

Holos University Graduate Seminary

737: Quantitative Research Methods (3 credits)
Spring/Summer Semester – March - July
Fall/Winter Semester – August - January
Spring and Fall, 2013

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REQUIRED TEXTS:

Benor, D. (2001). *Spiritual Healing: Scientific Validation of a healing revolution – professional supplement*. Southfield, MI: Vision Publications. ISBN: 1-886785-12-0;
Supplemental Reading Packet. To be ordered by mail or purchased from instructors at residential (on CD).
Kazdin, A.E. (2003). *Research Design in Clinical Psychology, 4th Edition*. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon. ISBN: 0-205-33292-7; and
Lewith, G., Jonas, W.B., & Walach, H (Eds.) (2002). *Clinical research in complementary therapies: Principles, problems, and solutions*. New York, N.Y.: Churchill Livingstone. ISBN: 0-443-06367-2.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Benor, D. (2004). *Consciousness Bioenergy and Healing: Self-Healing and Energy Medicine for the 21st Century*. Medford, NJ: Wholistic Healing Publications. ISBN: 0-9754248-0-7.
Braud, W., & Anderson, R. (1998). *Transpersonal research methods for the social sciences: Honoring human experience*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. ISBN: 0-7619-1013-1; (NOTE: This is an outstanding resource for information on qualitative research, a topic which will not be covered in this course).
Campbell, D. T., & Stanley, J. C. (1963). *Experimental and quasi-experimental designs for research*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Co. ISBN: 0-395-30787-2;
Jonas, W. B. & Crawford, C. C. (Eds.) (2003). *Healing, Intention and Energy Medicine: Science, research methods and clinical implications*. New York: Churchill Livingstone. ISBN: 0-443-07237-X.
Kazdin, A. E. (2003). *Methodological Issues & Strategies in Clinical Research, 3rd Edition*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. ISBN: 1-55798-958-3; and
Rosenthal, R. & Rosnow, R. L. (1991). *Essentials of behavioral research: Methods and data analysis*. New York, NT: McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 0070539294.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course has a one-day required Fall Residency thus it is available only in the Fall semester. Students may petition the instructors if an exception is required to avoid delay in their progress toward the degree they are seeking. An innovative, hands-on approach for understanding basic research methodology. This course presents a conceptual overview that provides a broad understanding of scientific research in the emerging field of holistic spiritual healing. The course will include learning about how research, in general, is conceived and

accomplished. At one end of the continuum is the conception of the study. At the other end is the actual research design and protocol for carrying out the study. To enhance the relevancy of the methodological assignments, students will apply those assignments to a hypothetical prototype study of their choice.

Specific Course Objectives:

- a) To provide a general exposure to various research designs, their strengths, and their limitations;
- b) To develop an understanding of internal and external threats to validity and strategies to minimize these threats;
- c) To understand the ethical considerations involved in research, and create consent forms appropriate to a hypothetical prototype project;
- d) To identify an appropriate research design and methodology for testing hypotheses; and
- e) To understand the elementary aspects of writing a research proposal based on an appropriate research methodology.

COURSE AUDIENCE:

This course is open to all graduate students in the Holos University Graduate Seminary Spiritual Healing Program (Th.M. or Th.D.). It is designed to be taken early in the graduate program.

FACULTY-STUDENT COMMUNICATION

- **Telephone Contacts:** Students are invited and encouraged to telephone the instructors if email communication does not satisfactorily answer questions. Students will need to arrange by email beforehand for all telephone communications. Telephone interaction will be at student's expense
- **Communications:** Students are expected to have an active email account, and it is recommended that, for the purposes of optimum feedback, students check their account at least every-other day during the course. As sometimes an email account experiences problems, students are asked to initiate contact with the professors if they have not had any email contact by the professors during the previous week. Do not assume e-mails have been received until you receive a response in words, not an automatic response.

Students are expected to submit papers as Microsoft Word files. Papers are to be sent in the normal Word format, NOT in Rich Text Format (.rtf). Filenames must include 737 and assignment number and the same information must appear in the Subject line of the covering e-mail message.

CONFERENCE CALLS

This course has one conference call. The conference call will take place at a time determined at or shortly after the residential has taken place, once we can assess the schedules of all participants. Instructions (including the number to call and the access code) will be supplied to all students once the call is scheduled, shortly after the residential has taken place and participants have coordinated a time which will work for all.

COURSE DELIVERY STYLE:

This course is offered as a primarily distance course with a one-day residency. It is incumbent upon the student to maintain a clear line of communication with the professors

throughout the course. More frequent communications should be requested by the student if the student feels confused around the readings or the assignments.

COURSE GRADE:

Final course grades will be either A, B, C, H (Honors), or I (Incomplete). The course grade will be based *on criteria located on the Holos Website*.

All assignments will be returned with comments and/or guidance for improvement. If the assignments are not all completed by the last day of class (as per the Holos website calendar), an Incomplete will be assigned unless the Incomplete is more than two semesters old, in which case an Unsatisfactory will be assigned. Materials sent electronically after those dates will not be considered. Remember, do not assume e-mail has been received until you receive a personalized response.

COURSE EVALUATIONS:

You will receive a course evaluation form via email prior to the end of the class.

You will receive notification of your final course grades only after you have submitted an evaluation for this and all other courses you have *completed* this semester.

Students who plan to take an *Incomplete* in a course should wait until *finishing* the course before filling out the form.

As per Holos University policy, Transcripts will be provided only to students who have, on file, an evaluation form for each course they have completed during their academic program.

SMALL GROUPS:

While all of the assignments are designed to be completed individually, some students may benefit from working with other students in a small group format. This is acceptable, as long as the final product turned in for each module has been thoughtfully reviewed for completeness, stylistic flow, and consistent with APA 5th edition formatting.

FULFILLING THE ASSIGNMENTS:

An Assignment Calendar of due dates will be sent to students at the beginning of the semester. Negotiate and put in writing all deviations from the syllabus to accommodate any handicap or special educational goals or circumstances. Feel free to recommend, in writing, any changes we can negotiate by the end of the second week of the first month of the semester to assure that the role this course plays in your learning contract will be as effective as possible.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Please refer to the official Holos policy on Academic Integrity which is located on the Holos website.

GRIEVANCES:

If you are unable to come to an acceptable understanding with Monika and David on any issue related to the course then address your concerns about that issue to the Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr. Robert Nunley.

MODULE ASSIGNMENTS - Brief Sketch

(more detailed instructions are included in the CD obtained at the residential; **do NOT answer assignment from the brief sketch, below; answer from the assignment documents on the CD**)

(See Reading Schedule Chart that follows)

Assignment for Module 1: Identify one (or more if you would like to change topics for different assignments) broad research topic which will be used throughout the course. Then, compose a paper considering the following:

- 1) conceptually describe what methodology is and why it is important to the field of spiritual healing;
- 2) specifically, address some of the limitations of the current methodological paradigms that exist to evaluate the effects of spiritual healing interventions; and
- 3) offer suggestions (from the readings in addition to your own thoughts) on how to overcome those limitations.

READ: Assignments in Reading Schedule (supplied at the beginning of the semester).

WRITE: Submit the assignment of four to seven pages in length.

Assignment for Module 2: You learn how to access and search the literature databases (such as PubMed, Medline, ERIC (educational research database), PsychInfo, etc.) available online, at public libraries, and research libraries. You identify one empirical article and one non-empirical references, and offer insight as to how the respective references relate to the identified research topic for this module.

READ: Assignments in Reading Schedule (supplied at the beginning of the semester).

WRITE: Submits the composite assignment of two to four pages

Assignment for Module 3: Choose one experimental or quasi-experimental design which has been covered in the readings thus far. Take your research topic for this assignment, and describe what a study would look like if carried out under that design. This assignment needs to include under what conditions this design would be more or less desirable/feasible to use in the study. You also need to include potential strengths as well as potential weaknesses (internal, external validity) for the design. You will be supplied with a list of at least a dozen designs from which to choose.

READ: Assignments in Reading Schedule (supplied at the beginning of the semester).

WRITE: Each student submits a three- to five- page report.

Assignment for Module 4: You answer a series of questions about how to select subjects for the research topic presented in this module. You also need to apply some thought as to where the study will be carried out, and how to go about getting the help of any coordinating institutions (if necessary).

READ: Assignments in Reading Schedule (supplied at the beginning of the semester).

WRITE: Each submits a three- to five- page report.

Assignment for Module 5: This assignment asks you to consider and articulate different threats to the validity of your study (internal, external, construct, etc.) and how to control for these threats. You answer short questions that demonstrate an understanding of basic terminology related to confounds, artifacts, and bias (covered in the readings).

READ: Assignments in Reading Schedule (supplied at the beginning of the semester).

WRITE: Fill in short answers to a questionnaire and a two- to four- page report.

Assignment for Module 6: Assignment 6 has you view a PowerPoint presentation in which you will learn about federal guidelines and subject safeguards when conducting research with human subjects. Note that this presentation is adapted from the University of Kansas and is intended to teach you about compliance with federal regulations with research – it is not a document which has been officially adopted by HUGS. You also learn how to construct a consent form which could be used for the research topic for this week’s module.

READ: Assignments in Reading Schedule (supplied at the beginning of the semester).

WRITE: Complete a one- page assignment and create a consent form.

Final Assignment: You integrate the information presented in the previous modules and create a written research proposal to carry out a hypothetical study; you write up a methodological report on how the study was (could be) carried out; and you address the other components as described in the area in the syllabus, below. Although this assignment is to be completed individually, students are encouraged to engage in any interaction with each other that they find helpful.

Final Assignment - A Prototype. Include a hypothetical description of

- 1). The apparatus, tests, or observation sheets,
- 2). The subjects and how they were selected,
- 3). The prototype research design,
- 4) The dependent and independent variables
- 5). The interviewers/implementers and their training (if applicable),
- 6) A detailed explanation of the protocol used for the study
- 7). The physical setting in which the data were collected and the study was carried out,
- 8). Instructions to the subjects (mention of any special problems that arose.)
- 9). Appendices: include your prototype Informed Consent as well as applicable cover letters and/or detailed procedures (as necessary). Describe any pilot tests or reliability checks made on the procedures or equipment.
- 10). A description of the limitations of your design with recommendations for strengthening the study.

READ: Assignments in Reading Schedule (supplied at the beginning of the semester).

WRITE: Submit the assignment of 10 to 15 pages, plus appendices.

Make sure all materials to be submitted for evaluation by the dates identified on the Reading Schedule. Materials sent electronically after that time may not be considered unless prior arrangements have been made with the professors, in advance.