P 770 BASIC RESEARCH METHODOLOGY  
Christian Theological Seminary

Spring 2011  
Instructor: Matthias Beier, MDiv, PhD
Tuesdays, 2:15 – 5:00 pm  
Class Room: 161  
Office hours: By appointment

Office 202  
mbeier@cts.edu  
317-931-2346

Catalogue Course Description  
A study of the basic research methodologies in individual and marriage and family therapy.

Purpose of the Course  
This course will introduce basic research methods applicable in psychotherapy and marriage and family therapy.

In accordance with the 2009 CACREP course standards (8. Research and Program Evaluation), the course will provide students with an understanding of research methods, statistical analysis, needs assessment, and program evaluation, including the following:

a. the importance of research in advancing the counseling profession;

b. research methods such as qualitative, quantitative, single-case designs, action research, and outcome-based research;

c. statistical methods used in conducting research and program evaluation;

d. principles, models, and applications of needs assessment, program evaluation, and the use of findings to effect program modifications;

e. the use of research to inform evidence-based practice; and

f. ethical and culturally relevant strategies for interpreting and reporting the results of research and/or program evaluation studies.”

In accordance with AAMFT core competencies, the course will prepare students to

- Know the extant MFT literature, research, and evidence-based practice (6.1.1)
- Understand research and program evaluation methodologies, both quantitative and qualitative, relevant to MFT and mental health services (6.1.2)
- Understand the legal, ethical, and contextual issues involved in the conduct of clinical research and program evaluation (6.1.3)
- Recognize opportunities for therapists and clients to participate in clinical research (6.2.1)
- Read current MFT and other professional literature (6.3.1)
- Use current MFT and other research to inform clinical practice (6.3.2)
- Critique professional research and assess the quality of research studies and program evaluation in the literature (6.3.3)
- Determine the effectiveness of clinical practice and techniques (6.3.4)
- Evaluate knowledge of current clinical literature and its application (6.4.1)

Licensure and Accreditation Standards  
In addition to the CACREP Course Standards and AAMFT core competencies indicated in the previous section, this course meets partial requirements for licensure as follows:

Mental Health Counselor Licensure  
This course is designed to meet some of the licensure requirements for Licensed Mental Health Counselor in Indiana. In addition, it meets some of the requirements for Licensed Professional Counselor and/or Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor in other states.
Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure

This course meets partial course requirements for marriage and family therapy licensure in Indiana and other states. The multiple choice exams in this class are designed to help prepare the student to take the national licensure exam for marriage and family therapy.

Course Requirements
1. Class attendance is required. In case an absence from a class period is unavoidable due to illness, contact the instructor by e-mail prior to class. In case the absence is due to an emergency, contact the instructor within 24 hours of the absence. If more than two class meetings are missed, the course grade normally received will typically be reduced by one full letter grade for the third absence. Unexcused absences will reduce the final grade. According to Seminary policy, no student may receive credit for a course if she or he misses more than 25% of the class sessions.
2. Thoughtful and constructive participation in class reflective of the required reading assignments and in response to questions from the instructor or peers. Participation will include individual and group work.
3. Biweekly online quizzes (5 total, see schedule below). Quizzes are due at the end of the Friday following each second week’s class meeting (Fridays 11:59 pm) for the material covered in these two weeks. All quizzes will consist of multiple choice or true/false questions. Quizzes will contain between 15 and 20 questions each, drawn randomly from a pool of questions. Quizzes will be available online after 6 pm on Tuesdays of the week of the quiz. The goal of the quizzes is twofold: to provide opportunity to practice material continuously throughout the course and to assess student learning on a continuous basis thus facilitating retention of key concepts and ideas of research methods. (40% of final grade [8% for each quiz]). FOR TECHNICAL HELP with access to the online quizzes, PLEASE CONTACT IT AT CTS.
4. Midterm Exam: in-class multiple choice exam assessing grasp of key concepts and ideas of research and required readings to date. (30% of final grade)
5. Final Exam: (30% of final grade)

CTS’s Use of Personal Technology in Classrooms Policy/Guideline:
"It is expected that students will use technology (cell phones, laptop computers, ipads, etc.) during classes only for the purposes of class work. Students should, therefore, turn off or mute cell phones during classes, refrain from texting and using laptop computers during classes except for purposes of taking notes or doing research specifically authorized by the course instructor. Students who have emergency needs not covered by this policy must ask for an exception from the course instructor."

Class Methods
The overall teaching methodology of this course integrates didactic lectures, class discussion, exercises, review of exercises, literature research, review of research articles, small groups, readings, quizzes and exams.

Grading Rubric
Grades will be determined by the number of points accumulated out of a total of 100 possible points.

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 - 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 - 92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 - 89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 - 86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 - 82</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>64 - 67</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60 - 63</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>56 - 59</td>
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<td>below 55</td>
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Class Schedule

INTRODUCTION

Week 1  Jan. 18  Introduction and Overview
Required Reading (16pp.): Jackson, Ch 1  Mod 1: Science & Psychology
Further Recommended Reading (see online course page):

Week 2  Jan. 25  Getting Started: Research Methods, Ideas & Ethics
Required Reading (64pp.): Jackson, Ch 1  Mod 2: An Introduction to Research Methods
Ch 2  Mod 3: Research ideas
Mod 4: Ethical Research
Further Recommended Reading:
Sprenkle etal  Ch 1  Pluralism, Diversity & Sophistication in PT Research

QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS

Week 3  Feb. 1  Variables & Culture
Required Reading (41pp.): Jackson, Ch 3  Mod 5: Defining, Measuring & Manipulating Variables
Mod 6: Reliability & Validity
Matsumoto  Ch 1-2 Intro to Cross-Cultural Issues in Research Methods
Further Recommended Reading:
Sprenkle etal  Ch 2  Graduate Student Guide to MFT Research
Beier, M., pp. 10-13, 33-130, 131-135: biological, psychosocial, existential-philosophical and theological dimensions of human experience; the symbolic process; searching for criteria for the health or sickness of religion: for example, the dynamic of fear vs. trust

Week 4  Feb. 8  Descriptive Methods
Required Reading (33pp.): Jackson, Ch 4  Mod 7: Observational & Qualitative Methods
Mod 8: Survey Methods
Further Recommended Reading:

Week 5  Feb. 15  Predictive (Relational) Methods
Required Reading (42pp.): Jackson, Ch 5  Mod 9: Conducting Correlational Research
Mod 10: Quasi-Experimental Designs
Mod 11: Conducting Single-Case Research
Further Recommended Reading:

Week 6  Feb. 22  Explanatory Methods
Required Reading (44pp.): Jackson, Ch 6  Mod 12: Between-Participants Experimental Designs
Mod 13: Correlated-Groups and Developmental Designs
Mod 14: Advanced Experimental Designs
Further Recommended Reading: TBA

Quiz #1 Due Jan. 28
Quiz #2 Due Feb. 11
Quiz #3 Due Feb. 25
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week 7</th>
<th>Mar. 1</th>
<th>Descriptive Statistics</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Required Reading (45pp.):</strong></td>
<td>Jackson, Ch 7</td>
<td>Mod 15: Data Organization, Central Tendency, &amp; Variance</td>
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<td>Mod 16: Transformation Scores &amp; Correlation Coefficients</td>
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**Further Recommended Reading:** TBA

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<tr>
<th>Mar. 8</th>
<th>READING WEEK – NO CLASS</th>
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<th>Week 8</th>
<th>Mar. 15</th>
<th>Inferential Statistics I</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Required Reading (39pp.):</strong></td>
<td>Jackson, Ch 8</td>
<td>Mod 17: Hypothesis Testing</td>
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<td>Mod 18: The t Test for Independent Groups</td>
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<td>Matsumoto Ch 3 Cultural Influences on Research Methods</td>
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**Further Recommended Reading:** TBA

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<tr>
<th>Week 9</th>
<th>Mar. 22</th>
<th>Inferential Statistics II</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required Reading (55pp.):</strong></td>
<td>Jackson, Ch 9</td>
<td>Mod 19: t Test for Correlated Groups (Samples)</td>
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<td>Mod 20: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)</td>
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<td>Matsumoto Ch 4-5 Cultural Influences on Data Analysis &amp; Tips for Research</td>
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**Further Recommended Reading:** TBA

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<th>Week 10</th>
<th>Mar. 29</th>
<th>Review Examples of Quantitative Research &amp; its Value for Clinical Practice</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Changes in clients' Images of God over the course of outpatient therapy. Counseling and Values 47:96-108.</td>
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**QUALITATIVE & MIXED RESEARCH METHODS**

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<th>Week 11</th>
<th>Apr. 5</th>
<th>Grounded Theory</th>
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**Further Recommended Reading:**

Sprenkle et.al., pp. 63-84: Ch. 4, Dahl & Boss, “The Use of Phenomenology for Family Therapy Research: The Search for Meaning.”
Week 12  Apr. 12  Process Research: Task Analysis


**Further Recommended Reading:**

Week 13  Apr. 19  EASTER RECESS – NO CLASS

Week 13  Apr. 26  Needs Assessment & Program Evaluation Studies

**Required Reading** (54+appx.): Sprenkle et.al., pp. 272-293: Ch. 15, Mancini, J. A. et. al., “Program Evaluation Science and Family Therapy.”

**Further Recommended Reading:**

Week 14  May 3  Final Exam

**READING LIST**

Required books are available for purchase at the CTS bookstore. Articles and book chapters will be posted on the course web page on InsideCTS in the section Course Documents.

**Required Readings:**

**Books**

- Access Free STUDENT COMPANION SITE online at:
  2. Then choose “Access now” for companion site with flashcards, glossary, tutorial quizzes, sample exams, and research methods workshops

**Book Chapters:**
Journal Articles

Online

Key Research Literature Resources:
Full Text Electronic library resources at CTS Library: http://www.cts.edu/Library

Journals (some are available full text electronically through the CTS library):
American Journal of Pastoral Counseling Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion
Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology Journal of Counseling Psychology
Journal of Marital and Family Therapy Journal of Pastoral Counseling
Journal of Religion and Health Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling
Pastoral Psychology Pastoral Sciences
Research in the Social Scientific Study of Religion The Qualitative Report

Further Recommended Readings, incl. examples of research studies (to be supplemented):
Books
**Book Chapters:**


Jones, E. E. (2000). *Therapeutic Action: A Guide to Psychoanalytic Therapy*. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson. Ch. 1, Modes of Therapeutic Action (pp. 1-35); Ch. 5, Interaction Structures in the Transference-Countertransference (pp. 157-208); Ch. 7, Studying Psychoanalytic Therapy (pp. 251-270); Ch. 8, Case Studies (pp. 271-313); Appendix: The Psychotherapy Process Q-set (PQS) Coding Manual (pp. 315-361).


**Journal Articles**


