

CPSY 220 - Research Methods
Thurs, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Bannan room 331

Instructor Contact Information

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Office Hours: by arrangement

Course Description and Objectives

This course is intended to serve at least two functions:

- To provide a foundation of knowledge and skill necessary for the intelligent consumption of psychological research.
- To motivate students to shape their clinical practice in consultation with the relevant research literature.

Required Course Texts (available at the bookstore)

Barker, C., Pistrang, N., & Elliot, R. (2002). *Research methods in clinical psychology: an introduction for students and practitioners* (2nd ed.). West Sussex, England: John Wiley & Sons.

Jaeger, R. M. (1993). *Statistics: a spectator sport* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

ERES

- Additional readings will be posted on ERES (password is research) – see syllabus.
- I will periodically post class notes, both as pre-organizers for reading and to clear up questions raised in a previous class. In general, these will be posted by midnight Saturday. Make a habit of checking ERES early in the week before class.

Course Requirements

- Reading: There will be reading assignments for every class. These must be completed before class.
- Participation: The default expectation is to come to class with a typed list of 3 specific questions regarding the reading. Other expectations are listed in the syllabus.
- Research Critiques: You will read and evaluate three research reports using specified guidelines.
- Final Paper: A literature review in APA format. Guidelines will be provided.

Evaluation and Grading

- Final grade will be weighted as follows: Discussion Questions (15%), Research Critiques (15% each), Final Paper (40%).
- Evaluation criteria for each assignment will be distributed along with the assignments.
- All assignments may be completed collaboratively, and submitted for a joint grade (collaborative final papers are strongly encouraged, but not required.) Appropriate citations are expected of all sources. When in doubt, ask the instructor.

CPSY 220: Research Methods Syllabus, Winter 2005

Class 1 January 6 Introduction & Philosophical Foundations

Overview of CP-220; sources of knowledge and expertise; introduction to applied epistemology; professional development issues; drawing on prior knowledge.

Activity: Discussion of professional interests; questions raised by two short articles.

Class 2 January 13 Theoretical Perspectives and Formulating Questions

Why do research? Philosophical, professional, and personal issues. Organizing researchable questions.

Hand in: 1 page description of topic interest for final paper, with potential research questions.

Activity: Presentation by library staff; discussion of paper topics.

Reading Due:

- Barker et al. Ch 1-3
- King & Kitchener “The Seven Stages of Reflective Judgment” (on ERES)

Class 3 January 20 Nature and Assessment of Psychological Constructs

What exactly is schizophrenia? Depression? Intelligence? A “dysfunctional” family? Approaches to describing and/or measuring psychological phenomena.

Reading Due: Barker et al. Ch 4-5

Class 4 January 27 Techniques of Description and Measurement

Moving from the theoretical consideration of constructs to their practical assessment; strengths and weaknesses of approaches; measurement bias.

Reading Due: Barker et al. Ch 6-7

Class 5 February 3 Quantitative Foundations I – Description

Descriptions of groups; graphical data displays; central tendencies; descriptions of “spread”; correlation – when things hang together.

Reading Due: Jaeger Ch. 1-4

Prepare for discussion: Questions 1.1, 1.4, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, all of chapters 3 and 4

Class 6 February 10 Quantitative Foundations II – Estimation, and Inference

Applying descriptions of samples to estimates of populations; quantifying certainty; concept of measurement error.

Reading Due: Jaeger Ch. 7, 8, 9

Prepare for discussion: Ch 7, 8.1, 8.2, try 9.1

Class 7 February 17 Research Design – Connecting Questions to Procedures

Now that we know something about measurement, how can we apply this to answer research questions?

Reading Due: Barker Ch. 8, 9

Class 8 February 24 Qualitative Foundations

Philosophical roots; questions appropriate for qualitative research; assessing quality

Research Critique #2 Due

Hand in: Bibliography of sources for final paper.

Reading Due:

- Barker et al. Ch. 5
 - Denzin & Lincoln “Entering the Field of Qualitative Research” (on ERES)
 - Gee “Cultural Models” (on ERES)
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Class 9 March 3 Data Collection – Techniques and Rationale

Qualitative and quantitative data collection; beginning of validity issues; a well-presented example.

Reading Due:

- Barker et al. Ch. 6, 7
 - Jaeger Ch. 5
 - Hill “A Guide to Conducting Consensual Qualitative Research” (on ERES).
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Class 10 March 10 Empirically Supported Treatments

Where the rubber meets the road today – the (enforced) application of research findings to counseling practices.

Final Paper Due

Reading Due: TBD