

HDCN 6391, Section 775
Behavioral Science
Jan Term 2014

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Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description:

This course will help you become a more discerning research consumer. My goal is for you to be able to evaluate the quality and importance of research in counseling. Your ability to evaluate research will be crucial to your future adoption of counseling techniques and your subsequent career development.

Text:

Salkind, Neil J. Exploring Research, 8th Edition. (Publisher: Pearson Prentice Hall)

Exams:

Two exams worth 200 points each will be given for a total of 400 possible points.

Exam Schedule:

Exam 1 Thursday, Nov 21

Exam 2 Thursday, Jan 9

Grading Scale:

Grade	Performance Description	Range	GPA	Points
A	Exceptional	93 – 100	4.0	12.0
A-	High Pass	90 – 92	3.7	11.1
B+		87 – 89	3.3	9.9
B	Pass	83 – 86	3.0	9.0
B-		80 – 82	2.7	8.1
C+	Failure, any C or below	77 – 79	2.3	6.9
C		73 – 76	2.0	6.0
C-		70 – 72	1.7	5.1
D+		67 – 69	1.3	3.9
D		63 – 66	1.0	3.0
D-		60 – 62	0.7	2.1
F		59 _≥	0.0	0.0

Learning Objective	Measurable Outcome
Students will learn to distinguish research from other sources of information (theory, opinion, or anecdote).	Students will synthesize the content presented in lecture and be asked to generate their own criteria for analytic and critical research evaluations
Students will be able to evaluate critically the quality and importance of a research report as well as its statistical analyses.	Students will demonstrate understanding of key principles of research design by applying them to select research reports.
Students will learn how research can benefit them in their counseling practice and career.	Students will demonstrate their understanding of how research can help them in the development of their professional skills by discussion and examination.

Tentative Schedule for Topics:

- October 24 Central Tendency, Spread/Variability, Z-scores
- October 31 Central Limit Theorem and the Normal Distribution
- November 7 Hypothesis Testing; The t-test (Between Subjects)
- November 14 The t-test (Within Subjects),
- November 21 EXAM 1
- *November 28 Thanksgiving (NO CLASS!)*
- December 5 The ANOVA test (Between Subjects)
- December 12 The Chi Square test
- December 19 Correlation, Regression, and Interactions
- Jan 9 EXAM 2 (Final Exam)

*The class day for November 28 (Thanksgiving) will be made up on an agreed day and time.

Chapter Assignments in the Text:

You will be asked to read the related chapters in the text as we progress through the quarter.

Class Policies:

Statement on Attendance:

- Instructors should be given 24 hours' notice of any absence whenever possible
- If a student must miss one class, it is the student's responsibility to contact a classmate to get all material and assignments covered during their absence.
- A student's final grade will be impacted if two absences occur.
- A student missing more than two classes may, at the instructor's discretion:
 - receive a grade of Incomplete if the requirements to do so have been met (see the policy on Grades of Incomplete contained in this syllabus)
 - receive a failing grade for the course

- drop or withdraw from the course. (This option may have a financial and/or financial aid impact. Student should refer to the Add/Drop Policy and the Withdrawal Policy for the Counseling program which can be found at <http://www.smu.edu/Simmons/AreasOfStudy/DRC/C/Counseling/AcademicCalendar13-14> then consult with the Program Specialist if they believe this option is a possibility.)

Religious Observance: Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professor in writing at the beginning of the term, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence.

Disability Accommodations: Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first contact Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS) at 214-768-1470 or www.smu.edu/alec/dass.asp to verify the disability and establish eligibility for accommodations. They should then schedule an appointment with the professor to make appropriate arrangements. (See University Policy No. 2.4; an attachment describes the DASS procedures and relocated office.)

Classroom Policies: Turn off (or set on vibrate) all cell phones or pagers. Do not read newspapers, books for other classes, or other outside reading material during class. Walking into class late is as disruptive as is leaving early. If you have to leave early, make arrangements before class begins, and then, when you leave, do so quietly. Professional respect and courtesy for your fellow students is imperative at all times. Laptop use must be confined to coursework or notes.

Honor Code: Students are reminded of the SMU Honor Code as referenced in the Student Handbook. Intellectual integrity and academic honesty are both the foundation and the goals for this program. Please reference and review the university policies on the responsibilities, policies, and penalties regarding academic honesty. For a full text of the policy, which you should know, please see the following web link:

http://www.smu.edu/studentlife/PCL_05_HC.asp

Course Withdrawal: Students must consult with the instructor before withdrawing from the course. Notifying the instructor does not constitute official withdrawal. To withdraw officially, the student must contact the Dispute Resolution office to complete the necessary paperwork.

Grade of Incomplete:

A student may receive a grade of I (Incomplete) if at least 50 percent of the course requirements have been completed with passing grades, but for

some justifiable reason, acceptable to the instructor, the student has been unable to complete the full requirements of the course. At the time a grade of I is given, the instructor must stipulate in writing to the student and to the University registrar the requirements and completion date that are to be met and the grade that will be given if the requirements are not met by the completion date. The maximum period of time allowed to clear the Incomplete grade normally is 12 months. If the Incomplete grade is not cleared by the date set by the instructor or by the end of the 12-month Policies and Procedures 25 deadline, the grade of I will be changed to the grade provided by the instructor at the time the Incomplete grade was assigned or to a grade of F if no alternate grade was provided. The grade of I is not given in lieu of a grade of F or W, or other grade, each of which is prescribed for other specific circumstances.

If the student's work is incomplete, poor quality and not acceptable, a grade of F will be given. The grade of I does not authorize a student to attend the course during a later term. Graduation candidates must clear all Incomplete grades prior to the deadline in the Official University Calendar, which may allow less time than 12 months. Failure to do so can result in removal from the degree candidacy list and/or conversion of the grade of I to the grade indicated by the instructor at the time the grade of I was given.

For graduate students, a maximum of two (six hours) concurrently held grades of Incomplete in courses other than thesis is allowed. If this maximum is reached, the student will be allowed to take only one three-hour course per term until the Incomplete total is reduced. Students who accumulate a total of three grades of Incomplete in courses other than thesis will be put on probation and not allowed to enroll further until the total is reduced.

Emergency Events:

As part of the federal government response to the H1N1 (Swine Flu) virus, the Department of Health and Human Services issued a nationwide public health emergency preparedness declaration on April 26, 2009. The declaration was renewed on July 23, 2009 and is currently in force. For the semester ahead, there is concern that the level and intensity of flu cases could increase substantially.

1) For updates on the campus-wide status of flu conditions at SMU, please visit <http://www.smu.edu>.

2) If flu conditions require cancellation of a class session or other changes for this course, an email will be sent to all class members.

3) In the event of a major campus emergency at SMU, course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor's control.