

Sam Houston State University
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Family and Consumer Sciences Department

Course Syllabus

FCS 530: Seminar in Family and Consumer Sciences Research (3 units)
Fall, 2007

Class Location: AB2 201

Class Meeting Times: Tuesday 5:00 – 7:50 p.m.

Instructor: Paula J. Tripp, Ph.D.

Office: AB2, 226

Office Phone: 936.294.4129

Office Hours: MWF 10:00 – 11:30 am, Tu/Th 2:00 – 3:00 pm, Tu 4:30 – 4:50 pm + TBA

Email: pjtripp@shsu.edu

Dept. Phone: 936.294.1242

Dept. Fax: 936.294.4204

Course Description: This course introduces the student to the fundamentals and ethics of human research, measurement and evaluation, and statistical analyses specific to Family and Consumer Sciences. Information in the course will be enhanced with writing experiences revolving around a brief pilot study conceived by the student. Assignments include a literature review, a brief proposal, a valid data collection instrument and a short report by the student. Familiarity with the research literature in the field is stressed with focus on keeping current in the profession and discriminating credible research.

Course materials will be presented in combinations of lecture, discussion, video, electronic, and activity formats. The variety of assessment techniques to be used is detailed below.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

1. discuss the meaning of research as it relates to research ethics, hypotheses, sampling, randomness, control, variables, denominators, and use of simple statistical tools;
2. contribute analytically to the profession and to the community as educators;
3. perform comprehensive searches in the professional literature;
4. abstract and evaluate articles for the reliability and validity of the research;
5. determine by the scientific method how to select a problem and prepare a research proposal after resources have been determined;
6. compare and contrast various research methods including descriptive, experimental, quasi-experimental, historical and qualitative;
7. find and/or develop appropriate instrument(s) to use for data collection prior to developing a research project;
8. apply to human subjects committee for permission to conduct research;
9. collect data;
10. present findings in brief written and oral formats.

IDEA Objectives:

1. Learning to *apply* course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions).
2. Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course.
3. Learning how to find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems.
4. Acquiring an interest in learning more by asking questions and seeking answers.

Textbook: Leedy, P. D. & Ormrod, J. D. (2005). *Practical research: Planning and design*. (8th ed.). Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson.

Supplies Needed: 3-ring binder and tab dividers for organizing portfolio materials; electronic media for oral presentation

Attendance Policy: Regular class attendance is expected of students to insure attainment of the class objectives, know about changes to the class calendar, and be informed about assignment and examination criteria. Attendance is required on exam days and on presentation days, whether a guest speaker or student speaker. Each absence on a presentation day will result in five points being deducted from the final grade. Students are expected to behave in a professional and respectful manner. Please show up on time and come to class adequately prepared to take part in class discussions and activities.

As stated in the University catalog, students are allowed to take three hours of absences for the purpose of personal illness, family funerals, university activities, or legal matters. **Four or more** absences will result in a reduction of **2 points deducted for each absence from the final grade**.

It is the student's responsibility to insure that a tardy is recorded as a tardy and not an absence from class by the end of that class period. Five tardies will be counted equal to one absence.

Absences resulting from extenuating circumstances accompanied by appropriate documentation from the Office of Student Life will be evaluated on an individual basis.

Visitors in the Classroom: Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

Student Absence on Religious Holy Days Policy: Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work, and any missed work must be made up in a reasonable amount of time. For more information refer to www.shsu.edu/syllabus.

Students with Disabilities: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. For more information refer to www.shsu.edu/syllabus.

Classroom Policies and Rules of Conduct: All students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. Students are to turn off all cell phones while in the classroom. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination. Students may tape record lectures provided that they do not disturb other students in the process.

1. During discussions there could be varying perspectives presented. All students are expected to be respectful of others' opinions.
2. All electronic equipment such as cell phones, beepers, MP3 players, laptops, etc., are to be turned off during class time. If special circumstances necessitate the use of such equipment, prior approval from the instructor is required.
3. Come to class prepared with readings completed and all supplies available.
4. If a student needs to leave class early, he/she should sit near the exit door to reduce interrupting other students.
5. If you must be absent for all or part of a class session, it is your responsibility to obtain information you miss. This includes, but is not limited to, notes, changes in due dates, criteria for assignments, etc.

Academic Dishonesty: Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Further details are available at www.shsu.edu/syllabus.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, copying the work of another student, copying published work without appropriate citations, and allowing someone else to complete an assignment or work for the student.

Course Evaluation: Student grades are based on a compiled research portfolio, an oral research proposal presentation that includes a PowerPoint component, and a final examination. Specific criteria for the assignments will be provided on separate sheets.

Portfolio:

Areas of research interests:	50 points	A = 90 – 100% = 607 – 675 points
5 abstracts @ 20 pts. each:	100	B = 80 – 89% = 540 – 606 points
Researcher interview:	50	C = 70 – 79% = 472 – 539 points
Review of literature:	50	D = 60 – 69% = 405 – 471 points
Proposal:	50	F = 0 – 59% = 0 – 404 points
Data collection instrument:	50	
Human subjects review:	50	
Written Report	100	

Oral Presentation:

PowerPoint component:	35
Oral report:	40

Final Examination: 100

Total Points: 675 points

1. Papers are due by the date assigned, and may be submitted early. Papers submitted after class ends on the due date will receive a **5% reduction in points for each day late**, including weekends and holidays.
2. Papers will not be accepted via electronic mail.

Return of Assignments: Work will be returned to students during class when all submitted papers have been graded and recorded in Blackboard.

Course Calendar (subject to change):

Dates	Topics	Readings & Assignments
08/21	Course Overview History of the Discipline	
08/28	What is Research?	Chapter 1
09/04	Your Library Partner: NGL 157	
09/11	The IRB Process Tools of Research	Chapter 2
09/18	Abstracting Articles Selecting a Topic	Research interests due Chapter 3
09/25	Review of the Literature	Article abstracts due Chapter 4
10/02	The Research Proposal	Researcher interview due Chapters 5 & 6
10/09	Qualitative Research	Review of literature due Chapter 7
10/16	Historical Research	Proposal due Chapter 8
10/23	Descriptive Research	Data Collection Instrument due Chapter 9
10/30	Experimental and Ex Post Facto Designs	Approved Human subjects review due Chapter 10
11/06	Data Analysis	Chapter 11
11/13	Data Collection	
11/20	Preparing the Report	Chapter 12
11/27	Oral Presentations	Written Report due Portfolio due
12/04	Oral Presentations	
12/11	Final Examination: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	