

University of Texas at Tyler
 Department of Psychology and Counseling
COUN 5340-468: Research and Program Evaluation
Summer 2025 Syllabus
Course Format: ASYNCHRONOUS ONLINE

Instructor: Marianna L. Branch, PhD, LPC (NJ)

Office Location: Virtual

Virtual Office Hours: Please email me for an appointment

Email: mbranch@uttyler.edu (preferred method of contact)

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION

COUN 5340: Principles, models, and applications of research in counseling, including needs assessment, program evaluation, statistical analyses of data, and the critical appraisal of psychological and counseling research.

REQUIRED PREREQUISITES

None.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes	CACREP 2016 Standards (Core)	CACREP 2016 Standards (CMHC)	Learning Activities and Assessments
Describe the importance of research in advancing the counseling profession, including how to critique research to inform counseling practice.	2.F.8.a		Lecture
Identify evidence-based counseling practices.	2.F.8.b	5.C.3.b	Lecture, Article Review, Final Presentation
Describe needs assessments	2.F.8.c		Lecture
Develop outcome measures for counseling programs.	2.F.8.d		Lecture, Quiz
Evaluate counseling interventions and programs.	2.F.8.e		Lecture, Quiz
Identify and describe qualitative, quantitative, and mixed research methods.	2.F.8.f		Lecture, Quiz, Article Review, Final Presentation
Demonstrate understanding of designs used in research and program evaluation, in both school and clinical contexts.	2.F.8.g	5.G.3.b	Lecture, Quiz, Article Review, Final Presentation

Demonstrate understanding of statistical methods used in conducting research and program evaluation.	2.F.8.h		Lecture, Quiz
Demonstrate understanding of how to analyze and use data in counseling.	2.F.8.i		Lecture, Quiz
Explain the use of formal and informal assessments, in the completion of research and program evaluation.	2.F.7.f, 2.F.7.i	5.C.1.e, 5.G.1.e	Lecture, Quiz, Article Review, Final Presentation
Discuss research articles on relevant counseling topics, including through analysis of quantitative and qualitative responses.	2.F.7.g, 2.F.7.h		Lecture, Quiz, Article Review, Final Presentation
Describe culturally relevant strategies for conducting, interpreting, and reporting the results of research and/or program evaluation.	2.F.7.h, 2.F.8.j	5.C.2.j	Lecture, Quiz, Article Review, Final Presentation
Discuss the use of research in developing effective treatment plans, including in goal-making, intervention selection, and diagnosis.	2.F.5.i, 2.F.5.j	5.C.2.d, 5.C.3.a	Lecture

REQUIRED TEXT

Houser, R. A. (2019). *Counseling and educational research: Evaluation and application*. Sage Publications.

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association: The official guide to APA style* (7th ed.). ISBN: 9781433832161

* In addition to the required text, extra readings will be assigned throughout the semester. These readings will be available on CANVAS.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

This is an asynchronous online course. It is expected that you will spend an average of 6+ hours working on the modules for this course each week. The course materials will be housed on Canvas. This class will consist of a collaborative learning community in which all participants share responsibility for the learning process. The instructor will facilitate learning by guiding students to sources of knowledge and promoting independent development and discovery of new knowledge. Online learning requires participation and leadership from each student. Lectures, videos, assigned readings, and online activities will provide a basis for discussion. Academic integrity is expected from each student and plagiarism from any source will not be tolerated.

Canvas (<https://www.utt Tyler.edu/canvas/>)

Canvas will serve as the overall structure and launching pad for all our activities in this course. In Canvas, you will find announcements, assignments, course schedule, links to outside activities and so on. Within each module folder, the activities necessary to successfully complete that

module are described in great detail. It is students' responsibility to examine each module and get in touch with the instructor immediately if they are not clear about the requirements prior to assignment due dates.

COURSE POLICIES

There are 5 modules (1 for each week) to be completed for this class. Each module contains class content videos, additional readings, a quiz, and different activities (e.g., discussion posts, videos, reflections, ethical dilemmas, skills recordings) which should be completed that week.

Due to the online nature of this course, it is essential that you remain acutely aware of the due dates for assignments and modules. **All modules (which includes module activities, assignments, and quizzes) are due by 11:59 pm Central Time on Saturdays except for the final presentation (see details below).** I understand that this "due date" may not be ideal for everyone, but I wanted to give you the full week to complete your assignments and allow those of you who work full time to have the option to complete the assignments during the week or on the weekend. You have the personal choice to submit the assignments or complete the modules anytime throughout the week. **Because of this flexibility, late assignments or late completion of modules and quizzes will not be accepted.** The instructor will do her best to attend to all questions submitted via email in a timely manner, but anything received after 5:00 pm on the Friday before an assignment is due may not be responded to in time. Because of this, I ask that you please be proactive in starting your assignments.

All assignments are submitted on CANVAS. Please DO NOT email your assignments to the instructor. You are responsible for uploading the correct version of your assignment to the correct location on CANVAS. If you are having trouble logging onto Canvas or uploading assignments, please contact the Canvas helpdesk at (903) 566-7439 or email them at itsupport@patriots.uttyler.edu. You can also receive help by using the Help tab located on the left side of your Canvas screen, using the Canvas guides, or contacting Canvas help at (844)214-6949.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

- 4. QUIZZES:** One in each module you will take five (5) quizzes in this course that will cover lecture material and reading assignments. The quizzes will review topics, vocabulary, and basic understanding and will be multiple choice, matching, and true/false in format. The quizzes will be available all week and you can choose anytime to take the quizzes until 11:59 pm of the week. Make sure to give yourself enough time to complete quizzes as all quizzes will stop at 11:59 pm regardless of if you have completed it or not.

You can take each quiz only once. Make sure to complete all the module materials before starting your quiz. There are no proctoring systems being used for the quizzes in this course, as such, I'm aware that you will have access to your class materials. However, there is a time limit to complete each quiz, so it will be advantageous to complete all the module materials before taking the quizzes.

If I hear of students working together on the quizzes, sharing exam information, or being in contact with each other while taking the exam, you will earn an F in this course and not be permitted to take it for grade replacement.

B. ARTICLE REVIEW: This assignment is designed to assess your skills on identifying a topic of interest and finding articles related to that topic from different methodologies.

You are expected to identify three peer-reviewed counseling articles on a counseling related topic that you are interested in. Each article should represent one of the research designs (i.e., one qualitative, one quantitative, and one mixed method). These articles should be published within the last 10 years (oldest year accepted 2012) in a counseling journal (*Journal of Counselor Development, Counselor Education and Supervision*, etc. Please refer to the list of counseling journals if you need help identifying journals). The article review paper should be written in narrative form (not bullet points), be 1-2 pages (not including title page and references) in length, follow APA 7 guidelines (title page, in-text citation, references, formatting, etc.), and should include the information below for each article:

- Complete citation using APA 7 format
- A half-page description for each article addressing the following questions:
 - Why did you choose this article?
 - What is the research question?
 - What are the research design, data, and statistical analysis utilized?
 - Key findings
 - Strengths and limitations of the study

Make sure to select articles on a topic(s) that are interesting to you, or you would like to learn more on because you will complete your final presentation on one of these articles of your choice. Additionally, consider using the **Article Summary Tables templates** in CANVAS as a guide for each article review.

C. FINAL PRESENTATION: This assignment is designed to assess skill acquisition regarding being able to understand and critique articles from the counseling field. Each student will complete an article critique and present a PowerPoint presentation. Articles may reflect a variety of research methodologies (i.e., quantitative, qualitative, or mixed method). Students are expected to evaluate all sections of the article (i.e., introduction/literature review, research design, sampling procedures, measurement and data collection procedures, results, and discussion/conclusion). See CANVAS for details and the rubric for this assignment.

GRADING

During the semester, you will have opportunities to earn up to 100 points. Grading is on the following scale: 100% - 90% = A; 89% - 80% = B; 79% - 70% = C; 69% or less = F.

The following number of points can be earned throughout this course:

Assignment	Due Date	Points
Quizzes	Weekly (Saturday)	(5 points x 10) 50 points
Article Review	7/26/2025	20 points
Final Presentation	8/9/2025	30 points
Total Points		100 points

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE ♠

♠ This syllabus is a guide and outline for the progression of the class. Changes may be made for due dates, assignments, and other items. All changes are the prerogative of the instructor.

Module	Topic	Readings	Assignments
Module 1 7/7	Introduction Science and Research Process Ethics and Research Evaluating the Introduction	Syllabus, Houser Ch. 1, 2, 9, & 10	Quiz #1
Module 2 7/14	Evaluating the Method (Procedures, Sampling, Instruments)	Houser Ch. 11-13	Quiz #2
Module 3 7/21	Quantitative Research Designs & Qualitative Research Designs	Houser Ch. 3, 4, & 8	Quiz #3 Article Review
Module 4 7/28	Mixed-methods Research Designs Basics of Statistical Concepts	Houser Ch. 5-7	Quiz #4
Module 5 8/4	Evaluating the Results and Discussion Program Evaluation	Houser Ch.14, 15 & 19	Quiz #5 Final Presentation

PROGRAM AND DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES

Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program Mission Statement:

The mission of the CACREP-Accredited Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) program at the University of Texas at Tyler (UTT) is to prepare ethical and competent professional counselors. The CMHC program places a strong emphasis on preparing future counselors to work with a diverse range of client populations. Faculty members collectively aim to provide a rigorous learning environment and supportive atmosphere encouraging personal and professional development to a diverse student body. Throughout their time in the CMHC program, students are supported in developing a deep sense of self-awareness and a strong professional counselor identity integrating mental health, research, service, and advocacy. Upon successful completion of the program, students are eligible for counselor licensure in Texas and are able pursue impactful mental health careers within the community.

UT Tyler Department of Psychology and Counseling Student Code of Conduct:

<https://www.uttyler.edu/psychology/policies.php>

UT Tyler Clinical Mental Health Counseling Student Handbook:

<https://www.uttyler.edu/psychology/graduate/clinical-mental-health-counseling/>

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

UT Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

Students Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link:

<http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at

<http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors.

Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products.

There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quit lines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free.

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability/Accessibility Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI,

PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

Student Absence due to Religious Observance

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

- i. "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:
 - o copying from another student's test paper;
 - o using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
 - o failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;

- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed “crib notes”. The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
 - using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
 - collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
 - discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
 - divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
 - substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
 - paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
 - falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
 - taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
 - misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.
- ii. “Plagiarism” is representing someone else's ideas and work as your own. Plagiarism includes not only copying verbatim, but also rephrasing the ideas of another without properly acknowledging the source. As you prepare and submit work to meet course requirements, whether a draft or a final version of a paper or project, take great care to distinguish your own ideas and language from information derived from sources. Sources include published primary and secondary materials, electronic media, and information and opinions gained directly from other people.
- iii. “Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.
- iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

UT Tyler Resources for Students

- [UT Tyler Writing Center](mailto:writingcenter@uttyler.edu) (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu
- [UT Tyler Tutoring Center](mailto:tutoring@uttyler.edu) (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- [UT Tyler Counseling Center](tel:903.566.7254) (903.566.7254)