**Course Description**

**SRM 600 Introduction to Graduate Research (3 credits).** Principles of research, design, and analysis. Read and critique published research. Required of all first year graduate students.

**What this Course is About:** Generally, we disseminate new information about educating learners, how kids develop, how people learn, and the like, through research articles in our professional literature. As professionals in our fields holding advanced degrees, we are usually obligated in our professions to remain current and to keep up with the latest research findings. We need to be able to read the research articles as critical and informed consumers of such information.

This course shows you what good research is, how it is done, and what to look for that helps you understand the results being presented. The skills you acquire in critically analyzing and using the results of research are invaluable. This is particularly so because a substantial portion of published educational published research is not very useful or even well done. Ultimately it is you who must evaluate and use or discard the presented results.

**Required Materials:**


SOFTWARE: Microsoft Excel. (It is not necessary that you purchase this, but you will want to have access to it for about three weeks in this course).

**Course Objectives**

(From the UNC Graduate Catalog) The primary objective of the course is to equip the student with the necessary skills, concepts, and understanding of research methodology to evaluate and use the research in his/her discipline. Inherent in this broad objective is an ability to do the following:

1. Critique the problem and hypothesis of a research study.
2. Critique the review of literature to determine if it fulfilled the purpose of this phase of the research study.
3. Critique the definition of the population and the sampling procedure including its size to determine if valid conclusions can be drawn.
4. Critique the data-gathering devices and procedures for collecting data with criteria learned from class and readings.
5. Critique the general design of the study to ensure that correct conclusions are possible from the statistical analysis.
6. Critique the statistical analysis procedures to establish their valid use in the study.
7. Critique the conclusions and interpretations to insure correctness of each.
Overview of Course Content

TEXTBOOK CHAPTERS: We will cover and have tests over the first 15 chapters of the Ary textbook.

UNITS: The course is divided into 8 units. We will keep to a timetable of covering 1 unit per week or week and a half. Please see the COURSE SCHEDULE for dates and deadlines.

UNIT 1 Chapters 1, 2, and 3
UNIT 2 Chapters 4 and 5
UNIT 3 Chapter 6
UNIT 4 Chapter 7
UNIT 5 Chapter 8
UNIT 6 Chapter 9
UNIT 7 Chapters 10 and 11
UNIT 8 Chapters 12, 13, 14, and 15

Grading Procedures

Your grade in this course will be determined based on the results of 2 online tests that you will take, an annotated bibliography of at least 12 items that you will prepare and turn in, and on your participation in the discussion forums (threaded discussions) that will be available each week throughout the course. The tests, bibliography, and discussion forums are described briefly below and in full detail in the expanded course syllabus within the course.

You are required to prepare an annotated bibliography of 12 research articles or more. This must be prepared and sent in prior to the deadline near the end of the semester. The annotations will deal with the technical adequacy of the article.

You are to participate in, and contribute in a constructive way to the discussion forums and to co-moderate a discussion forum when it is your turn.

That's it. In summary, study those things I have identified as important so that you can do well on the tests. Your COURSE GRADE will be based on your test grades, your annotated bibliography and your contributions and participation in the discussions.
Tests

There will be 2 tests administered online. The first test will cover Units 1-4; the second test will cover Units 5-8.

There are 4 online sample tests available for you to “practice”, if you desire, prior to taking the actual tests.

Threaded Discussions

In each of the 8 units, there is a discussion topic (sometimes called a threaded discussion or a discussion forum) that will be active during the week that the unit is assigned. Although it will remain available throughout the course, a meaningful discussion will not continue for longer than the time assigned to the unit and the topic. Participate during the assigned time to receive credit.

You are expected to participate in a series of 8 threaded discussions, one for each unit of the course. I expect you to contribute to the discussions, use them to help clarify your questions about the concepts we are studying in that unit. Each discussion will begin with a question posed to the class by me and will be moderated by class members.

Annotated Bibliography

The intent of this project is to provide you experience in critically reading and reviewing research articles in your field of interest. Consider looking up articles on a topic or topics of specific interest to you (academic or not), or find the most recent issue of a journal to locate articles that interest you from among the very latest advances in your field.

Find journal research articles on any topic or topics that interest you, read them, and write brief descriptions of them. For each article, write the bibliographic citation for it and a paragraph about the article, its topic, methods, and findings. You might wish to personalize your comments, e.g. how the article might affect your own teaching, whether you agree with positions the authors took and the like. Then, include a paragraph or two about the technical adequacy of the article, that is mention the degree to which you thought the article was flawed, mention specific flaws or concerns, assess the adequacy of the design and the use of statistics, the veracity of the conclusions based on the data gathered, the validity of the measuring devices, and the like.
Contacting the Instructor

Contact me at any time during the course via email if you have questions.

Dale Shaw
Applied Statistics & Research Methods
College of Education
University of Northern Colorado
Greeley, CO 80639
Phone: (970) 351-2864
Email: dale.shaw@unco.edu

Accommodations Statement
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.

Inclusivity Statement
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.