

Syllabus for PSY 640
Research Methods in Clinical-Community Psychology
Psychology Department
University of La Verne
Spring 2007

Section I: The Instructor

Instructor's Name: Dr. Ngoc Bui
Course Website: <http://faculty.ulv.edu/~buin>

Methods of Contacting Instructor: buin@ulv.edu
Hoover 216
909-593-3511 ext. 4099

Office Hours: **MWF 11:30am-12:30pm; 3pm-4:30pm**

Section II: The Course

Course Description: Research Methods (T 1-2:50pm)

This course is designed to cover various research methodologies that are particularly useful in conducting empirical inquiries in and with community systems and settings on topics relevant to clinical-community psychology. It also covers methodologies fundamental to traditional clinical research, such as experimental, quasi-experimental, correlational, observational, and descriptive methodologies. This course is also designed to develop the foundation for a dissertation proposal.

The course adheres to the University of La Verne's Mission in the following ways:

1. Values orientation: The University supports the health of the planet and its people. The topics in Research Methods provide information and skill development to help shape learners in positive and adaptive directions as future consumers of reliable scientific information.
2. Life-Long Learning: Research and information literacy skills acquired in the course can be applied to any aspect of the learner's life and environment, including personal, family, school, and work, and therefore can continually be used throughout the learner's life.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Evaluate and develop research designs in descriptive, correlational, quasi-experimental and experimental designs.
2. Identify sources of bias in sampling and study situations.
3. Develop a brief dissertation concept paper and present it to potential dissertation chairs.
4. Deal with ethical issues in research in clinical and community mental health settings.
5. Deal with cross-cultural and cultural competency issues in clinical-community research.
6. Identify methodological issues in doing community and action research.

Required Materials:

Kazdin, A.E. (2003). *Research design in clinical psychology (4th Ed.)*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Section III, Part A: Instructor Responsibilities

Methods of Instruction:

This course will be presented using a combination of lecture, discussion, and group activities. Outside reading and other information gathering activities may be assigned. Films and other multi-media techniques may be employed to enhance the learning experience.

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Methods of Assess Student Progress

Final grades will be determined based upon completion of the following requirements:

- a. The Instructor will take attendance at all class meetings for students' records.
- b. Exams: Following each Unit (3-4 chapters per unit) will be a take-home essay exam regarding material from the lecture and text. Each exam will be worth 50 points for a total of 3 exams (150 points).
- c. Lab assignments:
 - Literature review: Each student will write a literature review of 5 research articles pertaining to a topic of their choice. Literature reviews will critique research articles (obtained from peer-reviewed journals) and synthesize the information from these articles to address common theories and concepts. Also, at the end of the article summaries, students will generate a hypothesis with operationally defined independent and dependent variables. Literature reviews will be typed and double-spaced, following APA style and include a title page with header and running head and a reference list.
 - Critique of designs: Each student will one of each of the following types of research articles on the same topic or concept, to compare and contrast designs and methodological issues, including validity and reliability. Critique papers should be at least 4 pages in length and summarize each article, as well as highlight problems strengths and weaknesses of each design. For this assignment, articles used in the literature review assignment may be used.
 - i. Experimental design
 - ii. Quasi-experimental design
 - iii. Non-experimental design (correlational, survey, or observational)

Make-up Procedures and Late Assignments

No Lab Assignments can be turned in late. A score of "0" will be given to projects not turned in on the day they are due.

Exams: For whatever reason, you can make-up any missed exam. All make up exams will be deducted **10%** AND there will be a **\$20** exam makeup fee assessed for every make-up exam. Payments should be made to Student Accounts in Woody Hall. Tell the cashier that you are paying a makeup exam fee for the "Undergraduate Psychology Program". Bring your receipt prior to your make-up exam as proof of payment and schedule your make-up with the instructor.

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Final Course Grade

Attendance:	15 points (15 days of school)
Exams:	200 points (3 exams x 50 points each)
Lab Assignments:	200 points (2 assignments x 100 points each)
Total:	415 points

Grade Breakdown:

A	92-100%
A-	90-91%
B+	88-89%
B	82-87%
B-	80-81%
C+	78-79%
C	72-77%
C-	70-71%
D	60-69%
F	below 60%

Maintenance of Student Records

All exams and assignments will be returned to the student or available for pick-up by the student for review after grading. The Instructor will retain a permanent record of each student's grade for one year from the last date of the course.

Section III, Part B: Students' Responsibilities

Attendance statement:

Students are expected to attend all class meetings. You cannot contribute to nor benefit from class meetings that you miss. Students should exchange phone numbers with another student and make arrangements to obtain class notes if they are going to be absent.

Names of Other Students in the Class

- | | | | |
|----|-------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. | _____ | Phone: _____ | E-mail: _____ |
| 2. | _____ | Phone: _____ | E-mail: _____ |
| 3. | _____ | Phone: _____ | E-mail: _____ |

Academic Honesty Statement and Conduct:

The University imposes specific disciplinary actions in response to incidents of academic misconduct (cheating, plagiarism, etc.). These actions may include admonition, failing grade, failure of course, disciplinary probation, suspension and dismissal. In addition, the student must complete the Multimedia Integrity Teaching Tool (MITT) in order to not be dismissed from the college. Please refer to the University of La Verne Catalog for information about rights and responsibilities of students. All your written assignments may be turned in to a plagiarism service (e.g., Turnitin.com) to check for its authenticity.

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Section IV: Projected Schedule of Assignments

All dates are approximate depending on how we progress. Any changes in deadlines for assignments will always be announced in class. Please adjust your calendars accordingly.

Week 1 (2/6):	Introductions Syllabus Chapter 1: Methodology and Key Concepts
Week 2 (2/13):	Chapter 2: Drawing Valid Inferences: Internal and External Validity Chapter 3: Drawing Valid Inferences: Construct and Statistical Conclusion Validity
Week 3 (2/20):	Chapter 4: Sources of Artifacts and Bias
Week 4 (2/27):	Chapter 5: Selection of the Research Problem and Design Exam 1 (Chapters 1-5) Take Home Exam Assigned
Week 5 (3/6):	Chapter 6: Experimental Research: Group Designs Chapter 7: Control and Comparison Groups
Week 6 (3/13):	Chapter 8: Assessing the Impact of the Experimental Manipulation Chapter 9: Observational Research: Case-Control and Cohort Designs Lab Assignment Due: Literature Review
Week 7 (3/20):	Chapter 10: The Case Study and Single-Case Research Designs
Week 8 (3/27):	Chapter 11: Evaluation of the Single Case in Clinical Work Exam 2 (Chapters 6-11) Take Home Exam Assigned
Week 9 (4/3):	SPRING BREAK (NO CLASSES)
Week 10 (4/10):	Chapter 12: Qualitative Research Methods
Week 11 (4/17):	Chapter 13: Assessment Methods and Strategies
Week 12 (4/24):	Chapter 14: Assessment and Evaluation of Interventions
Week 13 (5/1):	Chapter 15: Statistical Methods of Data Evaluation
Week 14 (5/8):	Chapter 16: Interpretation of the Data
Week 15 (5/15):	No Class Exam 3 (Chapters 12-16) Take Home Exam Assigned
Week 16 (5/22):	Lab Assignment Due: Critique of designs