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PSYC 351-01, Advanced Methods in Community Psychology/Program Evaluation, Fall 2006

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Psychology 351 – Advanced Methods in Community Psychology/Program Evaluation
Fall 2006

Dr. Anita Davis
203 Clough Hall
843-3989 (office)
272-0885 (home, before 10 pm)

Class Meets: TR 11:00-12:15
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-3;
Other times by appointment.

Course Description:
In this advanced methods course, students will learn how to conduct research within a community psychology paradigm that stresses empowerment, a strengths versus deficits perspective, and giving back to the community in which one is working. Students will read and present relevant research, collect data within a community setting, analyze data using SPSS, write up findings in an APA-style paper, and present results orally. Prerequisites: Psychology 150, Psychology 200, Psychology 211.

Course Objectives:
(1) To expose students to the community psychology perspective on how to conduct research in community settings.
(2) To expose students to various aspects of the research process including conducting literature reviews, managing a data set, conducting data analysis, writing up research results in APA format, and disseminating results.
(3) To enhance students verbal skills by giving them the opportunity to make several presentations to peers on their work and additional readings throughout the semester.
(4) To expose students to a research-collaboration model in which they provide critical feedback to their peers on their research over the course of the semester, as well as, receive similar feedback on their own work.

Course Components:
I. Discussion Points/Class Participation (15%): Students are expected to attend all class meetings as class discussion and feedback to peers are critical to the success of the course. To help facilitate this, at least two students will be required to <u>each</u> prepare four to five discussion points for a designated class based on assigned readings. These discussion points should provide a brief amount of background information and raise an issue or question to help facilitate discussion. Each discussion point should be approximately a paragraph in length. Copies of the discussion points for all members of the class must be put on my door by 9:00 am on the day the readings are due. The class participation grade will be based on the quality of the student's discussion points, the student's ability to facilitate classroom discussion, and every student's overall level of participation in class discussions. If students have an excused absence on the day on which they are assigned to lead class discussion, they will be assigned additional readings for which they will write discussion points.

On days with no student discussion facilitators, each student is required to bring at least one discussion question to class based on the assigned readings.

II. Draft of Research Paper (15%): Each student will be expected to submit an initial draft of the literature review section of their part of the group paper. Sections on their research questions/hypotheses, preliminary analyses, and bibliography should also be included. Papers should be written according to APA style.

III. Research Paper (50%): Each student or student research group will conduct a research project and submit a final paper based on their work. Papers must be written according to APA style (5th edition of the Publication Manual). Students will be assigned research projects in consultation with me. Options for the project include continuing ongoing work with a faculty member or working on one of several research projects that are ongoing in my lab. The final paper should be approximately 20-25 pages excluding references, tables, and figures. The amount of weight given to each of the different components of the paper will be as follows:

A.	Abstract	2%
B.	Literature Review	15%
C.	Method Section	10%
D.	Results Section	10%
E.	Discussion	13%

Late papers will be penalized by ½ letter grade for each day that they are late.

IV. Professional Presentation (10%): Each student or student research group will be required to present their work to a public professional audience. Examples of ways to satisfy this component of the course include presenting their work at a professional conference, presenting at an on-campus poster session, giving a professional power point presentation, or presenting their work to the non-profit agency for which they are "consulting."

V. Peer Group Evaluation (10%): To assess each student's contribution to the successful completion of group research projects, other group members will evaluate each student. All evaluations will be kept strictly confidential. For students working alone, these points will be distributed evenly between the class participation and oral presentation components of the course.

VI. Attendance Policy: Given the importance of class discussion/feedback, your final grade will be lowered by 2 points for each class that you miss. If you feel that you have a legitimate excuse for an absence, you should talk with me in advance.

Additional Notes: Many of your tasks will be carried out outside of class hours. For example, meetings with your community collaborators and data collection will typically have to take place at times other than class time. So, you are required to have some flexibility in your schedules to allow for these aspects of the course.

Day	Date	Assignment
Thursday	**August** 24	First day of class – Overview/Discussion of project options
Tuesday	29	Introduction to Community Psychology Theory
Thursday	31	Introduction to Community Psychology Theory (cont'd)
Tuesday	**September** 5	Scientific Research Methods
Thursday	7	The Importance of Social Change
Tuesday	12	Creating and Sustaining Social Change
Thursday	14	**No Class** – Group Meetings to Discuss Preliminary Research Questions
Tuesday	19	Discussion of Reading – Selected by Research Group in consultation with Dr. Davis
Thursday	21	Discussion of Reading – Selected by Research Group in consultation with Dr. Davis
Tuesday	26	Discussion of Reading – Selected by Research Group in consultation with Dr. Davis
Thursday	28	Research Consultation Time for Groups/Research Questions Due/Volunteer(s) for Lit Review Critique
Tuesday	**October** 3	Critique Lit Review Section
Thursday	5	**No Class -** Provide each group member with a draft of lit review
Tuesday	10	Provide typed feedback to group members on their literature review
Thursday	12	Research Team Meetings - TPA Abstract Due to me by Oct 13
Tuesday	17	**Fall break**
Thursday	19	**Draft of each student's literature review due to me along with:** **a. Tentative hypotheses/research questions and analysis plan (i.e., what analyses you plan to use and which questions/data you will use to answer each hypothesis/research question)** **b. Preliminary bibliography (be sure to indicate which articles you have in your possession and those you plan to retrieve)**
Tuesday	24	Research Team Meetings
Thursday	26	Research Team Meetings//Poster Consultation for those planning to attend TPA
Tuesday	31	Research Team Meetings/Poster Consultation for those planning to attend TPA
Thursday	**November** 2	Research Team Meetings/Poster Consultation for those planning to attend TPA
Tuesday	7	Research Team Meetings
Thursday	9	Research Team Meetings
Tuesday	14	Research Team Meetings
Thursday	16	**Last day to submit draft of entire paper to me for feedback**
Tuesday	21	Research Team Meetings
Thursday	23	Thanksgiving Break
Tuesday	28	Group Presentation
Thursday	30	Group Presentation
Tuesday	**December** 5	Last day of class – Group Presentation
Monday	11	Final Paper Due / Peer Group Evaluations Due

Numerical scores corresponding to letter grades for all assignments in the course

A	=	95-100
A-	=	90-94
B+	=	87-89
B	=	83-86
B-	=	80-82
C+	=	77-79
C	=	73-76
C-	=	70-72
D+	=	67-69
D	=	63-66
D -	=	60-62
F	=	Below 60

Honor Code: All work in this class is covered by the Honor Code.