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PM 730 Research Seminar: Theory and Design

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Objectives: The purpose of this course is to introduce you to basic research methods, research ethics, simple statistics and their interpretation, and the communication of research results.

Goals: Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:
1. Define research vocabulary.
2. Describe various types of research.
3. Write using APA format.
5. Interpret descriptive and inferential statistics based on research data.
6. Understand the difference between qualitative and quantitative research.
7. Find, read, comprehend and apply published articles.

Required texts:
Course Packet for PM 730.

Strongly Recommended text:
*Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (4th ed.). The seminary and college libraries have copies. Be sure you use the 4th edition! You can also purchase a copy through the bookstore.

You can also find APA Publication Manual Guidelines at:
http://bertrand.bucknell.edu/home/refshelf/apaguide.html

For APA guidelines for electronic sources:
http://www.uvm.edu/~xli/reference/apa.html

Grading Criteria:
**Class attendance and participation.** Poor attendance could impact your grade in a negative fashion.

1. **Objective examinations – 25% each (50% total)**
   You will take one mid-term and one final exam on specified testing dates to document your understanding of course content.

2. **Research proposal – 40%**
   Develop a research proposal. Your proposal must include the following elements:
   **Section 1 -** Clear statement of your research question and the importance of that question. In other words, why is your study needed (i.e., there is a lack of information in this area as
demonstrated by XYZ). What do you hope to add to the “knowledge of the field” from your study? What difference will your results make? How do you hope to apply the results?  

Section 2 – Review of the literature as it relates to your question. Your review must include 10 references, 7 of which are journal articles (1986-1999).

Section 3 – Methodology section. This includes a clear statement of your variables (dependent and independent), your hypotheses, your research design (including statistics), & a statement about your sample & sampling procedures.

Section 4 – Implications of your study and limitations of your study (issues of internal and external validity).

You will develop your paper throughout the semester and you will submit it for review section by section on specified due dates. I will critique your work, focusing my attention on the section under review. I will not grade your paper at these points, but will give you ample feedback to help you develop a strong paper. However, should you not turn in your “in process” paper for review on the specified dates, your final grade will be lowered on grade for each missed review period. [1 period missed – final grade moved from A to A-; 2 periods missed – final grade moved from A to B+].

3. Worksheets 10%

Throughout the semester you will complete 5 worksheets. These exercises will help you learn how to evaluate research articles.