I. Course Title: Research Methods in Psychology
   Course Number: PSY 767
   Credits: 3
   Date of Revision: May 2005

II. Course Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of an introductory course in statistics.

III. Catalogue Description:

   This course is designed to give students the necessary background in psychological research design needed to understand, interpret and evaluate proposed and published research in the behavioral sciences. The focus is on acquiring the skills to critically evaluate a research report, analyze and interpret data, and to write a research paper. This course is designed to provide the background for students desiring to conduct a masters level research thesis in the behavioral sciences.

IV. Competencies Addressed:

   Research – systematic problem-finding and problem-solving skills in both applied and formal research settings. This would include hypothesis testing, data analysis, drawing conclusions, and the ability to evaluate and critique existing professional research.

V. Course Objectives:

   A. To acquire a working knowledge of basic and advanced research techniques including: observational research, survey research, correlational research, experimental research, quasi-experimental research, program evaluation, and meta-analysis.

   B. To be able to identify the relevance of and apply the principles of scholarly research to applied problems.

   C. To critically evaluate research designs, research proposals, and published works by identifying strengths and weaknesses.

   D. To become proficient in developing and writing a research proposal or literature review in APA format.

   E. To become proficient in conducting on line literature searches.
VI. Course Outline:

A. Introduction to the Research Process

1. Theory
2. Ethics
3. Hypotheses and Predictions
4. Variables and Operational Definitions
5. Reliability of Results / Replication
6. Internal and External Threats to Validity
7. Sampling
8. Review of Statistical Procedures

B. Ethics in Research

1. Human Participants
2. Animal Subjects
3. Field Studies
4. Implications of Individual Variables in Research
   a. Culture
   b. Race
   c. Gender
   d. Abilities

C. Scientific Procedures in Psychological Research

1. Observational Techniques
2. Correlational Techniques
3. Experimental Techniques
4. Quasi-Experimental Techniques
5. Single Subject Research
6. Program Evaluation
7. Meta Analysis

D. Communicating research Inferences

1. APA format report
2. APA format research proposal
3. Applied implications for practitioners, parents, and teachers
VII. **Teaching Methodology:**

New topics will be introduced in a lecture format followed by small group work and discussion to facilitate comprehension and application of the material under study.

Students will need access to library resources and word processing program.

VIII. **Evaluation of the Student:**

A. Article Critiques ~ Students will read, evaluate, and complete structured written critiques of articles representing each research technique.

B. Research Proposal or Literature Review (See Appendix A)

C. In class Exams

IX. **Bibliography:**

American Psychological Association (1982) *Ethical principles in the conduct of research with human participants.* Washington, DC: Author


IX. Bibliography (continued):


