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PM 730 Research Seminar: Theory and Design

Virginia Todd Holeman

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Toddy Holeman, Ph.D.  
Office: 858-2212  
Toddy_Holeman@asburyseminary.edu  

Class Enrollment Limit: 25  

Recommend completion of PM 665 before this class or previous experience with research and statistics from undergraduate psychology program.

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.

Prerequisite: PM 642

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 formats.
5. Interpret descriptive and inferential statistics based on research data.
6. Understand the difference between qualitative and quantitative research
7. Find, read, comprehends and applies published articles.

Required texts:
Course Article packet and course handout packet. Available through ATS bookstore.

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (4th ed.).

Course Requirements
Class attendance and participation. Poor attendance could impact your grade in a negative fashion. Specifically if you miss 5 class sessions, you will not receive a passing grade.

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

2. Research proposal – 30%  
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? See Chapter 13, pg. 170-176

Section 2 - Review of the literature as it relates to your question. Your review must include a minimum of 10 references, 7 of which are journal articles (1986-2000). Of the 10 references, 5 must be a
descriptive summary of empirical research. Format for these summaries will be discussed in class. The remaining 5 can be theoretical pieces. See Chapter 3

**Section 3 – Methodology section.** Includes description of your participants and your procedures [protocol and materials]. This finally includes a clear restatement of your variables (dependent and independent), your hypotheses, your research design (including statistics), & your alpha level. See Chapter 13 pg. 178-180.

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 20%**
Throughout the semester you will use worksheets to help you write one-two page analysis of selected journal articles. This will strengthen your ability to write your review of the literature. We will use the worksheets as the basis for class discussion.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Focus</th>
<th>Goals</th>
<th>Announcement</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 6 &amp; 8</td>
<td>Ch 1 &amp; 2 by Th.</td>
<td>Intro. To Research &amp; the Scientific Method Getting along with APA</td>
<td>Goals of research. Steps in empirical research APA introduction</td>
<td>Bring APA manual to class on Feb. 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 13 &amp; 15</td>
<td>Ch 3 (T)</td>
<td>Information Gathering &amp; Analysis</td>
<td>How to make the best use of CD-ROMs. How to conduct a lit. search.</td>
<td>Mr. John Seery will introduce you to the wonders of the ATS library resources</td>
<td>Identify general area of research for your paper by Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 20 &amp; 27</td>
<td>Ch 4 (Tues) Ch 5 (Th)</td>
<td>Formulating a research problem &amp; identifying variables</td>
<td>Create research problem Levels of measurement</td>
<td>No class on Feb. 22 for KAMFT conference in Louisville</td>
<td>Exercise 1 p. 252 (t) Ex. 2 &amp; Packet- Measurement Work pages (th)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 1 &amp; 6</td>
<td>Ch 6</td>
<td>Construting Hypothesis Statistical Significance</td>
<td>Hypothesis p&lt;.05 Type I &amp; II errors</td>
<td>(t) Ex. 3 (th) Packet pages on statistical significance</td>
<td>Section 1 &amp; Reference (Mar. 8) Worksheets for 2 articles (Th)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 8 &amp; 13</td>
<td>Drucker; Finkelhor Skim Ch. 17</td>
<td>Exploring the literature Research articles. Literature Review. Theory articles</td>
<td>Types of journal articles. Structure of articles. Writing a coherent review of literature</td>
<td>No class on March 22 for CAPS conference in Richmond, VA</td>
<td>Exercise 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 15 &amp; 20</td>
<td>Ch. 7 &amp; 8 (t) Ch 9</td>
<td>Basic Research Design Internal &amp; External Validity</td>
<td>Basic research design Internal &amp; External Validity</td>
<td>No class on March 22 for CAPS conference in Richmond, VA</td>
<td>Exercise 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 27 &amp; 29</td>
<td>Ch. 14</td>
<td>Ethical Standards&amp; Review for Mid-term</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td>MID TERM March 29 Covers through 3/20/00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 3 &amp; 5</td>
<td>Ch. 12 (t) Ch 9</td>
<td>Sampling Proceureus Data Collection</td>
<td>Select your sample and your method of sampling Determine how you are going to collect data</td>
<td>Exercise 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 10 &amp; 12</td>
<td>Reading Week</td>
<td>Reading Week</td>
<td>4/17 Draft of Sections 1, 2, &amp; Ref. list</td>
<td>Work on McMinn workshop for Th.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 17 &amp; 19</td>
<td>McMinn</td>
<td>Descriptive Research Case study; Survey research</td>
<td>Descriptive Research Case study Survey research</td>
<td>Work on McMinn workshop for Th.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 24 &amp; 26</td>
<td>Roth</td>
<td>Relational Research Correllational studies (r)</td>
<td>Correllational research Ex-post facto</td>
<td>Stabb &amp; Roth worksheet</td>
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<td>Roth</td>
<td>Relational Research Correllational studies (r)</td>
<td>Correllational research Ex-post facto</td>
<td>Stabb &amp; Roth worksheet</td>
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<td>May 1 &amp; 3</td>
<td>Foster</td>
<td>Basic Experimental Design pre-post designs – t-test &amp; ANOVA</td>
<td>Basic types of experimental design. Types of variables Types of “groups” Sources of error</td>
<td>Worksheet on Rankin-Esquer article 5/3– Rough Draft Sections 1, 2, 3 &amp; ref. list</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 8 &amp; 10</td>
<td>Lewis</td>
<td>Qualitative Research Methods</td>
<td>Philosophy Methods</td>
<td>5/10 – Final Research Proposal Due</td>
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| Thursday  
| May 17  | 8:00-10:00 am | Final Examination |   |   |