

## Research Methods in Counseling / Advanced Research Methods Syllabus Cover Sheet

Required Objectives:

### **Professional Counseling Identity (CACREP 2016 Standards)**

- 7g. statistical concepts, including scales of measurement, measures of central tendency, indices of variability, shapes and types of distributions, and correlations
- 8a. the importance of research in advancing the counseling profession, including how to critique research to inform counseling practice
- 8b. identification of evidence-based counseling practices
- 8c. needs assessments
- 8e. evaluation of counseling interventions and programs
- 8f. qualitative, quantitative and mixed research methods
- 8g. designs used in research and program evaluation
- 8h. statistical methods used in conducting research and program evaluation
- 8i. analysis and use of data in counseling
- 8j. ethical and culturally relevant strategies for conducting, interpreting, and reporting the results of research and/or program evaluation

### **Methods of Instruction for this Course**

| Instruction Method                | Mark All That Apply |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Lecture                           | X                   |
| Small Group Discussion            | X                   |
| Large Group Discussion            | X                   |
| Course Readings                   | X                   |
| Group Presentation                | X                   |
| Individual Presentation           | X                   |
| DVD/Video Presentation            |                     |
| Supervised Small Group Work       |                     |
| Individual/Triadic Supervision    |                     |
| Group Supervision                 |                     |
| Case Study                        |                     |
| Debate                            |                     |
| Class Visitor / Guest Lecturer    |                     |
| Off-Campus / Field Visit          |                     |
| Other: Data Collection Simulation | X                   |

### **Key Required Assignments/Student Learning Outcomes**

These assignments are required for the course, but **will not be the only requirements/expectations**. The chart below lists the assignment, method of submission, and benchmark score/grade. These assignments are set up for upload to Taskstream and/or instructor provides rating for assignment. See syllabus for details.

|  | Proficient (A) | Benchmark (B) | Emerging (C) | Inadequate/<br>Fail | As evidenced by: | Program Objective |
|--|----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|
|  |                |               |              |                     |                  |                   |

|  |                           |                            |        |                             |   |                                     |
|--|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 2.F.8 Research and Program Evaluation  |                           |                            |        |                             |   |                                     |
| PO. 9.2 Students summarize and critique research relevant to counseling, addictions, and/or clinical mental health | 93-100% Assignment scores | 83% -92% Assignment scores | 80-82% | Below 80% Assignment scores | MHC 535: Qualitative Article Summary/ Critique  | 9. Research and Assessment (2 of 7) |
| PO 9.2 Students summarize and critique research relevant to counseling, addictions, and/or clinical mental health  | 93-100% Assignment scores | 83% -92% Assignment scores | 80-82% | Below 80% Assignment scores | MHC 535: Quantitative Article Summary/ Critique | 9. Research and Assessment (2 of 7) |

|   | Proficient (A)            | Benchmark (B)              | Emerging (C) | Inadequate/ Fail            | As evidenced by:                                   | Program Objective                   |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 2.F.8 Research and Program Evaluation                               |                           |                            |              |                             |  |                                     |
| PO 9.3 Students understand models and methods of program evaluation | 93-100% Assignment scores | 83% -92% Assignment scores | 80-82%       | Below 80% Assignment scores | MHC 535: Program Evaluation Article Summary/Review | 9. Research and Assessment (3 of 7) |

|  | Proficient (A)            | Benchmark (B)              | Emerging (C) | Inadequate/ Fail            | As evidenced by:  | Program Objective                   |
|--|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 2.F.8 Research and Program Evaluation  |                           |                            |              |                             |   |                                     |
| PO. 9.4 Demonstrates an understanding of various types and designs of research relevant to counseling. | 93-100% Assignment scores | 83% -92% Assignment scores | 80-82%       | Below 80% Assignment scores | MHC 535: Group Project: Development of a hypothetical mixed methods research proposal | 9. Research and Assessment (4 of 7) |

**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
Lewis & Clark College  
Graduate School of Education and Counseling

|                            |                                       |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Course Name</b>         | <b>Research Methods in Counseling</b> |
| <b>Course Number</b>       | <b>MHC 535</b>                        |
| <b>Term</b>                | <b>Spring 2018</b>                    |
| <b>Department</b>          | <b>Counseling Psychology</b>          |
| <b>Textbooks/Materials</b> | <b>See attached</b>                   |
| <b>Faculty Name</b>        | <b>Christina Toney</b>                |
| <b>Faculty E-mail</b>      | <b>ctoney@lclark.edu</b>              |
| <b>Faculty Office</b>      | <b>By phone 971-241-3374</b>          |

**Catalog Description:**

Foundations of psychological research. Students are introduced to qualitative and quantitative research processes and basic concepts. Topics include (1) elements of the research process; (2) types of designs, program evaluation; (3) ethical considerations of research: informed consent, research with diverse and vulnerable populations, research with children, human subjects review; (4) basic measurement concepts: validity, reliability, norms, score interpretation; and (5) basic statistical concepts: frequency distributions, central tendency, measures of variability, correlation, normal curve, hypothesis testing, significance tests. Students read and evaluate examples of published research. Reviews Web-based resources for conducting research.

**Course Description:**

This course covers the essential concepts related to research design and methodology that practitioners need to become critical evaluators of research and prepare for conducting research in their practices. Focus is on understanding each component of the research process, qualitative and quantitative designs, program evaluation, measurement issues, and data analysis,

**Course Goals and Objectives:**

The primary goal of this class is to have students gain a more complete understanding of the research process which would allow them to critically analyze published research and/or be able to conduct independent research. It is assumed that this knowledge and skill will in turn allow students to evaluate research in their field(s) of expertise from a critical and informed perspective.

The objectives of this class will be to provide opportunities to learn and apply the skills necessary for critiquing and conducting research. Emphasis will be on the following components of the research process: research questions and hypotheses, research design including qualitative research, action research and program evaluation, definition and operationalization of variables, and measurement issues. The impact of culture on research design and analysis will additionally be addressed. By the end of the semester students will be able to:

- Identify various paradigms for conducting research
- Identify each of the steps involved in the development of a research project
- Write research questions and hypotheses
- Understand the ethical issues involved in working with human participants
- Identify and describe various types of quantitative research designs
- Identify and describe various types of qualitative research designs

- Identify the components and models of program evaluations, including needs assessments
- Identify and describe validity issues inherent in different types of designs
- Discuss the use of research findings for program change
- Discuss the issues involved in conducting real world research
- Discuss the impact of culture on various aspects of the research process
- Critically evaluate published research articles
- Design a proposal for research project

**Course Calendar: See attached**

**Course Requirements: See attached**

Overall, the requirements of the course include, in class and out of class assignments, article summaries and critiques, a research article critique guide, a research methods glossary, and a group research project.

**Attendance requirements:** Class attendance is expected and required. Any missed class time will be made up by completing extra assignments designed by the instructor. Missing more than ten percent of class time may result in failure to complete the class. This would be 4.5 hours of a 45 hour class (3 credits), 3.0 hours for a 30 hour class (2 credits) or 1.5 hours for a 15 hour class (1 credit.) In case of extreme hardship and also at the discretion of the instructor, a grade of incomplete may be given for an assignment or the entire course. In such cases, the work to be submitted in order to remove the incomplete must be documented appropriately and stated deadlines met. Students are expected to be on time to class and tardiness may be seen as an absence that requires make-up work.

**Accommodations for Students with Special Needs and/or Disabilities:**

If you have a disability that may impact your academic performance, you may request accommodations by submitting documentation to the Student Support Services Office in the Albany Quadrangle (x7156). After you have submitted documentation and filled out paperwork there for the current semester requesting accommodations, staff in that office will notify me of the accommodations for which you are eligible. Please notify me of any special learning considerations that I should be aware of so that we can work together to make the appropriate accommodations.

**Authorization Levels:** All levels

**Evaluation and Assessment:**

Each assignment will be graded via a point system. Generally speaking, the following grades can be associated with the points for each assignment and for the final grade

|                             |   |            |
|-----------------------------|---|------------|
| 93% of points possible      | - | A          |
| 90 – 92% points possible    | - | A-         |
| 88 – 89% or points possible | - | B+         |
| 83 - 87% of points possible | - | B          |
| 80 – 82% points possible    | - | B-         |
| 78 – 79% or points possible | - | C+         |
| 73 - 77% of points possible | - | C          |
| 70 – 72% of points possible | - | C -        |
| Less than 73%               | - | D/F (Fail) |

**Additionally, please note that if the basic requirements for an assignment the points given will be associated with a B+. If one exceeds the requirements of the assignment there point total will improve accordingly, Similarly, if the assignment does not meet the requirements point total will decrease accordingly. The points associated with each assignment are attached.**

**Late papers and assignments:** Any assignments turned in late (without previous permission) will automatically receive a 10% reduction in grade.

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**Partial Bibliography:**

Cone, J.D. & Foster, S.L. (1993). *Dissertations and theses from start to finish*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Creswell (2007). *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing Among Five Approaches (2<sup>nd</sup> ed)*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Creswell (2009) *Research Design: Qualitative & Quantitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed)*. Thousand Oaks: Sage

Denzin & Lincoln (2000). *Handbook of Qualitative Research (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.)*. Thousand Oaks: Sage

Galvan, J.L. (1999). *Writing Literature Reviews*. Los Angeles: Pyrczak Publishing.

Heppner, P.P., Kivlighan, D. M., & Wampold, B.E. (1999). *Research Design in Counseling*. Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole.

Holcomb, Z.C. (1997). *Real data. A statistics workbook based on empirical data*. Los Angeles: Pyrczak Publishing.

Holcomb, Z.C. (1927). *Interpreting Basic Statistics. A Guide and Workbook Based on Excerpts from Journal Articles*. Los Angeles: Pyrczak Publishing.

Holcomb, Z.C. (1997). *Real data. A statistics workbook based on empirical data*. Los Angeles: Pyrczak Publishing.

LeCompte & Schensul (1999). *Ethnographer's Toolkit*

Leong & Austin (2006). *The psychology research handbook. A guide for graduate students and research assistants (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.)*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications

Pryzak, F. *Evaluating Research*. Los Angeles: Pyrczak Publishing.

Patten, M.L. (2000). *Understanding Research Methods. An Overview of the Essentials*. Los Angeles: Pyrczak Publishing

Maxwell, J. (1996). *Qualitative Research Design: An Interactive Approach (2nd Ed.)*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage

Mertens (2005). *Research & Evaluation in Education & Psychology (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed)*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Moustakas, C. (1994). *Phenomenological Research Methods*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Mertler, C.A. & Vannatta, R. A. (2005). *Advanced and Multivariate Statistical Methods. Practical Application and Interpretation* (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.) Glendale, CA: Pyrczak Publishing

Rosenthal, J.A.(2001). *Statistics and Data Interpretation for the Helping Professions*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thompson Learning

Weis, L. & Fine, M. (2000). *Speed bumps: A student-friendly guide to qualitative research*. New York: Columbia University, Teacher College Record.

**MHC 535**  
**Research Methods in Counseling**  
Spring Semester 2018  
Rogers 218

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*“Research is always carried out by an individual with a life and a lifeworld ..., a personality, a social context, and various personal and practical challenges and conflicts, all of which affect the research, from the choice of a research question or topic, through the method used, to the reporting of the project’s outcome. Most research textbooks do not bring the living reality of you, the researcher, into the discussion of research. We believe that the person is always at the center of the process in inquiry – that you will always be at the center of your own research, which in turn will always be a part of you” (Bentz, V. M. & Shapiro, J. J. (1998). *Mindful Inquiry in Social Research*, p 4.)*

**Course Description**

Foundations of psychological research. Students are introduced to qualitative and quantitative research processes and basic concepts. Topics include (1) elements of the research process; (2) types of designs, program evaluation; (3) ethical considerations of research: informed consent, research with diverse and vulnerable populations, research with children, human subjects review; (4) basic measurement concepts: validity, reliability, norms, score interpretation; and (5) basic statistical concepts: frequency distributions, central tendency, measures of variability, correlation, normal curve, hypothesis testing, significance tests. Students read and evaluate examples of published research. Reviews Web-based resources for conducting research.

**Assignments and Points**

|                                    |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Class Participation                | 55  |
| Out of class/In class Assignments  | 115 |
| Evidence Based Practice Discussion | 10  |
| Special Research Topic Assignment  | 30  |
| Article Summary Discussions        | 40  |
| Article Critiques (3)              | 110 |
| Critique Questions                 | 15  |
| Group Project                      | 125 |

Final grades will be based on a 500 point total and will be distributed as follows:

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| 511 and above | A                |
| 495 - 510     | A-               |
| 484 - 494     | B+               |
| 456 - 483     | B                |
| 440 - 455     | B -              |
| 429 - 439     | C/C+ (No Credit) |
| 396 - 428     | C – (No Credit)  |
| below 385     | Fail             |

**Required Texts:**

Mertens (2015). *Research & Evaluation in Education & Psychology* (4<sup>th</sup> Ed). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. (6<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

**Tentative Schedule of Classes**

| <u>Date</u> | <u>General Topic</u>   | <u>“Official” Topic</u>   | <u>Readings for Class</u>  | <u>CACREP Objectives</u>       | <u>Assign/Hmwrk Due</u>          |           |
|-------------|--|---|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Jan 11      | <p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p><b>Overview of Research Process</b><br/>                     Importance for Counselors<br/>                     Research Questions<br/>                     Types of Research</p> <p><b>Your Goals</b></p>       | <p>Class overview</p> <p>Research Process</p> <p>Defining populations and samples</p> <p>Research questions</p> <p>Overview of differences:<br/>                     Qualitative<br/>                     Quantitative and<br/>                     Evaluation Approaches</p> | <p>Mertens 1 pp. 3 &amp; 6</p> <p>Mertens Chap 1 – Ch 11 318 - 327</p>   | Lecture:<br>CACREP 8a,f        | In class Assignment              | 5 pts     |
| Jan 18      | <p><b>What, how and who shall I study?</b></p> <p><b>What is the purpose of my research – what problem am I addressing</b></p>   | <p>Evidence Based Practice</p> <p><b>Problem Sensing/Conceptualization</b></p> <p><b>Assignment</b></p>   | <p>Additional Reading Evidence Based Practice</p> <p>APA manual chapter 2</p> <p>Mertens Ch 3<br/>                     Ch 13 pp. 448 – 464<br/>                     Appendix</p> | Assignment:<br>CACREP 8a, b, g | Assignment 1                     | 25 pts    |
|             |  |   |  |                                | “In class discussion”            | 10 points |
| Jan 25      | <p><b>What is my research worldview?</b></p> <p><b>Overview –Situating Research</b></p> <p><b>Reviewing the Literature</b><br/> <b>Format of Proposals/Articles</b></p> <p><b>Who will my participants be?</b><br/> <b>Research Ethics</b></p> | <p><b>Frameworks/ Paradigms/lenses</b></p> <p><b>Connection to design/approach</b></p> <p><b>Utilization of Results</b></p> <p><b>Sampling &amp; Ethics</b></p>   | <p>Mertens Chap 10<br/>                     Mertens Ch 3 review pp 115 - 119</p> <p>Ch 11 337-347; 347 – 358<br/>                     Ch 12 361-363</p>                          | Lecture:<br>CACREP 8j          | <b>Research topic discussion</b> | 10 points |



|        |   |   |  |  |  |                      |
|--------|---|---|--|--|--|----------------------|
| Feb 1  | <b>Research on the Job</b>  | <b>Program Evaluation &amp; Needs Assessment</b>  | Mertens Ch 2   | Lecture: CACREP 8c,e, g, j                                   | <b>Bring program evaluation article to class</b>   | 5 pts                |
| Feb 8  | <b>Understanding Quantitative Research</b><br><br>What design will I use?<br><br>Hypotheses<br><br>Sampling in Quantitative   | <b>Overview of Quantitative Research</b><br><br><b>Outcome Research</b><br><b>Single Subject Experimental Causal Comparative</b><br><br><b>Probability Sampling</b>   | Mertens 4, 5, & 7<br><br>Review Mertens Ch 11 pp 327 – 331; 344 - 347      | Lecture: CACREP, 8a, f, g                                    | <b>Program Evaluation Summary Due</b><br><br><b>Bring Quantitative article(s) to class</b> | 40 pts<br><br>5 pts  |
| Feb 15 | <b>Evidence Based Practice</b><br><br>What will my “intervention” look like?<br>What will my “outcome” look like?<br><br>What is it an operationalization of RQ<br><br>How will I analyze my data<br><br>Am I measuring what I think?<br><br>Choosing Instruments | <b>Evidence based practice</b><br><br><b>Designing &amp; Operationalizing Independent &amp; Dependent Variables</b><br><br><b>Psychometric Issues Norms &amp; Standardization</b><br><br><b>Reliability and Validity</b><br>Psychometric Issues<br>Reliability and Validity | Additional reading Evidence based practice<br><br>Mertens 12 pp. 364 - 378 | Assignment: CACREP 8a, b, g<br><br>Assignment: CACREP 8f, 8g | In class discussion<br><br>Assignment 2<br><br>Work on group project “special assignment”  | 10 pts<br><br>20 pts |
| Feb 22 | <b>Surveys and other designs</b>  | Descriptive Research  | Mertens 6<br><br>Mertens 13 pp. 417 – 422; 426-7                           | Lecture: CACREP 8f, 8g<br><br>Assignment:                    | <b>Bring Survey Article to Class</b>   | 5 pts                |

|        |  |   |  |   |   |        |
|--------|--|---|--|---|---|--------|
|        | Basic Descriptive Statistics   | Overview of Statistical Concepts:<br>Descriptive Statistics<br>Normal Curve<br>Standard Scores<br>SEM | Add'l reading                                  | CACREP 7g,8f, 8g  |   |        |
| Mar 1  | <b>How will I analyze my quantitative data</b><br><br><b>How do I interpret my results?</b>  | Analyzing Data<br>Inferential Statistics  | Mertens 13 422- 437<br>Add'l reading           | Lecture:<br>CACREP 7g, 8h, 8i<br><br>Assignment:<br>CACREP 8a | <b>Quant article summary - In class assignment</b>  | 20 pts |
| Mar 8  | <b>Qualitative Methods</b><br><br><b>Qualitative Questions</b><br><b>Choosing a Qualitative Approach</b><br><b>Who will my participants be?</b><br><b>Data Collection Strategies</b>                                     | Determining Type of Qualitative Approach<br><br>Qualitative Sampling                                  | Mertens 8 & 9<br><br>Mertens 11 pp.331-339     | Lecture:<br>CACREP 8f, 8g<br><br>Assignment:<br>CACREP 8a     | <b>Quant Critique Due</b><br><br>In class Assignment  | 35 pts |
| Mar 15 | <b>Qualitative Data Collection</b><br><b>Cultural Artifacts</b><br><b>Focus Groups</b><br><b>Interviews</b>  | Focus Groups<br>Interviews  | Mertens 12 378 - 394                           | Lecture:<br>CACREP 8f, 8g                                     | Assignment  | 5 pts  |
| Mar 22 | <b>Ensuring the quality of Qualitative Data collection</b><br><br><b>Analyzing and Interpreting Qualitative Data</b><br><br><b>Conceptual Therapy/ Qualitative Article Summary &amp; Critique</b><br>1/2 class does each | Qualitative Data Analysis<br>Confirmability<br>Transferability  | Mertens 12 pp. 404-414<br>Mertens 13 437 – 447 | Lecture:<br>CACREP 8i, 8j<br><br>Assignment:<br>CACREP 8a     | <b>Qualitative Article Summary/Critique- in class assignment &amp; Lit review for grp project due</b> | 40 pts |
|        | <i>Spring Break</i>  | <i>No class</i>   |  |   |   |        |

|           |   |  |   |  |   |                             |
|-----------|---|--|---|--|---|-----------------------------|
| Mar<br>29 |   |  |   |  |   |                             |
| Apr 5     | <b>Combining approaches</b><br><br><b>What other types of research might I use in my future practice</b><br><br><b>Conceptual Therapy/ Qualitative Article Summary &amp; critique</b><br><b>½ class does each</b> | Review of Mixed Methods<br>Transformational Designs<br>Process Research<br>PAR<br><br>Group critique | Mertens 10;<br>12 p. 378;<br>13 pp. 431-2<br><br>Mertens 8<br>237-9 | Lecture:<br>CACREP 8f,<br>8g<br><br>Assignment:<br>CACREP 8a | <b>Qualitative Article Summary/Critique– in class assignment &amp; Lit review for grp project due</b> | 40<br>pts                   |
| Apr 12    | <b>Group Projects</b><br><br><b>Final Pt 1 Putting it all together (Understanding Process)</b>  | <b>Group Projects</b>  |   | Assignment:<br>CACREP 8f,<br>8g                              | <b>Critique questions Due - In class assignment</b>   | 125<br>pts<br><br>15<br>pts |
| Apr 19    | <b>Group Projects</b><br><br><b>Final Discussion</b><br><br><b>Research Game Night</b>  | <b>Group Projects</b>  |   | Assignment:<br>CACREP 8f,<br>8g                              |   | 125<br>pts                  |