

# ARGOSY UNIVERSITY SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Forensic Psychology 6030

### Research and Evaluation

*Course Dates: 1/11/07 – 4/21/07*

**Course Title:** Forensic Research and Evaluation

**Course Number** FP6030

**Instructor:**

Neil Ross

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**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 1-4PM or by  
appointment

**Required Texts:** **Research Design and Methods**

Bordens, K.S. and Abbott, B.B.

McGraw-Hill, 2005

ISBN# **0767429524 (Paperback OK, if available)**

**Introduction to Qualitative Research**

Flick, Uwe

Sage Publications, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

ISBN: 141291146X **(Paperback OK, if available)**

**Pre-requisite Knowledge or Courses:** Basic computer and word processing skills.

**Course Description:** This is a basic graduate survey course in research design and methodology including a succinct review of statistics for psychological forensic behavioral psychology research. The objective of the course is to train students to be knowledgeable and critical consumers of forensic psychological research, generally, and in the forensic psychology specialization in particular.

**Course Objective:** This course is designed to provide graduate students a basic understanding of the value and variety of research modalities in the field of psychology and forensic psychology. Further, it will assist students in being able to identify and appropriately integrate information gleaned from both reading and developing research designs. Specifically, students will be expected to develop the following skills in areas of:

- Formulating research questions and hypotheses
- Generating and evaluating forensic psychological research literature reviews
- Understanding and interpreting statistical analyses
- Comprehending ethical issues in psychological and forensic psychological research
- Describing qualitative and quantitative designs and correctional research
- Analyzing, interpreting and reporting research results

**Method of Instruction:** This course will be delivered in the MAFP Day Program, Thursdays, 9:30AM – 12:30PM beginning January 11, 2007 and continuing through April 21, 2007.

**Course Content:** The following forensic research and evaluation subject matter will be presented, explored and elucidated over the eight weeks of our course:

- Week 1: Introduction and History and Logic of the Scientific Method
- Week 2: The Experimental Method
- Week 3: Experimental Design
- Week 4: Factorial Designs and Review of Statistics
- Week 5: Statistical Methods
- Week 6: Introduction to Qualitative Methods: Phenomenology
- Week 7: Structural Analysis, Ethnography, Observation and Participation
- Week 8: Survey Methods, Focus Groups, Review and Conclusions

**Schedule (Subject to change):**

**Week 1:**

- Introductions and course content and expectations
- Overview of Quantitative Research and the Scientific Method
- Theory and Epistemology

**Week 2:**

- Critical Thinking
- Empiricism

**Week 3:**

- Ethics and Cultural Issues in Research

**Week 4:**

- The Experimental Method 101

**Week 5:**

- The Experimental Method 101A: Controls

**Week 6:**

- Research Design 101 -- Levels

**Week 7:**

- Research Design 101A – Factorial
- Validity and Reliability

**Week 8:**

- Statistical Theory and Methods

**Week 9:**

- Statistical Inference

**Week 10:**

- Qualitative Methodology and Phenomenology

**Week 11:**

- Observation, Participant Observation, Ethnography

**Week 12:**

- Interviewing, Case Studies and Survey Methods

**Week 13:**

- Focus Groups and Action Research

**Week 14:**

- Feminist Methodology, Biography, Discourse Analysis, and Videography

**Week 15:**

- Frontiers of Forensic Psychology Research

**Student Performance Evaluation Criteria and Procedures:**

**Readings:**

Before our first class week on January 11<sup>th</sup> please read: Bordens' text – Chapters 1-3

You should anticipate about 75 pages per week of reading in the texts. Additionally, of you will be assigned ancillary reading materials.

**Participation:** Active, appropriate, creative, and respectful class discussion is required.

**Examinations:** There will be two equally weighted examination distributed Weeks 6, and 14 and due Weeks 7 and 15. The examinations will be take-home and T-F, multiple choice, and short essay format.

**Qualitative Research Paper:** A qualitative research proposal will be due the last week of class on a topic in forensic psychology agreed upon by the student and the instructor.

**Qualitative Research Proposal-Presentation:** A quantitative research proposal will be presented by students in class during Weeks 12-15 the final hard or electronic copy of which is due the last week of class. The proposal will be on a topic in forensic psychology agreed upon by the student and the instructor.

### Criteria for Class Participation

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

### Criteria for Class Presentation

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

### Criteria for Papers

Grade	
A = 90+	Paper is in appropriate APA format, well thought out and provides <b>excellent</b> coverage of material
B = 80 – 89	Paper is well thought out, but is missing one component of APA format OR coverage of material is <b>adequate</b>
C = 70 – 79	Insufficient number of references provided AND <b>limited</b> coverage
F = <70	Paper is disorganized AND coverage is not adequate AND does not conform to APA format, or there is evidence of <b>plagiarism</b> , or paper not submitted

## **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, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition (2001)*. Washington DC: American Psychological Association (APA) format. Please refer to Appendix A in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

Additionally, Argosy University considers resubmission of a work produced for one course in a subsequent course or the submission of work done partially or entirely by another to be academic dishonesty. It is the student's responsibility to seek clarification from the instructor regarding how much help may be received in completing an assignment, exam or project and what sources may be used.

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 are responsible for maintaining an electronic copy of any work submitted, because you may be asked to submit your course assignments through "Turnitin," ([www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)), an online resource established to help educators develop writing/research skills and detect potential cases of academic dishonesty. Turnitin.com 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.

## **ADA Policy**

It is AU/San Francisco Bay Area Campus policy not to discriminate against qualified students with a documented disability in its educational programs, activities or services. If you have a disability-related need for accommodations in this class, contact the Campus Director of Student Services at 510-215-0277.

**Your instructor is responsible for delivering this curriculum in a format that will ensure the objectives are met and measured. This can be accomplished in a variety of ways depending upon the experience, orientation, technological acumen, emphasis and preferences of the instructor as well as the resources available. Your instructor is also required to ensure that the course syllabus include details regarding assignments and method of instruction.**