Reference Textbooks:


Course Objectives:

1. Review how to formulate a good research question, design a method of investigation, and use the literature to generate ideas and substantiate proposals.
2. Describe the differences between empirical/quantitative/positivist (experimental, quasi-experimental, correlational) and qualitative/constructivist research (case study, phenomenological, descriptive, narrative, ethnography).
3. Define and understand basic statistical concepts used in psychological research, including effect size, statistical significance, probability, null hypothesis, operationalizing variables, correlations, variance, reliability, validity, samples, and meta analysis.
4. Learn to critically evaluate the quality of empirical and conceptual research and identify strengths, limitations, and weaknesses of designs and conclusions.
5. Describe the controversy and discrepant views regarding research in the field of psychoanalysis (science vs hermeneutics debate).
6. Articulate why research is important to the field of psychoanalysis, and describe research findings that support the effectiveness of psychoanalysis and the existence and impact of unconscious processes.
7. Describe the professional ethics involved in conducting research with humans, including informed consent, anonymity, privacy, confidentiality, and protection from harm. Know the ethics of authorship.
8. Demonstrate knowledge of key regulatory and ethical principles governing the practice of research as covered in the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) courses.

Class #1: Sun Sept 25th 11:30-2, Thinking Critically & The Debate about Research in Psychoanalysis (Guest lecturer Dr. Philipson)

Explore the controversy over research in the field of psychoanalysis. Discuss what it means to think critically, formulate good research questions and design appropriate methods of investigation.
Readings:


Class #2: Dec 10th 2:30-5pm, Statistics & Evaluation of Research (Dr. Birkhofer):

The below optional readings from the three textbooks provide background for the lectures (handouts will be provided). We will review basic statistical concepts, discuss the differences between qualitative and quantitative research, and learn how to critically evaluate research. Sample studies will be evaluated and critiqued in class.

Optional Readings:
Morgan book- Understanding & Evaluating Research in Applied & Clinical Settings
Chapters 1, 2, 3 (quantitative & qualitative research), Chapters 4, 5, 6 (ethics & variables),
Chapter 19 (evaluating the validity of a research design), Chapter 34 (evidence based treatment), Chapter 35 (meta analysis), Chapter 36 (effect size and statistical significance),
Chapter 37 (framework for comprehensive evaluation of a research study). Handouts provided.

Creswell book- Qualitative Inquiry & Research Design
Pgs 36-37 (interpretative frameworks & philosophical beliefs), pgs 42-66 (designing a qualitative study), pgs 97-107 (comparing 5 approaches), pgs 129-143 (introducing & focusing a study),
pgs 243-255 (standards of validation & evaluation), Chapter 11 & appendix F (example of same story approached 5 different ways). Handouts provided.


Class #3: Jan 27th 2:30-5pm, The Importance of Psychoanalytic Research (Dr. Birkhofer)

Read articles for class discussion on the relevance and importance of research in the field of psychoanalysis. Prepare three comments/questions to help initiate discussion for each article.

Articles:


Week 4: Feb 2017, Complete one of the three Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative courses-

CITI phone: 888-529-5929, CITI website: www.citiprogram.org):

Human Subject Research- The HSR series covers the historical development of human subjects protections, as well as current information on regulatory and ethical issues.

Week 5: March 2017 (complete a second CITI online course)

Information Privacy & Security- The IPS series covers the principles of data protection, focusing on the healthcare-related privacy and information security protections of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Week 6: April 2017 (complete the last of the three required CITI courses)

Responsible Conduct of Research- The RCR series covers core norms, principles, regulations, and rules governing the practice of research.

Email me verification that you have completed and passed all three courses by May 1st, 2017.