SRM 600: Introduction to Graduate Research

Clinical Mental Health Counseling MA - Lowry, Fall 2014

November 14-16, December 5-7, 2014 (CRN 13992)

Fridays (4:00 PM - 10:00 PM), Saturdays and Sundays (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM)

Instructor:
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Text and Materials:


• Some supplementary research articles from journals available at UNC library.

Course: This course is intended to provide an introduction to the concepts, goals, and terminology of research in educational and behavioral sciences. Topics of discussion will include research terminology; appropriate research questions; planning, designing, and implementing a research study; basic descriptive statistics; sampling and research designs; and communication of research results. Class lectures will involve a combination of lecturing, topical discussions, some example calculations, example research projects and papers, discussions of published research, and group activities to enhance understanding.

Objectives: After completion of this course, students are expected to be able to

• Define basic terminology and concepts associated with research
• Describe the steps involved in planning, designing, and implementing a research study
• Explain how to assess the reliability and validity of the instruments and procedures for collecting data
• Compute and interpret basic descriptive statistics
• Identify the problem and/or the hypothesis in a research study
• Critically evaluate methodological issues of published research reports
A tentative schedule of course topics:

Day 1  Foundations                      Ch. 1-2
Day 2  Research Background and Literature Review Ch. 3-5
Day 3  Statistical Analysis              Ch. 6-7
Day 4  Measurement                      Ch. 8-9
Day 5 & 6 Research Methods              Ch. 10-14

Coursework: Coursework will consist of required readings in the text, supplemental reading of published research accompanied by discussion questions, homework assignments, and two exams.

The supplemental readings with questions provide practice reading and comprehending published research reports. They have been selected to enhance your understanding of sound methodological principles of research.

Grading: Your final course grade will depend on your course score based on the following components with their respective weights:

- EXAM I (35%)  Covers everything up to and including chapter 7
- EXAM II (35%)  Two parts: in-class and take-home. The in-class part covers everything after chapter 7
- Assignments (30%)  To enhance your understanding of research methods and statistical concepts

Homework Assignment: There will be homework assignments and they will be posted on the assignment section in Blackboard. Homework assignments may involve readings, short answers, and hand calculations. Students are encouraged to work together on assignments, but each individual should be able to answer all questions. Solutions will be provided for all exercises.

Important Dates:

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<tr>
<th>Assignments/Exams</th>
<th>Date/Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment I</td>
<td>Sunday, Nov 16, submit to Blackboard by 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam I (Online)</td>
<td>Available 6 AM Sat Nov 22 - 6 PM Sun Nov 23) (2 hours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment II</td>
<td>Tuesday, Nov 25, submit to Blackboard by 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam II (in class)</td>
<td>Sunday, Dec 7 (2:00 PM - 4:00 PM) at Lowry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam II (Take Home)</td>
<td>Tuesday Dec 9, submit to Blackboard by 6:00 PM</td>
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Help: There are a number of good sources of help for students in this course. Students can always contact me with questions about assignments, lecture topics, or general statistical queries. While I cannot respond to e-mails at all hours of the day, I try to respond as quickly as possible. A great source of help in this course is your fellow students.

Course Policies: Students are encouraged to work collaboratively, except during exams. It can be very helpful to discuss course topics with other students, argue about derivations and interpretations, and compare calculations. Of course, it is also sometimes helpful to work alone to ensure you can perform necessary calculations on your own.

Students who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Disability Support Services, Voice/TTY (970) 351-2289, or fax (970) 351-4166, or visit www.unco.edu/dss as soon as possible to ensure that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

Academic dishonesty will be treated according to the university handbook, with consequences including notification of the Office of the Dean of Students, failure of the assignment in question, or failure of the course.

The College of Education and Behavioral Sciences (CEBS) supports an inclusive learning environment where diversity and individual differences are understood, respected, appreciated, and recognized as a source of strength. We expect that students, faculty, administrators and staff within CEBS will respect differences and demonstrate diligence in understanding how other peoples’ perspectives, behaviors, and worldviews may be different from their own.