Course: PSY 548  
Research and Program Evaluation  
Reformed Theological Seminary  
Spring 2012

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601-856-4424 (home)  
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Course Description:
This course provides an introduction to basic concepts and methodologies of research in the social sciences within the context of pursuing truth about God’s creation, namely human relations, through general revelation [STD105.01, 105.02]. Students will be taught to understand and critically evaluate existing research studies [STD 105.02]. This course is designed to help students be more effective and critical consumers of existing research [STD 105.02].

This course is NOT designed to be an advanced course in conducting original research.

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Objectives:
1) To understand the importance of research in advancing the counseling profession  
2) To understand the statistical methods used in conducting research and program evaluation  
3) To discuss ethical issues in research [104.02, 104.03]  
4) To learn to conduct literature reviews [105.02]  
5) To understand basics of research design, including qualitative, quantitative, and single-case designs, action research, and outcome-based research, as well as other research methodology [105.02]  
6) To analyze the principles, models, and applications of needs assessment, program evaluation, and the use of findings to effect program modifications  
7) To incorporate ethical and culturally relevant strategies for interpreting and reporting the results of research and/or program evaluation studies  
8) To read and critically analyze a variety of journal articles [105.02]  
9) To learn to use research to inform evidence-based practice  
10) To discuss the place of science within a Christian worldview [III-C]

Course Requirements:
In order to obtain expertise in understanding journal articles, each week we will analyze an article [105.01]. While all students will be assigned the articles to read each week, one or two student facilitators will be assigned to evaluate and present the article to the class. In addition to reading and evaluating the articles, the following topics from the text book will be covered weekly, although this is a tentative schedule and is subject to change if we are running ahead or behind schedule.

Jan 31  
Appendix A math review &  
Chap12: Collecting data: variables, scales of measurement, descriptive vs. inferential statistics  
Chap 13: Describing data: symbols, distributions, central tendency
Chap 1: The nature of research and inquiry: course overview, introduction to research; ethics in research; types of research
Chap 2: Characteristics of a research study: literature reviews, sampling techniques, instrumentation

Feb 7
Chap 13: Describing data: variability, standard deviation
Chap 3: Locating, reviewing, and writing research: choosing research topics, APA style & Chap 4: Outcomes research in counseling

Feb 14
Chap 14 Deriving standard scores: standard scores, normal curve
Chapter 5: Qualitative approaches to research

Feb 21
Chap 14 continued
Chap 6 Qualitative research designs: ethnographic research, case study, phenomenological research, grounded theory

Feb 28
Midterm exam

Mar 6
Chap 15: Statistical hypothesis testing: statistical hypothesis testing, null and alternative hypotheses, level of significance, Type I and Type II errors
Chap 7: Quantitative research design in counseling: internal & external validity, non-experimental research

Mar 13
No class, spring break

Mar 20
Chap 17: Correlation & regression & Chap 19: Multiple regression
Chap 7: Quantitative research design in counseling: correlational designs; causal comparative designs

Mar 27
Chap 16 Univariate inferential statistics: t test, one-way ANOVA
Chap 7 Quantitative research design in counseling: faulty and true experimental designs

April 3
Chapter 6: Univariate inferential statistics: Factorial ANOVA
Chap 7 Quantitative research design in counseling: Factorial designs

April 10
Chap 18: An introduction to the use of chi-square as a nonparametric test of statistical inference: nonparametric tests, chi-square, graphic representation
Chap 7: Quantitative research design in counseling: single case research designs, quasi-experimental designs, action and outcome based research

April 17
Chap 21: Multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA)
Chap 8: Using single-subject research designs to document client outcomes

April 24
Chap 22: Factor analysis & other multivariate methods
May 1        Final examination

**Grading Scale:**
- Article presentations: 40%
- Mid-term examination: 30%
- Final Examination: 30%

The relationship between the content of this course and MFTC program student learning objectives is explained in the document, ‘The Relationship between the Content of RTS MFTC Courses and MFTC Program Student Learning Objectives.’, distributed in 1PSY502 and available upon request from the department office.
**Course Objectives Related to MAMFTC Student Learning Outcomes**

| Course: 1PSY548 Research and Program Evaluation | Professor: Elizabeth Williford | Campus: Jackson | Date: 1/24/12 |

**MAMFTC Student Learning Outcomes**  
In order to measure the success of the MAMFTC curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MAMFTC outcomes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Completion of Curriculum Requirements</strong></th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completion of the required 67 semester hours, 500 hours of client contact (including a minimum of 250 hours with two or more clients present), and 100 hours of MS/AAMFT approved supervision (including a minimum of 50 hours with two or fewer supervisees present) serves as our baseline for graduate students to become competent marriage and family therapists.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>This course is a requirement of the curriculum</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Licensure Requirements</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Fulfillment of pre-MA licensure requirements for the State of Mississippi as set forth in the Rules and Regulations of the Mississippi Board of Examiners in Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>This course is required for licensure</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Theoretical/Philosophical Concepts</strong></th>
<th>Rubric</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Understand the theoretical and philosophical concepts underlying marriage and family therapy</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Program evaluation involves evaluation of research and programs, which in turn involves both theoretical and philosophical underpinnings of research</td>
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<th><strong>Individual Development/Family Relations</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Gain an understanding of individual development and family relations</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Evaluation of research touches on developmental and family relations when the research topics relate to them</td>
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<th><strong>Clinical Knowledge</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achieve the ability to understand and to apply clinical knowledge effectively</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Research information informs clinical practice</td>
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<th><strong>Professional Identity &amp; Ethics/Ethical Conduct</strong></th>
<th>Rubric</th>
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<tr>
<td>Form a professional identity and awareness of ethics and ethical conduct</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Professional issues relate directly to research evaluation</td>
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<th><strong>Integration</strong></th>
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<td>Integrate research and clinical skills and knowledge</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Research and program evaluation directly assess clinical applications</td>
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<th><strong>Contemporary Culture</strong></th>
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<td>Develop an understanding of diversity issues in contemporary culture (e.g. gender, age, socioeconomic status, culture, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, basic philosophical worldviews)</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Cultural issues enter into program evaluation, but are not central to it</td>
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<td>Develop an understanding of a biblical worldview and skills to bring to bear in relation to the field of marriage and family therapy</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Program evaluation involves values and worldviews</td>
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