CO699 Research Methods and Design
Wednesday and Friday 10:45 – 12:15pm
Instructor: Karen Mason, Ph.D.
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Office hours: Monday 9 am-12 pm; 1-2pm
Friday 12:30pm-2:30pm

RULES OF RESEARCH
If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you have tried.

Basic research is like shooting an arrow into the air and, where it lands, painting a target.
Homer Burton Adkins (1892-1949, American organic chemist)

I have yet to see any problem, however complicated, which, when you looked at it the right way, did not become still more complicated.
Paul Alderson (1926-...) in "New Scientist", 25 September 1969, 638

Results! Why, man, I have gotten a lot of results. I know several thousand things that won't work. - Thomas Edison (1847-1931)

Genius is one per cent inspiration, ninety-nine per cent perspiration.
-- Thomas Edison (1847-1931) (said c. 1903, written in Harper's Monthly Magazine, September 1932)

Course Description:
This course is designed to provide an introduction to research methodologies, designing research, analyzing data, and presenting results. Quantitative, qualitative and mixed research methods will be presented. Students will develop hands-on experience with quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Students will learn the process of evaluating research.

Course Objectives
As a result of this course students will be able to:
1. Write a literature review
2. Design and implement quantitative research
3. Design and implement qualitative research
4. Understand the use of mixed methods
5. Analyze data using descriptive and inferential statistics
6. Present results
7. Evaluate research designs

Required Texts:


In Library Reference Section
APA Style Manual or at http://owl.english.purdue.edu/workshops/hypertext/apa/print/wholeworkshop.pdf
Survey Monkey can be found at http://www.surveymonkey.com/
Possible Texts for reading requirement

LIST 1
You may find this list of resources helpful.


Merriam, S.B Qualitative Research in Practice: Examples for Discussion and Analysis (The Jossey Bass Higher and Adult Education Series) San Francisco: Jossey Bass


LIST 2
In addition to required readings for each day, read 2 books or 400 pages from this list.


Briski, Z. & Kauffman, R. (2004). Born into Brothels: Photographs by the Children of Calcutta (must also watch documentary) India/USA: ThinkFilm.


**Requirements**

Students are expected to attend all classes and to participate actively. Students will discuss all absences with the instructor. Students will complete all reading and other assignments ON TIME. Discuss all late assignments with the instructor. One point will be deducted from all late assignments per day late (including the weekend) and will not be accepted more than 1 week late.

**Assignments**

- Devotional..................................................................................................................2 pts
  - Present a brief devotional on research and evaluation found in the Bible such as the spies in Canaan, Nehemiah and the wall, the Parable of the Talents, or God providing formative evaluation of Israel.

- Find 3 articles in library database.........................................................................3 pts
  - Instructions will be given in class.
- Read an article on qualitative tradition ......................................................5 pts
  - To get any points, you MUST read the article BEFORE CLASS. See below.
- Read an article on a research study...........................................................5 pts
  - To get any points, you MUST read the article BEFORE CLASS. See below.
- Book Presentation......................................................................................10 pts
  - Presentation on any book from List 2.
  - Presentations will be about 5 minutes.
  - Include (1) the research question, (2) the importance of the research, (3) the context for the research, (4) description of qualitative methodology and how data were analyzed (including any use of validity checks), (5) research conclusions.
- Reading Log...............................................................................................5 pts
  - See below.
- Quantitative Research Project...................................................................35 pts
  - You will be developing and administering a survey on-line. You will be analyzing the data from that survey and displaying the summary on a 2’ X 3’ poster
    - Include the following headings:
      - Research Question
      - Rationale (Why is this study important?)
      - Literature Review
        - Note: this “mini” literature review will be of 5 articles, will be between 1 and 2 pages, in APA style, and will include reference section at the end.
        - The literature review will support your statement about why this study is important
      - Methodology
        - Note: briefly describe the type of research, operationalization of your variable of interest, pilot test, the survey with response options, the sample, and the possibility of Type I error
        - If you reverse coded any of your items, briefly describe.
      - Data Analysis and Results
        - Note: include mean, standard deviation, H_o, H_a, type of statistics, level of significance, p-value, and a graph
      - Discussion
        - Note: include conclusions and implications for future research as well as limitations of your study (including external validity issues)
- Qualitative Research Project.......................................................................35 pts
  - The components of this project are:
    - Literature Review
      - This “mini” literature review will be of 2 articles.
      - Should be in APA format (including double spacing).
      - Should be 1 to 2 pages
    - Interview
      - You will be conducting a 30 to 45 minute interview with a person who is studying counseling at a seminary. Your interview will be focused around the question “Why did you choose to study counseling at a seminary?”
      - Interview will be taped.
      - Must have a consent form.
    - Transcription
      - You will be transcribing 15 minutes of the interview.
• Do not use real names in the transcription (use pseudonyms)

- **Field Notes**
  - You will write notes about the interview
    - These notes are your thoughts, possible conclusions you might draw, what was the experience like for you, what went wrong, what went right, and any other reflections.
    - These notes are similar to a journal or diary entry.

- **Data Analysis**
  - You will identify themes from the 15 minutes of transcribed tape.

### Course Outline with Assignments

*Assignments are due on day listed by 4pm.*

**January 23**

Review syllabus. Daniel 1 as a research question. Generate research questions.

**January 28**

Difference between research and program evaluation. Evaluation as either formative or summative. Devotional example: Genesis 1 as summative evaluation

**Assignments:**
1. Read Creswell chapter 1

**January 30**

Ethical considerations. Literature review—how to use databases to search the literature.

**Assignment:**
1. Read Creswell chapter 3

**February 4**

Literature review

**Assignments:**
1. Read Creswell chapter 2
2. **Turn in 3 abstracts**

**February 6**

Quantitative design (experimental and quasi-experimental designs), sampling and external validity

**Assignment:**
1. Read Creswell chapter 9

**February 11**

Operationalizing variables, writing items

**Assignments:**
1. Read Creswell chapter 8
2. **Turn in mini literature review of 5 articles for quantitative research proposal.**
3. **Complete Attitudes toward Statistics survey on Survey Monkey**

**February 13**

Survey development, pilot testing, how to add up the scores

**February 16-20**

Reading Week
February 25
Descriptive statistics
Assignments:
1. Finalize your 10-item survey and put it up on Survey Monkey. Send the link to the class. Enter results into Excel.
2. Read Swanson chapters 1-5 (You don’t need to complete the exercises.)

February 27
Inferential statistics; guest speaker: Monica Geist
Assignments:
1. Read Swanson chapter 6
2. Read Creswell chapter 6

March 4
T-tests

March 6
Qualitative Research Design: Observations
Assignments:
1. Read Creswell chapter 10

March 11
Qualitative Research Design: Interviews and Documents

March 13
Qualitative Research Design: five methodologies; validating the accuracy of the findings
Assignment:
1. 6 p.m. light supper and 7 p.m.: Watch Kitchen Stories at Masons (11 Lanes End, Ipswich) or view it on your own: Kitchen stories (2003) DVD Salmer fra kjøkkenet

2. To get any points, you must read the article in PsychARTICLES that corresponds to the first letter of your last name BEFORE CLASS.


March 18
Qualitative research Design: data analysis
1. Read Creswell chapters 4 and 5

March 20
Quantitative versus qualitative research debates
Assignment:
1. Turn in Qualitative Research Project

Reading Week March 23 - 27

April 1
Mixed methods—what are mixed methods and when to use mixed methods
Assignment:
1. Read Creswell chapter 11

April 3
Evaluating research studies
Assignments:
1. To get any points, you must read the article in PsychARTICLES that corresponds to the first letter of your last name BEFORE CLASS.

A-F

G-L

M-R

S-Z

April 8
Book presentations

April 10 NO CLASS—Good Friday

April 15
Book presentations

April 17
Poster presentations

May 4 4pm
Last day to submit written assignments or apply to Registrar (not to instructor) for extension if needed. Let the instructor know if you are applying for an extension.

1. Turn in reading log
Reading Statement

NAME: _____________________________  Box #: _____________

I have read all the required reading.
  • Cresswell
  • Swanson (5 chapters)
  • Article on Viennese Social Competence Training
  • Article on Effects of humor on creativity
  • An article on qualitative tradition
  • An article on a research study
  • At least 7 articles for 2 literature reviews
  • 2 books from List 2 or 400 pages from List 2
  • Kitchen Stories

________________ ____________
Signature  Date

OR

Of the required reading, I have read _____ % of the reading.

________________ ____________
Signature  Date