

COUN 521 Syllabus Research in Counseling

Course Description

This course is designed to engage students in counseling research. Learning to become a competent and critical consumer of research is an important and necessary part of becoming a good counselor, and much of this course will focus on developing skills to evaluate counseling research. The other focus will be in preparing students to conduct their own research in Research Project (COUN 597). Students will continue the process towards a research project that reflects one or more of the unique and complex array of human problems, symptoms, and needs of Californians served by counselors. The central tasks of this course are for students to solidify their topic of interest for COUN 597 and to conduct a literature review.

Course Objectives

Students will be expected to:

- 1) Demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate both quantitative and qualitative research.
- 2) Solidify a counseling topic of personal interest that is relevant to community counseling in Southern California and immerse themselves in the literature of that topic.
- 3) Engage in peer review and provide constructive feedback to other students.
- 4) Construct a thematic literature review.
- 5) Demonstrate formal academic writing skills and utilization of APA style.

Pre-Requisites


COUN 530A or 530B or concurrent enrollment (or consent of faculty)
COUN 500, 511A or 511B, 518, 522A or 522B, 523, 527A or 527B, 528.

Student Learning Outcome Language

The Counseling department tracks aspects of student learning (known as Student Learning Objectives or SLOs) and Dispositions (Professionalism and Fitness for the Profession) in numerous classes as part of the CACREP accreditation requirements. This helps as a source of feedback on our teaching and lets us know how students are doing on average and individually. In some classes, the SLO's are assessed in the form of a rubric and in other classes it is simply a score from a paper or exam. There is nothing you need to do but be aware that the information will be used to track and evaluate your progress in the program and will be part of your student record. Please see detailed information in your Student Handbook, as well as the form for Dispositions (which can be assessed at any time, but is always assessed in COUN 511, 530, and 584). There are at least three times when a student's individual progress is formally examined by the faculty: (1) after they have completed their first semester; (2) at advancement to practicum (the semester prior to starting practicum); and (3) at advancement to research project (the semester prior to Final Project). At these points in time, all the assessment information (including any of the SLO assessments conducted, as well as information from advisement, course grades, and professor input) will be examined. The spirit of this is to make sure that you are on track, and if you are not, then our goal is to offer support and guidance so that you can get back on track. If there are serious concerns, this may involve a remediation process or, in rare cases, dismissal from the program. All of this information is outlined in your Student Handbook.

Calendar is only an example and may be quite different 2

Calendar

Tentative Schedule—Fall 2022				
Week	Topics	Reading	Assignment	
1	Course Introduction Overview of Sources	G & G Ch. 1 APA (pp. 4-9)	See CANVAS for weekly assignments	
2	Refining Topic Areas Evaluating Reviews	G & G Ch. 3		
3	Advanced Search Techniques Identifying Sources	G & G Ch. 2		
4	Critical Evaluation: Overview Preparing Summary Tables	G & G Chs. 4, 5		
5	Critical Evaluation Quantitative Research I	G & G Ch. 6		CEC #1
6	Critical Evaluation Quantitative Research II			CEC #2
7	Critical Evaluation Qualitative Research	G & G Ch. 7		CEC #3
8	Thematic Mapping	G & G Ch. 9		CEC #4 Summary Tables #1-5
9	<i>Open Consultation</i>		Draft Thematic Outline	
10	Writing the First Draft	G & G Chs. 10-12	Summary Tables #6-10	
11	<i>Open Consultation</i>		Lit Review Draft #1 & Thematic Outline	
12	Peer Feedback Thematic Development			
13	Peer Review Editing the Final Draft	G & G Appendix A	Lit Review Draft #2 (Peer Review Due TBD)	
Fall Break—No Classes				
14	Summary and Critique Peer Review: Thematic Outline		Research Journal Due Summary Tables #11-15	
15	<i>Open Consultation</i>		Final Thematic Outline	

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Final Literature Review Due (midnight)
