

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
College of Education and Human Development
Counseling and Development Program
EDCD 601: Introduction to Research in Counseling, Spring 2012

Instructor: Rachael D. Goodman, Ph.D., LPC
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Office Hours: Email to schedule appointment; Tues. 4:30-6:30 and other times by appointment
Class Meeting: Monday, 7:20-10:00pm, Thompson Hall 1017
GMU Blackboard Site: <https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu>

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Course Description

Enhances knowledge of and involvement in counseling research by introducing techniques and principles used to design, implement, and evaluate research projects and program development in community and school settings. *No prerequisites required.*

Course Overview

This course will provide an introduction to research methods, questions, and trends in the field of counseling. Readings and discussions will be used to explore the research process and highlight its role in the field of counseling. Students will be required to write a research proposal. Students will be encouraged to plan a proposal that could serve as the basis for an independent study, dissertation, or development of a school- or community-based counseling program. Consistent with the mission of the Counseling and Development Program, the course strives to develop in students a perspective that incorporates a focus on multiculturalism, advocacy, leadership, and social justice.

Student Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Articulate relevant social justice and multicultural issues related to research in counseling.
- Demonstrate an understanding of methodological and theoretical issues driving the field of counseling research today.
- Conceptualize and design a research proposal, including demonstrating the ability to identify research problems, develop research questions, review and apply relevant literature, and communicate design and analysis plans.
- Demonstrate competence in critically evaluating counseling research.
- Write using the APA style.

Relationship of Course to Program Goals and Professional Organizations

EDCD 601 prepares students to understand research design and evaluation, including basic statistics, so they can use published research to inform practice in schools and agencies. The course also introduces students to research methodology, enabling them to design and conduct research in academic and community settings. EDCD 601 fulfills the research and evaluation requirement for Virginia state school counseling licensure and for the Virginia Licensed Professional Counselor credential. EDCD 601 meets CACREP standard II.K.h (Research and Program Evaluation) and the Graduate School of Education (GSE) standard of research and scholarship.

Note: This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion based on the needs of the class.
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George Mason University Policies and Resources for Students

- Academic integrity (honor code, plagiarism) – Students must adhere to guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>].
- Mason Email – Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, division, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account. Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301ge.html>].
- Counseling and Psychological Services – The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops, and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].
- Office of Disability Services – Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor in writing at the beginning of the semester <http://ods.gmu.edu/>.
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- The Writing Center – The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].
- University Libraries – The George Mason University Libraries provide numerous services, research tools, and help with using the library resources [See <http://library.gmu.edu/>].
- Core Values Commitment: The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles.
- For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, Graduate School of Education, please visit our website [See <http://gse.gmu.edu/>].

Professional Dispositions

The American Counseling Association (ACA) code of ethics requires counselors and counselor trainees to maintain standards of professional competence and possess good moral character. The George Mason University Counseling & Development Program has adopted a set of professional performance criteria that is consistent with the ACA code of ethics. Please refer to these dispositions, which may be found at <http://gse.gmu.edu/programs/counseling/resources>.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a violation of both the George Mason University code of honor and the expected professional dispositions of the Counseling & Development Program. The GMU English Department has developed the following statement regarding plagiarism: “Plagiarism means using the exact words, opinion, or factual information from another person without giving that person credit. Writers give credit through the use of accepted documentation styles, such as parenthetical citation, footnotes, or end notes; a simple listing of books and articles is not sufficient. Plagiarism is the equivalent of intellectual robbery and cannot be tolerated in an academic setting. Student writers are often confused as to what should be cited. Some think that only direct quotations need to be credited. While direct quotations do need citations, so do paraphrases and summaries of opinions or factual information formerly unknown to the writers or which the writers did not discover themselves. Exceptions to this include factual information which can be obtained from a variety of sources, the writer's own insights

or findings from their own field research, and what has been termed common knowledge. What constitutes common knowledge can sometimes be precarious, and what is common knowledge for one audience may be so for another. In such situations, it is helpful to keep the reader in mind and to think of citations as being reader friendly. In other words, writers provide a citation for any piece of information that they think their readers might want to investigate further. Not only is this attitude considerate of readers and establishes credibility, it will almost certainly ensure that writers will never be guilty of plagiarism.”

APA Format

Students in Counseling & Development courses are expected to use APA style (6th ed.) for written papers.

Electronic Devices

Turn off and put away all electronic communication devices during class. Cell phones, pagers, and other communicative devices are not allowed in this class. Please keep them stowed away and out of sight. Laptops or tablets (e.g. iPads) may be permitted for the purpose of taking notes only, but you must submit a request in writing to do so. Engaging in activities not related to the course (e.g. gaming, email, chat, text, etc.) will result in a significant deduction in your participation grade. **Notify the instructor prior to class if you have an emergency situation that requires accommodation.**

Attendance

In accordance with the policies of the Counseling and Development Program, on-time attendance at every class meeting is expected. Late arrival to class will be considered an absence. **Two or more unexcused absences will result in loss of course credit.** Attendance on the first day of class is required. Excused absences are permitted for illness, religious holidays, or emergency situations only; documentation is required for the absence to be considered excused. Work-related absences are not considered excused.

Course Requirements

Each student is expected to: (1) attend each class, (2) complete all reading assignments before class, (3) arrive on time and stay for the entire class period, (4) participate in discussions and in-class work groups, (5) regularly check GMU email, and (6) submit or access documents via Blackboard as assigned.

Required Texts

American Psychological Association (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
Schreiber, J., & Asner-Self, K. (2011). *Educational research*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.

Course Expectations and Assignments

The main assignments for the course (Annotated Bibliography, Introduction and Literature Review, and Methods) are to be submitted prior to the beginning of class on the date due via SafeAssignment on the course Blackboard site. Paper copies of these assignments will not be accepted. Late homework assignments will be subject to a penalty of 20% for each day late. Additional assignments and/or assessments may be added at the instructor’s discretion.

Students will select a research topic of interest and complete the three components of a research proposal: introduction, literature review, and methods sections. An annotated bibliography will be used to begin the development of the proposal and introduce students to literature on their topic of interest.

Students will present their completed research proposal at the end of the course. Research topics are expected to reflect student interests and an aspect of the C&D program mission, which emphasizes social justice, multiculturalism, advocacy, leadership, and internationalism in counseling.

Annotated Bibliography

The annotated bibliography is a one of the first steps in the research process. The purpose is to become familiar with literature related to your topic of interest. In this assignment, you will develop skills in locating appropriate articles, as well as summarizing and evaluating the content. Using your database search skills (and assistance as necessary) you will locate five research articles from peer-review (scholarly) journals. Review each article and write an annotation for each (between 150 and 170 words each, not including the citation). Following the article citation, each annotation should include a summary of the content *and* an evaluation of the article's usefulness and rigor. You must adhere to APA (6th ed.) guidelines.

Introduction and Review of the Literature

The *introduction* component of a research paper introduces the reader to your research issue. The purpose of the introduction is to provide a clear and concise overview of your research study including: the research issue/problem in counseling, a rationale for examining this research issue, and the purpose of your study. The introduction should be one page.

The *review of the literature* will allow you to integrate the knowledge developed from your annotated bibliography to more fully understand your research topic. The literature review should conclude with a restatement of your purpose and your research question(s). The literature review should be four pages.

In addition to the one-page introduction and four-page review of the literature, you will include a title page and reference page(s). You must adhere to APA (6th ed.) guidelines.

Methods Section

In this section, you will describe the research methods that you will use to address your research question. You will apply course material and additional readings as necessary. This section should allow other researchers to replicate your study. The methods section should be between two and three pages (not including title and reference pages). You must adhere to APA (6th ed.) guidelines.

Final Research Proposal Presentation

After completing the components of the research paper, you will present your proposal to the class. Your presentation should be 10 minutes, including time for questions. This is expected to be a professional presentation, and you are encouraged to use visual aids and/or handouts.

Weekly Reading Takeaways

Prior to each class meeting, you will post reflections on the reading(s) on the Discussion site in Bb. You should submit at least two postings each week. Postings can include: salient points from the readings, questions about the readings, and topics for discussion based on the readings. You can integrate readings and information from other classes and sources, and also respond to your classmates' postings. You will be assigned to a small group for this assignment and will rotate leading the weekly discussion. We will also use these postings as topics for in-class discussions and the leaders will help facilitate bringing salient points from the discussion into the larger class discussion.

Participation

Students in Counseling & Development courses are expected to demonstrate a high level of participation consistent with graduate-level education. Students are expected to: be on time and present

for the duration of the course; demonstrate engagement (ask questions, share thoughts); be respectful and attentive; and demonstrate preparedness for each course meeting.

Grading

Participation in class discussions and activities	10%
Annotated Bibliography	15%
Introduction and Literature Review for Research Paper	30%
Methods Section for Research Paper	15%
Final Research Proposal Presentation	15%
Weekly Reading Takeaways	15%

In accordance with the George Mason University Grading Policy, the following grades may be achieved:

A [100-97]; A- [96-94]; B+ [93-91]; B [90-87]; B- [86-84]; C [83-80]; F [79 and below]

Course Schedule

Class	Date	Topic(s)	Reading Due	Assignment Due
1	January 23, 2012	Introduction to Research in Counseling; Library Resources		
2	January 30, 2012	Foundations of research	ER Chs. 1 & 2 Research article on topic	Bring research article and summary paragraph of article to class
3	February 6, 2012	Conceptualizing research: Research problems and questions	ER Chs. 3 & 12; APA Ch. 1	Bring paragraph on research project to class
4	February 13, 2012	Participant Sampling and Selection; Instruments and Collection	ER Ch. 4 & 6; APA Chs. 6 & 7	
5	February 20, 2012	Believability in Observation and Measurement	ER Ch. 5	Annotated Bibliography Due (Bb) Bring MMY Test Review to class
6	February 27, 2012	No Class – Individual Student Conference: Scheduled with Dr. Goodman in advance		Bring self-evaluation and research outline to meeting
7	March 5, 2012	Quantitative Research Design	ER Ch. 7; APA Chs. 3 & 4	Bring Literature Review Draft to class for peer review
Spring Break	March 12, 2012			
8	March 19, 2012	Qualitative Research Design	ER Ch. 8	Introduction & Literature Review Due (Bb) Bring song lyrics to class
9	March 26, 2012	Descriptive and Inferential Statistics	ER Ch. 9	
10	April 2, 2012	Qualitative analysis	ER Ch. 10	
11	April 9, 2012	Action Research & Program Evaluation	ER Ch. 11; Stringer Chs. 1 & 2 (via Bb)	Methods Due (Bb)
12	April 16, 2012	Evaluating Research; Ethics and Social Justice	Ethics article to be assigned; HSRB forms; CITI Training	CITI Training Certificate; HSRB Form
13	April 23, 2012	Research Proposal Presentations		Presentation
14	April 30, 2012	Research Proposal Presentations		Presentation