

FYC 6932
Research Strategies in Family, Youth and Community Sciences
Section 7A69
Course Syllabus
Summer C 2017

Course Meeting Info: Tuesdays, Periods 4-5-6 12:30-4:45PM
Thursdays Periods 3-4 12:30PM-3:15PM
Rinker School of Building Construction Room 230

Credit Hours: 3 credits

Instructor: Dr. Rosemary V. Barnett
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Office Hours: Mondays 1:00-4:00p.m and by appointment.

Course Description.

This course focuses on the application of principles, practices, and strategies for conducting social and behavioral research in family, youth and community sciences.

Prerequisites.

- +Graduate Student Status/Thesis or Dissertation (Residential Only/not for Distance Ed.)
- +FYC 6800 or 6802 with C+ or above
- +Have a research topic approved by Committee Chair.
- +Abstract submitted to course Instructor that is signed/dated by your Committee Chair.
- +Chair here during summer course delivery for progress meetings.

Main Course Goals.

- Gain in-depth knowledge on the complex nature of preparing a thesis proposal.
- Identify the parts of each of the first three proposal chapters and understand the function of each chapter and each part.
- Practice writing drafts of each of the three proposal chapters and each part within each chapter.
- Process ideas, challenges, and progress on each phase of the thesis proposal.
- Use strategies that will help you make progress on your research design.
- Complete a working draft by the end of the course that may be reviewed by your committee as an initial draft of a thesis research proposal for your defense

Major Course Objectives.

- Be able to identify problems, challenges and issues that can be researched for your thesis topic.

- Review studies in a well-organized manner including the identification of topics and sub-topics in your literature review. Determine what landmark research studies have been completed on the identified thesis topic, as well as a review of more current studies.
- Identify an overarching theory that will guide the study.
- Effectively use library resources in your research.
- Follow APA style in preparing your research proposal.
- Identify 3-5 research questions that will be explored during the study. Align hypothesis to specify the test for the research questions.
- Determine the key variables that will be explored in the study.
- Create an appropriate research design for the study.
- Identify any barriers that may interfere with the development and execution of a quality study.
- Prepare a draft research proposal and gain feedback from the instructor and peers.

Required Reading.

Heppner, P.P. & Heppner, M.J. (2015). *Writing and Publishing Your Thesis, Dissertation and Research: A Guide for Students in the Helping Professions*. 1st Edition. ISBN-13:978-0534559748; ISBN-10: 0534559743. Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole Cengage Learning.

Barnett, R.V. (2015). *FYC 6932.How to Write a Winning Thesis Proposal -- Course Packet*. University of Florida Dept. of Family, Youth and Community Sciences. (On Canvas.)

American Psychological Association Publication Manual. APA. 6th Edition (2015). ISBN: 978-1433805615.

Course Expectations.

Participation in class should be thought provoking, reflective and conducive to the learning environment. Due to the varying levels of graduate students, we will all need to be patient and considerate of the learning curve related to understanding research as well as the thesis preparation process. Students must be aware of the UF Graduate School policy and procedures for Thesis/Dissertation, the scientific process, and have and work on your own ideas, as approved by your Chair and/or Committee.

Journal Articles. Students will be required to bring in individual journal articles related to their research topics as assigned during the course. These articles are to be summarized in annotation format, discussed in class (time permitting), and submitted for Assignment points, each approximately two (2) pages typed. Format will be provided in class. It is expected that you will help lead the discussion on your topic and actively participate.

Activities. In-class activities will be utilized to explore and discuss the thesis proposal process. Activities will be randomly selected and awarded points for grading purposes. You must be present to earn these points. Makeups for any reason are not allowed because these are in-class participation points.

Written Assignments. Most weeks, written assignments will be due on one meeting day and discussed the next week, allowing several days for completion (Thurs-Tues or Thurs-Thurs). Some in-class activities may focus on specific parts of the proposal for practice. (See APA Manual for relevant formatting.)

Course Assignments –

This course will focus on the development of a draft research proposal, therefore, it will lay out individual parts of the proposal with instructions and set deadlines. Some assignments are small steps in the process of proposal preparation that will lead you to completion of the larger parts. The weight of assignment grades will reflect the rigor and the amount of work required to complete each part.

[Note: Throughout this syllabus and the course, Chapters will be abbreviated as “C” with the number for each; i.e., C1 is abbreviated for Chapter One Introduction; C2 Chapter Two Review of Literature; and C3 Chapter Three Methods.]

Short Assignments. (Total 350 points max).

Assignments include short in-class and out-of-class activities that you will be instructed to complete during the semester. These assignments are to facilitate critical thinking about your thesis topic and in-class discussion. They will help you be more specific in regard to identifying your specific foci of your study. There will be four short activities at **3% each for a total of 12% of your grade.** These short assignments will be submitted at the appropriate chapter level on Canvas. Annotations will begin right away, leading toward enough recent research to begin the Chapter Two literature review. A thesis or dissertation will be required for you to use during the course that is close to your topic and will be a good model for you to examine as you write your own proposal. You will need to go to the Library website and search for this. These short assignments will only be submitted one time and may not be redone to earn more points during Summer B, therefore, it is important to get them done, to do them well, and submit them on Canvas on time.

Including:

+(A) Journal Article Annotations (17) @1% each/170 points total +Thesis/Diss. Example @3%/30 points total= 200 points total.

Journal Articles: Students will be required to bring in individual journal articles related to their research topics as assigned during the course. These articles are to be summarized in annotation format (see Handouts on Canvas), discussed in class (time permitting), and submitted for Assignment points, each approximately two (2) pages typed. Format will be provided in class.

Thesis Example: To replace three of the 20 required annotations, you will find a thesis to use as your model throughout the course. Submit the citation for the thesis and the Abstract on Canvas for your 3%/30 points.

(B)+In-Class Activities/Out of Class Write-ups (4@3%/30 points each/120 points total).

(1) Purpose Statement (C1) and Variables; (C1) (3%/30 points): Write one clear purpose statement focusing on the variables in your study. Later, this will be turned into a one-page Purpose of Study for Chapter One.

(2) RQ's & Ho's (C1) (3%/30 points): Write your research questions (RQ). For this class, narrow it down to no more than three. For each RQ, write a corresponding hypothesis (Ho). Place the Hypothesis under the RQ in your document. Try to have directionality in your questions and hypotheses and have your numbering align (Ex: RQ₁, Ho₁; RQ₂, Ho₂; etc.).

(3) Theory ID; (C2) (3%/30 points): Submit a one-page description of your theory with the name, who is credited for its' development, and a brief overview of how it operates.

(4) Research Roadmap (C3) 3%/30 points): Complete the Research Roadmap form electronically and submit it here for your last 30-point Activity. Because this is capturing the heart of your study, this will be due with C₃.

(C) Checkpoints (3): Meetings with Chair for checkpoint approvals (3@1% each/30 points total): Ten points will be awarded (worth 1% of your final grade each) for meeting with your thesis Chair three times during the course to discuss your progress.

Chapter I. Introduction (Total 100 points max).

Chapter One will be on the Introduction to your research topic. This first chapter will be required as an initial step in the writing process. This should include a first draft of all of the sections we discuss in class. Each part will be written using research references to provide support. Research support for *each* part must consist of a minimum of **two journal articles** or relevant book chapters or citations.

Font: Times New Roman 12 pt., paper and references in APA format; double-spaced; 1" margins. Suggested Length: 8 pp. including six references. (Prepare a separate Reference list and attach it to your assignment at the end.)

Chapter II. Review of Literature (Total 200 points max).

Chapter Two is a very detailed review of the research literature related to your research topic. Since points are given for each annotated article, this chapter is for the summary of what you have completed and synthesized. It is not based on a copy/paste of your annotations into chapter format. It is based on your ability to take the annotations and summarize them. Use string references as often as possible to review current literature by topic and sub-topic. Discuss landmark studies and theory based literature more in-depth. Complete two parts of your Chapter Two. Part (a) will be your theory-related review of literature. Part (b) will be your review of current research studies. Suggested length: Part A Theory—9 pp; Part B Research Studies—14 pp.

- *Literature Review: Journal Article Annotations.* Annotations will primarily consist of researching journal articles and preparing a summary of the article in an annotated format that will be conducive to enhancing learning and promoting thesis progress. These count as short assignments but work toward your draft of Chapter Two. A minimum of 17 journal article annotations will be completed during this term for 1% each for a total of 17% of your grade. Second, the identification of a Theory is the other short assignment to be completed prior to drafting Chapter 2.
- *Chapter Two Review of Literature.* From the prior short assignments, you will begin to write your draft by synthesizing the literature. It is best to sort your journal articles into sub-categories by topics, ranging from major to minor. An outline of your Chapter Two will be instrumental in assisting you to produce a well-organized chapter.

Chapter III. Methods (Total 200 points max)

Chapter Three will lay out the research plan for your study. In this chapter, the parts will detail how you propose to conduct your research. This chapter is important and must be well thought

out. It is based on your ability to describe the research process. This chapter will include (but is not limited to) the

- Purpose and Objectives of the study;
- a description of the Population;
- a description and example of the Survey Instrument(s)
- as well as a Justification for the Instrument(s);
- a description of the Data Collection Procedures;
- and the plan for the Data Analysis.

Suggested length—15-18pp. including minimum of six references

Presentation & Slides (Total 150 points max). This will bring your proposal to the presentation stage. You will prepare your draft slides for review. You will do a short presentation to your fellow classmates for feedback in a safe environment. You may not present unless you have completed a first draft of Chapters 1, 2 and 3. If you have not completed your proposal, you may submit written slides but not present. This is worth 15% of your grade. The slides are valued at 5% and your presentation is valued at 10% of your final grade, therefore, it is imperative that you make as much progress on Chapter 1-3 as possible. Suggested length: 14 slides/2 minutes each; 30-minute presentation plus Q/A 10-15 min.

Late Assignment Policy: (-6) points for each late assignment during Summer A. Assignments are not accepted more than 1 day (24 hours from the start of class) late and then a grade of zero is given. Final submissions during Summer B are not allowed late due to time constraints for grading.

UF POLICIES

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities

The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation

0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

University Policy on Academic Honesty

As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity." You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your

individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>.

University Policy on Attendance and make-up work

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Online course evaluation process

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open for students to complete during the last two or three weeks of the semester; students will be notified of the specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

Software Use

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Getting Technical Help

For technical difficulties with Canvas or elearning, please contact the UF Help Desk at:
Learning-support@ufl.edu
(352) 392-HELP - select option 2
<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Helping Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available for both on and off campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance. Some services are only available to on campus students.

University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575,
www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/
Counseling Services
Groups and Workshops
Outreach and Consultation
Self-Help Library
Wellness Coaching
U Matter We Care, www.umatter.ufl.edu/

Career Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, www.crc.uf

Grading Scale

A	92-100
A-	90-91
B+	87-89
B	82-86
B-	80-81
C+	77-79
C	72-76
C-	70-71
D+	67-69
D	62-66
D-	60-61
E	<60

Grading Criteria

Assignments & Weekly Participation (TOTAL)	%	Points
Including: (A) +Journal Article Annotations (17) @1% each +Thesis/Diss. Example @3% (B) +In-Class Activities/Out of Class Write-ups (5@3% each). (1) Purpose Statement/Variables; (C1) (3) RQ's ;Ho's (C1) (4) Theory ID; (C2) (5) Research Roadmap (C3) (C) Checkups (3) with Chair (progress meetings).	TOTAL: 35% (A) 17% JA's+ 3% Thesis/ Diss. Example= 20% total (B) 4 activities@ 3%=12% total (C) Checkups with Chair = 3% Total	350 170 30 200 total points 120 30 150 total points
<i>Chapter 1 Introduction Draft.</i> Suggested Minimum Length: 8-10 pp. Typed double spaced. TNR 12 pt. font, 1" margins	TOTAL: 10%	100 POINTS
<i>Chapter 2 Review of Literature Draft (20%):</i> Suggested Minimum Length: 20-25 pp. total; 2 parts @~10-13 pages each. Typed double spaced. Part A (theory related) 10pp. Part B (recent research) 10-15pp.	PART A 10% PART B 15% TOTAL: 25%	PART A 100 points + PART B 150 points= 250 total points
<i>Chapter 3 Methods Draft</i> Suggested Minimum Length: 12-15pp.	TOTAL: 15%	150 points
Presentation & Slides. Suggested Length: 14 slides; 30 minutes + Q/A 10-15 min.	SLIDES: 5% PRES: 10% TOTAL: 15%	50 points 100 points 150 total points
TOTAL	100%	1000 total points