PSY 548: Research and Program Evaluation
Master of Arts in Marriage & Family Therapy and Counseling
Reformed Theological Seminary

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Joe Raiker, M.S.
E-Mail: jraiker@knights.ucf.edu
Credits: 3
Class Meeting Days: Monday
Class Meeting Hours: 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Class Location: Classroom SC1
Term: Spring 2014

I. Required Text


II. Course Overview

The goal of this course is to provide a broad overview of the consumption of empirical research and program evaluation. Specifically, this course will focus on identifying, obtaining, reading, and critically evaluating research. Additionally, various methodological approaches to research will be discussed along with data analytic strategies. The goal of this course is to provide a foundation for applying the empirical literature to the practice of marriage and family therapy and counseling.

III. Course Objectives

By the end of this course students should demonstrate proficiency in
a) Understanding the goals of research, what a research study design looks like, and how to critically evaluate a given empirical literature as it relates to marriage and family therapy
b) Identify and describe the primary differences between qualitative and quantitative research and the relative strengths and weaknesses of each
c) Understand how to utilize the methods of single-subject research design in the course of providing marriage and family counseling and therapy
d) Understanding the basics of null significance hypothesis testing and basic statistical techniques including inferential statistics, correlation, regression, and chi-square tests
e) Demonstrating cursory understanding of more advanced statistical techniques including multiple regression, factor analysis, and MANOVA.
IV. **Basis for Final Grade**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Topics</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;In the News&quot; Critique</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Credit</td>
<td>50</td>
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</table>

| Total                              | 1000   |

**Grading Scale (Total Points)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>900-1000</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800 – 899</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700 – 799</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 - 699</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 - 599</td>
<td>F</td>
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</table>

V. **Grade Dissemination**

Graded exams in this course will be returned to students at the end of the next class session to review your answers and note questions you may have answered incorrectly. Exams are to be returned to the instructor prior to leaving class. I will be more than happy to meet with you individually, in-person, at any time during the semester to discuss any questions you may have regarding your score on a particular exam/assignment or your progress in the course. Please note that there is a 24-hour waiting period before scores on an exam will be discussed with you individually. This is to give you time to review the information in the text and from class notes to determine whether your written answer was graded correctly.

VI. **Course Policies**

Exams are non-cumulative and will include an approximately equal number of questions from each of the chapters covered.

There are no make-ups for exams or discussion topics with the exception of documented approved excuses which include illness, family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligations, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, participation in official Seminary sponsored activities, and court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty and subpoenas). Make-ups will be comparable to the original and must be completed within one-week of the original exam date. Please contact me to arrange a time/place to make-up any missed assignments due to an approved absence.

Final papers turned in late will be assessed a penalty: a half-letter grade for every 12 hours it is late. For example, if you turned it in at 8:50 AM following a class meeting it will be docked a half a letter grade but if you turned it in by 8:50 PM the following day it would be docked a full letter grade. Late papers will not be accepted after three days.

**Extra Credit Policy:** Extra credit **may** appear on some exams in the form of either multiple-choice, short answer, or short essay.
VII. **Course Policies: Technology and Media**

**Email:** It is your responsibility to check your email for important class announcements, schedule changes, etc. to ensure delivery of timely information related to this course. It is expected that you will check your email at least once a day.

VIII. **Course Policies: Student Expectations**

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance is necessary for successful performance in this course. Specifically, discussion topics covering assigned readings for that day will be administered each class session.

IX. **Important Dates to Remember**

The following dates are important to remember. Additionally, dates specific to this course are tentative and can be changed at the sole discretion of the instructor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Last Day to Add a Class</td>
<td>February 12, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Day to Drop a Class</td>
<td>February 26, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>March 10-14, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>April 18, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Day of Class</td>
<td>May 2, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Papers</td>
<td>May 5, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exams</td>
<td>May 6-8, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduation</td>
<td>May 17, 2014</td>
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</tbody>
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X. **Papers**

**“In the News” Critique**

**Due Date: April 14, 2014**

For this paper, you are to identify a popular media article in the area of marriage and family counseling. Your responsibility is to utilize the principles learned throughout this course to critically examine the evidence about this particular topic area. You must use scientific journals and class materials (i.e., lecture, textbook, or relevant resources you see fit) to draw a conclusion about the validity of the news article.

The paper should be 2-3 pages double-spaced (Not including title page, abstract, or references), follow APA 6th edition guidelines, and use at least 3 peer-reviewed journal citations NOT from your textbook or lecture. You may not cite Wikipedia or similar websites or personal communication. Scholarly book chapters are appropriate sources of information, but will not count toward the three required citations.
**XI. Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Ending</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Required Reading Assignment</th>
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</table>
| 01/27       | Introductions, Syllabus Overview  
Chapter 1. The Nature of Research and Inquiry  
Chapter 2. Characteristic of a Research Study | Chapter 1  
Chapter 2 |
| 02/03       | Chapter 3. Locating, Reviewing, and Writing Research  
Chapter 12. Collecting Data  
Chapter 13. Describing Data  
Discussion Article | Chapter 3  
Chapter 12  
Chapter 13  
TBD |
| 02/10       | Chapter 4. Outcomes Research in Counseling  
Chapter 11. Using SPSS for Introductory Statistical Analyses  
Chapter 14. Deriving Standardized Scores  
Discussion Article | Chapter 4  
Chapter 11  
Chapter 14  
TBD |
| 02/17       | Chapter 5. Qualitative Approaches to Research  
Chapter 6. Qualitative Research Designs  
Chapter 15. Statistical Hypothesis Testing  
Discussion Article | Chapter 5  
Chapter 6  
Chapter 15  
TBD |
| 02/24       | Chapter 7. Quantitative Research Design in Counseling  
Chapter 16. Univariate Inferential Statistics  
Discussion Article | Chapter 7  
Chapter 16  
TBD |
| 03/03       | Mid-term: Chapters 1-7, Chapters 11-16 | |
| 03/10       | Spring Break | |
| 03/17       | Chapter 8. Using Single-Subject Research Designs to Document Client Outcomes  
Chapter 17. Correlation and Regression | Chapter 8  
Chapter 17 |
| 03/24       | Chapter 9. Needs Assessment  
Chapter 18. An Introduction to the Use of Chi-Square as a Nonparametric Test of Statistical Inference  
Discussion Article | Chapter 9  
Chapter 18  
TBD |
| 03/31       | Chapter 19. Dealing with Violations to Linear Model Assumptions: Transformations, Robust Alternatives, and Nonparametric Tests  
Discussion Article | Chapter 19  
TBD |
| 04/07       | Chapter 20. Multiple Regression  
Discussion Article | Chapter 20  
TBD |
| 04/14       | Chapter 21. Multivariate Analysis of Variance (MANOVA)  
“In the News” Critique Due | Chapter 21 |
| 04/21       | Chapter 10. Program Evaluation and Needs Assessment for Best Practices and Accountability  
Chapter 22. Factor Analysis and Other Multivariate Methods  
Discussion Article | Chapter 10  
Chapter 22  
TBD |
| 04/28       | Chapter 23. Partial and Semipartial Corrections  
Discussion Article | Chapter 23  
TBD |
| 05/06       | Final Exam: Chapters 8 – 10, Chapters 17-23 | |

* Note: The Schedule is subject to revision