**Assignment 5: Cross-Sectional Design**

This is a **Team Assignment.** Your task is to develop a cross-sectional research design that addresses the same problem issue or need you identified for Assignment 4. I ask exactly the same questions below that I asked for Assignment 4. You must decide what to change and what to leave as it was – no change required. If you decide that the response for Assignment 4 was adequate for a given question, just copy and paste that response into this document. **But when you need to change a response, put your response in a different color like this sentence. Pick any color you want. I suspect I will become quite testy if I spend a lot of time reading your response only to discover that it is exactly what you said in Assignment 4. Let’s not make me testy☹.** The general rules remain unchanged from Assignment 4 and I do not repeat them here. **One team member should submit the assignment in Canvas. The title should contain the last name of your team members in alphabetical order and the phrase Assignment 5, e.g. Bones\_Klee\_Yazdat­\_food\_insecurity\_Assignment5.**

**Part 1: Developing a Design**

1. State the problem, issue or need that informs the topic of your research.
2. State the research question clearly, preferably in a single sentence, no more than two or three sentences. You will need more than one sentence if there are two or more factors in your question. Assignment 5 requires that you use a cross-sectional design. You will need to adjust your question to “fit” the design. You almost assuredly have to change the research question.
3. State the objectives of your study What you intend to contribute to the body of knowledge as a result of *this study*.
4. What kind of conclusions do you anticipate producing – descriptive, explanatory, theory-based, or perhaps action oriented (like policy recommendations), etc.?
5. How will you generalize the conclusions you reach in the study (statistical or theoretical generalization)?
6. Will you implement an intervention (treatment) as part of the study? If yes, briefly describe the intervention.
7. Will you have a temporal component in the study – take measurements at two or more points in time? Explain when you will take measurements (like pre- and post-test) or the events that will trigger data collection.
8. What are the critical traits of the theoretical population(s) for this study (e.g., the criteria you will use to identify and select participants)?
9. Identify one or more accessible populations.
10. How will you assign participants to treatment and comparison groups?
11. What is the sampling logic for your design – replication or statistical sampling?
12. What kind of sample will you take? Be specific, such as random sample with proportional representation among three different age groups. Or referral sampling with a minimum of three tiers of respondents.
13. How will you determine sample size? (Do not try to determine the sample size – you do not have the needed information to do that. Explain the factors you will consider in determining sample size.)
14. How will you analyze the data – you do not need to provide detail. Indicate whether you will use statistical or qualitative approaches or both and the general type of analytic procedure – such as statistical tests of differences between mean values of the outcome variable(s).

**Part 2: Assessing Your Design.** The objective of Part 2 is for you to identify strengths and weaknesses in your design *from the perspective of research design.* Focus on the aspects of your design with regard to their impacts (positive or negative) on internal validity, external validity and the potential contributions your study can make to the body of knowledge. List the greatest weaknesses and the greatest strengths of your proposed design with regard to each of the three critical parameters and briefly explain why you think it is a weakness or a strength. **Word limit: 500 per parameter.**

1. Explanatory power
2. Internal validity
3. External validity
4. Conclude with a discussion of no more than 500 words that summarizes “lessons learned” about designing experiments.

**Assessment Criteria for Assignment 5**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Assessment Criteria** | **Possible Points** | **Your Points** |
| Followed instructions, including full APA citations and references  Used your own words in responding to the questions | 50 |  |
| The design chosen is appropriate for the research question  Theoretical population is well-described and appropriate for the research question  If needed, design includes comparison groups  The objectives draw on the strengths of the design chosen  Sampling approach is based on appropriate sampling logic for the design chosen and incorporates procedures to assure the quality of the sample  The chosen analytic techniques are appropriate for the design selected and can result in high internal validity  Whether quantitative or qualitative, analytic procedures are appropriate for analyzing the data that result from the study  Planned generalization is appropriate for the research question and can generate differences between the specific results that the study will generate and the broader contributions to the body of knowledge that the researcher will be able to make (the conclusions)  Explained whether generalization will be theoretical or statistical and identified the specific strengths of the study with regard to statistical and/or theoretical generalization | 75 |  |
| Consulted, cited and referenced extensiverequired and additional materials about all components in the design and all decisions made  Demonstrates a good understanding of the logic of the design – the “fit” between the planned protocol and the planned conclusions and additions to the body of knowledge  Used and referenced the literature and other materials about internal and external validity and explanatory power | 75 |  |
| **Total Possible Points** | **200** |  |

