

Syllabus for  
**PRM 784—Counseling Research**  
3 Credit Hours  
Fall 2010

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A course to develop graduate-level skills in the formulation of a research problem, research hypothesis, sampling, data gathering, basic statistics, the utilization of computer-based methodologies in the analysis of data, and the interpretation of data.

Prerequisites: None.

II. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to enable the students to do the following:

- A. Understand the terminology, logic, and procedures used in research.
- B. Learn to integrate statistical procedures with research methods.
- C. Critique counseling research findings.
- D. Appraise empirically supported treatments.
- E. Acquire the terminology and knowledge necessary for the counselor licensure examination.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Explain the basic components of research design.
- B. Read and evaluate counseling-related research
- C. Critique counseling-related research outcomes.
- D. Explain basic statistical data and how data are interpreted.
- E. Appraise empirically supported treatments.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A. Required Materials

1. Textbooks

American Psychological Association. *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th ed. Washington, DC: APA, 2010. ISBN: 9781433805615

Erford, Bradley T. *Research and Evaluation in Counseling*. Florence, KY: Wadsworth Publishing, 2008. ISBN: 9780618481101

Erford, Bradley T. *Erford Research and Evaluation in Counseling Student Guide*, 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Orlando, FL: Houghton Mifflin, 2007.  
ISBN: 9780618964185

2. Other  
None

B. Optional Materials

1. Textbooks  
None
2. Other  
None

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
3. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
  - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
  - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
  - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
  - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
  - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.
4. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
5. Students are to be in compliance with university, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the WPA handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.

- a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an ePortfolio artifact is a zero for that assignment.
- b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. School of Theology Policies and Procedures

1. **Completion of Assignments**

Assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date are penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.** All work turned in two weeks after the assignment deadline is received but is granted a grade of zero for that assignment. **No work** is accepted after the final date of regular classes.

2. **Incompletes**

- a. An incomplete is given only after the student establishes with the academic committee by written petition that student's work is incomplete for good cause (i.e., lengthy illness, death in the family). **Incompletes are rarely granted.** Only those absences that are incurred within the time period of the extenuating circumstances prompting an incomplete are excused. The student is still accountable for any other absences and will be penalized for them according to the attendance policy.
- b. A Petition for Incomplete Grade with all supporting documentation must be submitted for approval one week prior to the end of normal classes. **The submitting of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an incomplete.** The petition must be approved by the academic committee of the School of Theology and Missions. Students are expected to continue all course work until an incomplete is granted.

3. **Examinations**

- a. Early examinations **are not** allowed. Late examinations without grade penalty are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams or a sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician).
- b. A Petition for Late Examination must be submitted to the academic dean's office. A **\$15 fee**, plus proper documentation, must accompany the petition. The academic committee reviews each petition and grade penalties are assessed. (Late exam fee is not a grade penalty.)
- c. Students taking late exams should expect alternate versions of the original exams.
- d. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**

4. **Attendance**

The Official Attendance Policy for the School of Theology and Missions is as follows:

- a. If the class meets three times a week, the missing of **6** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **one letter** grade. Missing **8** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **two letter** grades. Missing **12** class sessions automatically results in a **grade of F**. If a class meets twice a week, the missing of **4** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **one letter** grade. Missing **6** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **two letter** grades. Missing **8** class sessions automatically results in a **grade of**

**F.** If the class meets once a week, then the missing of **3** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **one letter** grade. Missing **4** class sessions results in a grade reduction of **two letter** grades. Missing **5** class sessions automatically results in a **grade of F**.

- b. **The absences allowed prior to a grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses and are not designed for indiscriminate use.**
- c. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official university business and has received approval in advance from the university administration.
- d. Students are expected to be prompt for classes.
- e. Students are expected to remain for the entire class session.
- f. Leaving early without permission constitutes an absence.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

a.	Three Reports on Counseling Research (50 points each)	150
	Four Exams (50 points each)	200
	Final Exam	<u>100</u>
	Total	450 points

- b. Grading scale:  
A=405-450 pts.  
B=360-404 pts.  
C=315-359 pts.  
D=270-314 pts.  
F=below 270 pts.

2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements

- a. All students entering the seminary are required to enroll in PRF 059—ePortfolio: Whole Person Assessment, which provides specific training to develop the skills needed to create an ePortfolio.
- b. WPA requirements for this course:
  - (1) The research reports for PRM 784 must be uploaded to the student's ePortfolio.
  - (2) The research reports for PRM 784 are a required artifact for the M.A. Christian Counseling degree program.

3. Other Policies and/or Procedures

- a. Counseling reports **must be turned in on the date assigned**. ORU STM late penalties (V. B. 1. above) will be assessed. Based on Erford, chapters 2 & 3, the reports need to be related to empirically verifiable counseling treatments. They must be written according to the APA Style Manual 6<sup>th</sup> edition according to following format:
  - (1) Research problem
  - (2) Description of methods and procedures
  - (3) Summary of research findings
  - (4) Significance of research for student's intended career

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
8/18/10	Overview and Introduction Erford, chapters 1, 2	Read text
8/25/10	Erford, chapters 3, 4	Read text
9/1/10	<b>Exam 1</b>	
9/8/10	Erford, chapters 5, 6	Read text <b>Counseling Report 1 due</b>
9/15/10	Erford, chapter 7	Read text
9/22/10	Erford, chapter 8	Read text
9/29/10	<b>Exam 2</b>	
10/6/10	Erford, chapters 9, 10	Read text <b>Counseling Report 2 due</b>
10/20/10	Erford, chapter 12	Read text
10/27/10	Erford, chapter 13	Read text
11/3/10	<b>Exam 3</b>	
11/10/10	Erford, chapters 14, 15	Read text <b>Counseling Report 3 due</b>
11/17/10	Erford, chapter 16	Read text
11/24/10	Erford chapter 17	Read text
12/1/10	<b>Exam 4</b>	

**Final Exam according to the University schedule**

Date

Topic

Assignment

Inventory for Student Learning Outcomes  
School of Theology and Missions

M. A. Christian Counseling

PRM 784 Counseling Research

Dr. Ed Decker, Instructor

Fall 2010

This course contributes to student learning outcomes for the M.A. Christian Counseling degree as indicated below:

**Significant Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

**Moderate Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Degree Program Outcomes	Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
<b>Theology/Philosophy of Counseling</b>				
Develop a cohesive theology of counseling with theological reflection on the counseling process, emphasizing Spirit-directed change.				X
<b>Assessment Techniques</b>				
Exhibit skill in selecting, administering, scoring, interpreting, and reporting the results from various assessment instruments.				X
<b>Clinical/Theoretical Diagnostic Appraisal</b>				
Demonstrate the ability to interpret case specific information by translating it into accurate diagnostic appraisals.				X
<b>Treatment Plans in Response to Diagnosis</b>				
Display the ability to develop relevant treatment plans in response to specific diagnoses, and the skill to implement them in the context of a therapeutic relationship.		X		
<b>Research Skills and Methodologies</b>				
Demonstrate basic research skills and methodologies through critiquing research findings and evaluating ESTs.	X			
<b>Professional Code of Ethics</b>				
Demonstrate knowledge of professional codes of ethics and the ability to apply those codes to ethical dilemmas.			X	

**Minimal Contribution** – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

**No Contribution** – Does not address the outcome.