Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should <u>not</u> be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

COUN 503
RESEARCH AND PROGRAM EVALUATION

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students learn the importance of scientific inquiry in the fields of counseling and marriage and family therapy. Emphasis is on research methods (designs, statistical anaylsis, needs assessment, and program evaluation) and locating, interpreting, and evaluating research and program evaluation articles that inform evidence-based practice. Ethical and cultural relevance is also addressed.

RATIONALE

Increasingly, empirical methods are used to justify or criticize the usage of particular counseling approaches in therapy. Government, private foundations, and corporations are asking for program evaluations to determine the merits of each program's continued funding. Spiritual interventions are being explored for their utility in therapy. In short, the scientific method, counseling, and Christian intervention strategies are intersecting. Counselors with through knowledge of research strategies will shape both what psychotherapy looks like and how effective those interventions are in the counseling setting.

I. PREREQUISITES

MATH 201 or equivalent

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment

B. Internet access (broadband recommended)

C. Microsoft Word
(Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to Liberty University students.)

D. Web Calculator or hand calculator

E. *Holy Bible*

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

A. Explain the role of scientific research in advancing the counseling profession.

B. Differentiate various research methods (e.g., descriptive, predictive, and explanatory) and research designs (e.g., experiemental, quasi-experimental, singl-case designs, action research, and outcome-based research.) In addition, they will describe each of the research methods and designs.

C. Apply various statistical principles and conduct statistical analyses that are often used in counseling related research and program evaluations.

D. Describe various models of program evaluation and action research.

E. Critique research articles and examine the evidence-based practice.

F. Articulate ethical and legal principles of clinical research.

G. Assess the utility and limitations of the scientific method in the study of the Christian integration in counseling.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes

B. Discussion Board Forums (4)

During this course, students will complete four forums. Each forum will test the students ability to review counseling articles focusing on research. Forums will be completed in two parts: a thread and reply. Each thread should be 200–250 words and provide insight to what is learned. A 50-word reply should be substantive and meaningful. Threads are due Thursday of the module/week assigned, and the reply is due Sunday of the module/week assigned.

C. Web Calulator Exercises

Students will complete five Web Calculator Exercises during the course. These exercises will help students understand descriptive statistical information and statistical analysis by completing hands-on calculations. To complete these assignments, students can use an online calculator, or a regular calculator. These exercises are due in Modules/Weeks 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7.

D. Christian Worldview Papers (2)

Each Christian Worldview Paper will give students an opportunity to focus on Christian values and research design. Paper 1 will focus on knowledge and truth and Paper 2 will focus on specific passages in Scripture that relate to research design and the scientific method. Grading rubrics are provided for each paper. APA is required for both papers. Christian Worldview Paper 1 is due Module/Week 3 and Christian Worldview Paper 2 is due Module/Week 7.

E. Lin Article Critique

The Lin Article Critique will be completed in three parts. Each part will review a specific section of the Lin article *Effects of Forgiveness Therapy on Anger, Mood, and Vulnerabiltity to Substance Use Among Inpatient Substance-Dependent Clients*. Each part has detailed instructions and a grading rubric available through Blackboard. Part 1 is due Module/Week 2; Part 2 is due Module/Week 5; Part 3 is due Module/Week 7.

F. Orathinkal Article Critique

Students will summarize and critique Orathinkal's article *Forgiveness: A Perception and Motivation Study Among Married Adults*. The 8-page critique should discuss the key areas of concern or strength for each component of the article. APA format is required and a grading rubric is provided to ensure an outstanding grade. The critique is due Module/Week 8.

G. Quizzes (4)

Students will complete four open-book, non-cumulative, multiple-choice & true/false quizzes. Each quiz has 25 questions and covers material from the textbook readings and the presentations. Students will have 60 minutes to complete each quiz.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Discussion Board Forums (4 at 40 pts ea)	160
Web Calculator Exercises (5 at 40 pts ea)	200
Christian Worldview Papers (2 at 90 pts ea)	180
Lin Article Critique	
Part 1	80
Part 2	40
Part 3	40
Orathinkal Article Critique	100
Quizzes (4 at 50 pts ea)	200
Total	1000

B. Scale

A = 940–1000 A- = 920–939 B+ = 900–919 B = 860–899 B- = 840–859

C+ = 820–839 C = 780–819 C- = 760–779 D+ = 740–759 D = 700–739

D- = 680–699 F = 679 and below

C. Email Policy: Emails will be sent using students' Liberty email address only. Students are responsible for checking their email, blackboard, and announcements page daily. Instructors will respond to emails within 24–48 hours. Feedback for assignmnents will be provided at the instructor's discretion.

D. Late Policy

Papers/projects:

1. 5% deduction per day.

2. No assignment will be accepted seven (7) days after original due date without written approval from the professor. This approval must be sought prior to assignment due date.

3. Discussion Boards:

No Discussion Board posts accepted after DB has closed without prior permission of professor. Late posts will not be factored into DB grade.

If the professor grants students permission to submit posts after the DB has closed the following requirements apply:

a. 5% deduction per day.

b. No assignment will be accepted seven (7) days after original due date without written approval from the professor. This approval must be sought prior to assignment due date.

c. Professor may require alternate assignment if Discussion Board has closed. These assignments must be completed within terms of late policy. No assignment will be accepted seven (7) days after original due date.

Tests/Exams

1. For timed tests/exams students are required to complete the exam within the assigned time. For students who exceed this time limit a penalty of 5 points will be deducted for each minute they exceed the assigned time limit.

2. Students must take the exam during the assigned module. A 5 % deduction from the tests final grade will be assigned for each day the test is late.

3. No test will be accepted seven (7) days after original due date without written approval from the professor. This approval must be sought prior to tests due date.

E. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations.

F. Dual Relationship

The faculty is responsible to interact with counseling students in a supervisory capacity/role. As such, faculty may provide students professional principles, guidance, and recommendations as it relates to the context of the student-client setting. The faculty is responsible to avoid dual relationships with students such as entering a student-counselor or student-pastor relationship. Thus, the faculty

does not provide personal counseling addressing student personal problems. If a faculty member perceives that a student is in need of personal or professional counseling, then that faculty member will recommend that the student pursue either pastoral or professional assistance from a counselor in their community.

G. Limits of Confidentiality

In the event of a student's disclosure, either verbally or in writing, of threat of serious or foreseeable harm to self or others, abuse or neglect of a minor, elderly or disabled person, or current involvement in criminal activity, the faculty, staff, administrator, or supervisor will take immediate action. This action may include, but is not limited to, immediate notification of appropriate state law enforcement or social services personnel, emergency contacts, and notification of the appropriate program chair or online dean. The incident and action taken will become part of the student's permanent record.

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY Online

COURSE SCHEDULE

COUN 503

Textbooks: Jackson, *Research Methods and Statistics* (2012).
Pyrczak, *Evaluating Research in Academic Journals* (2008).

WEEK/ MODULE	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Jackson: chs. 1–2 1 website 5 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist Group DB Forum 1 Pre-Test	0 40 0
2	Jackson: chs. 3–4 Pyrczak: chs. 1–5 2 articles 4 presentations	Group DB Forum 2 Lin Article Critique: Part 1 Quiz 1	40 80 50
3	Jackson: chs. 5–6 3 presentations	Web Calculator Exercise 1 Christian Worldview Paper 1	40 90
4	Jackson: chs. 7–9 Pyrczak: ch. 6 4 presentations	Group DB Forum 3 Web Calculator Exercise 2 Quiz 2	40 40 50
5	Jackson: chs. 10, 13 Pyrczak: chs. 8–9 4 presentations	Web Calculator Exercise 3 Lin Article Critique: Part 2	40 40
6	Jackson: chs. 8, 10 Pyrczak: chs. 10–11 3 articles 4 presentations	Group DB Forum 4 Web Calculator Exercise 4 Quiz 3	40 40 50
7	Jackson: ch. 11 Pyrczak: ch. 12 2 presentations	Web Calculator Exercise 5 Lin Article Critique: Part 3 Christian Worldview Paper 2	40 40 90
8	Jackson: ch. 12 3 presentations	Orathinkal Article Critique Quiz 4	100 50
		TOTAL	**1000**

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.