

PSYC 4345: Addressing Pressing Problems in a Diverse World

Course Creator:

Dr. Amy Hayes, ahayes@uttyler.edu

Course Facilitator:

Name: Christopher Thomas, Ph.D.

Email: cthomas@uttyler.edu

Office: BEP 204

Phone: 903.566.7171

Office Hours: Friday 2:00 – 5:00 pm (virtual via zoom) & by appointment

Course Overview: This 7-week capstone course in the BAAS professional core enables students to analyze and share information about pressing problems through data representing diversity in society. Students refine their skills in collecting data, critical thinking, analyzing data, and presenting it in different ways to appropriately represent diversity in our society. Students are encouraged to bring in diversity and pressing problems from their workplace.

Course Prerequisite: Course may be taken in the last two 7-week sessions of the BAAS program. (There is a maximum of 3 other courses may be left in the degree when taken this course.)

Student learning outcomes:

The learner will:

- 1) Examine theoretical aspects of difference and the value of diversity and multiple perspectives
- 2) Explore foundational data collection strategies
- 3) Refine critical thinking skills while analyzing data
- 4) Expand strategies for presenting data about diversity in society in clear and concise ways

Modules 1 (Week 1): Looking at diversity in society

Theoretical readings related to diversity and exploring different people groups
Readings on the different types of data

Module 2 (Week 2): Presenting Data Accurately to Represent Diversity

Selecting the correct method to represent the story of data
Different methods for presenting the experiences of people

Module 3 (Week 3): Collecting Data

Using Surveys to Gather Information about Diverse Situations
Using Interviews to Gather Information about Diverse Situations

Module 4: (Week 4) Setting Up an Exploration of Diversity

Defining Your Problem
Considering Our Assumptions as Researchers
Finding Credible Sources in Literature

Module 5: (Week 5) Interpreting and Communicating Data
Analyzing the Data
Determining How to Present the Data
Understanding Your Audience

Module 6 (Week 6 & 7): Pulling It Together
Opportunity to Pull Together an Action Research Project

Course Readings:

All of the textbooks and readings for our course are open educational resources that you can access at no cost.

1. A Quick Guide to Quantitative Research in the Social Sciences (Davies, 2020).
<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/a-quick-guide-to-quantitative-research-in-the-social-sciences>
2. Culture and Psychology (Worthy, Lavigne, & Romero, 2020).
<https://www.oercommons.org/courses/culture-and-psychology/view>

Assignments:

Reading Reflections: 20%
Module Interactions: 20%
Module Implementation Activities: 30%
Plan for Action Research Project: 30%

Grading Scale:
90 or above: A
80 – 89.99: B
70 – 79.99: C
60 – 69.99: D
Below 60: F

Description of Major assignments:

Reading Reflections: Each module will have a prompt where you reflect on what you have learned. These reflections will require you to pull together prior knowledge with what you have learned in this module. It will also require you to consider how this could be implemented in your current workplace or your desired position.

Module Interactions: For each module you will be required to interact with your colleagues, in the workforce, and/or the instructor to explore multiple perspectives of a topic.

Module Implementation Activities: For each module, you will practice implementing a skill that will assist you in the creation of your action research plan. This enables you to practice skills in low-risk environments.

Plan for Action Project:

The major project in our course is your Plan for Action project, which gives you the opportunity to identify a problem in either your job or life that you could address by gathering data and information about the problem. The main steps in the project are:

- 1) Identify your problem
- 2) Finding sources that look at the problem from multiple perspectives
- 3) Discussion your population (who would you go to in order to collect data for this problem that shows the multiple perspectives)
- 4) Discuss the type of data you would collect and the most appropriate way to present the data

Course Schedule

Week/Dates	Topics	Readings and Assignments
1: October 10-14	Looking at diversity and data	Davies Ch. 2, Culture Ch. 1 <i>Introduction Assignment</i>
2: October 17-21	Presenting Data Accurately to Represent Diversity	Culture Ch. 3, Davies Ch. 3 <i>Identifying your Problem Assignment</i>
3: October 24-28	Collecting Data	Davies Ch. 4, Culture Ch. 8 <i>Finding Sources Assignment</i>
4: October 31-Nov. 4	Setting Up an Exploration of Diversity	Culture Ch. 13 <i>Finding your Population Assignment</i>
5: November 7-11	Interpreting and Communicating Data	Davies Ch. 6 <i>Finding your Audience Assignment</i>
6: November 14-18	Pulling It Together	Davies Ch. 7
No class November 21-24	Thanksgiving Holiday	None
7: Nov. 28-Dec 1	Pulling It Together	Presentations of Plans Due