganized AND coverage is not adequate AND does not conform to APA format, or there is evidence of plagiarism , or paper not submitted

Library

All resources in Argosy University's online collection are available through the Internet. The campus librarian will provide students with links, user IDs, and passwords.

Library Resources: Argosy University's core online collection features nearly 21,000 full-text journals and 23,000 electronic books and other content covering all academic subject areas including Business & Economics, Career & General Education, Computers, Engineering & Applied Science, Humanities, Science, Medicine & Allied Health, and Social & Behavior Sciences. Many titles are directly accessible through the Online Public Access Catalog at <http://library.argosyu.edu>. Detailed descriptions of online resources are located at <http://library.argosyu.edu/misc/onlinedblist.html>.

In addition to online resources, Argosy University's onsite collections contain a wealth of subject-specific research materials searchable in the Online Public Access Catalog. Catalog searching is easily limited to individual campus collections. Alternatively, students can search combined collections of all Argosy University Libraries. Students are encouraged to seek research and reference assistance from campus librarians.

Information Literacy: Argosy University's Information Literacy Tutorial was developed to teach students fundamental and transferable research skills. The tutorial consists of five modules where students learn to select sources appropriate for academic-level research, search periodical indexes and search engines, and evaluate and cite information. In the tutorial, students study concepts and practice them through interactions. At the conclusion of each module, they can test their comprehension and receive immediate feedback. Each module takes less than 20 minutes to complete. Please view the tutorial at <http://library.argosyu.edu/infolit/>

Academic Policies

Academic Dishonesty/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. All sources must be documented through normal scholarly references/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. 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 some courses) and become familiar with its content as well as consult the Argosy University catalog for further information regarding academic dishonesty and plagiarism.

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), an online resource established to help educators develop writing/research skills and detect potential cases of academic dishonesty. Turnitin compares submitted papers to billions of pages of content and provides a comparison report to your instructor. This comparison detects papers that share common information and duplicative language.

Americans with Disabilities Act Policy

It is the policy of Argosy University to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If a student with disabilities needs accommodations, the student must notify the Director of Student Services. Procedures for documenting student disability and the development of reasonable accommodations will be provided to the student upon request.

Students will be notified by the Director of Student Services when each request for accommodation is approved or denied in writing via a designated form. To receive accommodation in class, it is the student’s responsibility to present the form (at his or her discretion) to the instructor. In an effort to protect student privacy, the Department of Student Services will not discuss the accommodation needs of any student with instructors. Faculty may not make accommodations for individuals who have not been approved in this manner.

The Argosy University Statement Regarding Diversity

Argosy University prepares students to serve populations with diverse social, ethnic, economic, and educational experiences. Both the academic and training curricula are designed to provide an environment in which students can develop the skills and attitudes essential to working with people from a wide range of backgrounds.