

Research Explorations Spring, 2018

Instructor:

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Course Overview:

This seminar is intended to deepen understanding of the purposes, structures, logic, applications, and limitations of prominent modes of psychological research, and to encourage awareness of philosophical and ethical considerations embedding any such understanding. It is also intended to provide a supportive atmosphere in which students might begin to explore their own research interests and the assumptions they bring to the research process, and to learn from one another in so doing.

Course Objectives:

- To demonstrate understanding of research methods appropriate to psychology, with particular emphasis on Human Science approaches.
- To demonstrate skill in presenting research progress in a group setting and to utilize feedback to improve work in progress.
- To demonstrate ability to analyze and critique research design
- To demonstrate responsible reflection on the ethical dimensions of research.
- To create a supportive atmosphere, helping other students to explore research interests and assumptions brought to the research process.
- To develop a proposal for a research project or broader program of research.

Assigned Text:

Booth, W., Colomb, G., and Williams, J. *The craft of research*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Additional articles as appropriate to the topics covered.

Format: This will be a highly interactive, collaborative, exploratory class experience. You should come to class prepared to share your work in progress, solicit feedback from other students and the instructor, and provide constructive feedback to all others.

Grading: Regular attendance, demonstrated progress on research project, and engaged participation are all expected.

Each week, you will provide an update to class on your progress in accordance with topics listed under Schedule. You are also expected to ask questions and offer feedback to your classmates on their research projects.

Your final assignment will be an outline and summary of your proposed project and a narrative account of progress made during the course of the semester. You will provide formal presentation (Formal Presentation) and a written summary (Final Paper) of the project and your process.

Participation: 50%

Final Presentation: 25%

Final Paper: 25%

Schedule:

January

9	Introductory issues
16	Initial presentations of research questions/projects
23	Literature Review
30	Data Collection
6	Analysis
13	Discussion

20

Formal Presentations

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Formal Presentations