Instructor: James Schaller, Ph.D.
306, SZB Education - 471-4161.
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30 pm. to 3:30pm or by appt.
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Required Text


Please note: but older editions can also work for this text.

Also Please Note: A collection of supplementary readings is also required for this course. Note that articles have been selected for many different reasons. Some exemplify different types of research and design, some will be used in homework assignments for a variety of purposes, and some exemplify problems in writing up and reporting research.

Course Objectives

The purposes of this course are for students to gain an appreciation of:
* research and program evaluation;
* knowledge of research and program evaluation will assist us in becoming better practitioners and better consumers of research and prog eval, which will also assist us in becoming better practitioners;
* research and program evaluation are creative processes and there is no such thing as a perfect study;
* and finally, that research and program evaluation are so much fun you don’t know how you got this far without knowing more about them and enjoying the process of learning.

This course is designed to equip students with knowledge and skills required to read, understand, evaluate, and use research and program evaluation to IMPROVE professional practice in special education and rehabilitation counseling. An additional purpose is to give students tools to conduct basic research and program evaluation in practice or for a Master’s thesis (or dissertation) through the use of readings, lectures, class activities, and writing assignments. The focus of the course is on conceptual, rather than computational, aspects of research. We will talk about and cover stats as a part of the class, however. Given the format of this course, you are expected to participate in class discussions. The course will use the Socratic method. Use of computers in class is expected to be for taking notes or course related. If you would like to use your computer sit in the front row(s).

Attendance Policy

In accordance with UT policy, if you will be absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day, you may complete the work missed within a reasonable time after the absence, if proper notice of the planned absence(s) has been given. Notice must be given before the absence and at least 14 days prior to the class day on which you will be absent. If this absence will occur during the first two weeks of this semester, please
notify me immediately. If an assignment is due on the day you will be absent, please make arrangements with me to make-up the work. You will not be penalized for these excused absences but you are expected to complete satisfactorily the missed assignment(s) within a reasonable time after the absence.

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability who requires specific accommodations should contact the Office for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.

**Please Note the following**

**Important Dates per Course Schedule Spring 2012**

- Last day of the official add/drop period
- Last day to drop a course for possible refund
- Last day to apply for a graduate degree

**Grades**

Grades will be based on:

1. Homework assignments. 10%
   - Homework is graded pass/fail.
2. Article critique 15%
   - One article critique is required. This is an article of interest to you that you choose. If you want to team up and do the review with someone else that is fine (limit of 2 people working together). Please attach a copy of the article that you reviewed to your critique as the critique will not be graded without the article attached. There is a format for writing up the article critique that we will go over in class.
3. Midterm exam (probably take home). 27.5%
4. Final exam (take home). 27.5%
5. Class participation. 20.0%

Please note: The homework, article review, midterm, and final exam are due on the dates listed in the syllabus. Failure to turn in each paper or exam on the indicated date will result in the loss of one grade for that paper or exam (i.e., from an A to a B, or for the homework a pass to a fail).

**CORE STANDARDS MET:**

**Description**

C. 8 Research and Program Evaluation – Outcomes demonstrated by the ability to:

- C.8.1 articulate current knowledge of the field;
- C.8.2 analyze research articles in rehabilitation and related fields;
- C.8.3 apply research literature to practice (e.g., to choose appropriate interventions, to plan assessments, to implement meaningful program evaluation, to perform outcome analysis, to
conduct consumer satisfaction studies);

C.8.5 use data to support professional opinion and testimony;

C.8.6 conduct a review of the rehabilitation literature on a given topic or case problem; and

C.8.7 apply knowledge or ethical, legal, and cultural issues in research and evaluation.

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Weekly Topics and Readings

Please Note: Readings are to be completed before the class session for which they are listed.

1/18/12

Topics: Intro - Evidence Based Practices in Our Fields, Basic Concepts of Research
Research Paradigms

Content Reading:
Cozby Chapter 4.

1/25/12

Topics: Experimental/Quasi-experimental.

Variables

Content Reading:
Cozby Chapter 8 & 9.

Research Reading:

2/01/12

Topics:
Variable Practice
Anatomy of a Research Article, APA style.

Research Reading:

2/08/12

Topics:
Validity and Research Design

Content Reading:
Cozby Chap 5.

Research Reading:

2/15/12

Topics:
Validity and Research Design, continued.
Statistics and Hypothesis testing
Discuss article critique.

Research Reading:

2/22/12

Topics: Correlational.
Content Reading:
Cosby 12.

Research Reading:

2/29/12

Mid-Term Handed Out

3/07/12

Mid-Term Due

Topic:
Single subject research.

Content Reading:
**Research Reading:**

**3/14/12**
**Spring Break Week**

**3/21/12**

**Topics:**
Single Subject Research.

**Content Reading:**

**Research Reading:**

**3/28/12**

**Topics:**
Single subject research.

**Content Reading:**

**Research Reading:**

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**4/04/12**

**Topics:**
Qualitative research.

**Content Reading:**

**Research Reading:**

4/11/12

**Topics:**
Qualitative Research.

**Content Reading:**

**Research Reading:**


4/18/12

**Final Handed Out**

**Topics:**
Qualitative Research.

**Research Reading:**


4/25/12

**Topics:**
Qualitative Research.

**Content Reading:**
No new reading.

**Research Reading:**

5/02/12

Online Content Readings:

OPTIONAL:


