ACTION RESEARCH IN CHILD AND ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT
CAD-500

CAD 500-1: Monday 8:10 a.m. to 11 a.m.; Hensill Hall 201
CAD 500-2 Monday 1:10 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Hensill Hall 201

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact Dr. Meschke. The Disability Programs and Resource Center is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process ((415) 338-2472 or dprc@sfsu.edu).

Note Library Training Time:
CAD 500-1: Monday, February 11, Lib 426A 9:30 to 10:50
CAD 500-2: Monday, February 11, Lib 426A 2:30 to 4:25

Course and Instructor Information
Instructor: Laurie L. Meschke, PhD
Phone: 415.405.3705; Email: LMeschke@sfsu.edu
Office: SCI-389
Office hours: By appointment

Course Description. This course is designed to develop skills that are essential for understanding and doing community action research in the context of professional and program practice in the field of children, youth and families. Our initial focus will be an overview of action research. We will then move on to some on basic concepts, principles and issues for conducting research in the field; the research process including generating empirical questions, generating and testing hypotheses, and using various methods of data collection. The final focus will be the application of these concepts to community action research and the development of grant proposal that utilizes this approach to social science research.

Class activities require active student participation in class discussions, presentations, and work on grant proposals. Regular attendance is not only required, but it is the only way you will be able to keep up with the work and pace of this class. An estimated average of four to five hours of time outside of the class will be needed to successfully complete readings, written assignments, and your final grant proposal. Note, this average time outside of the class is much more intense for the second half of the course.

Course Objectives. Upon completion of this coursework students will demonstrate knowledge, skills, and understanding of:

- Action research and its unique role in promoting healthy child, youth, and family development
- Developing testable hypotheses/questions.
- Reviewing and evaluating literature relevant to the research question.
- Ethical issues in research with children, youth and families as well as other human subjects.
- Determining of appropriate quantitative and/or qualitative methods of data collection and analysis for investigating the research question.
- Communicating of research methodology and findings in a manner that is both clear and appropriate to the intended audience.

Course structure, process and policies. Active student participation and inquiry are essential to the success of this seminar. The class format will include lectures and discussion, small group work, and presentations.
**CHHS Withdrawal Policy:** The last day to drop a class is Feb 20, 2008. From Feb 21 to April 24, 2008 you must submit a withdrawal petition. Withdrawal from a class after Feb 20 will be considered for serious and compelling reasons only, and must have accompanying documentation. The following reasons are not considered serious and compelling: Changing your major, poor performance, class not required for graduation/major, or more time needed for other classes. If you wish to withdraw from class due to unexpected changes in your work schedule, illness or family emergencies, documentation will be required, along with a copy of unofficial transcripts. If you are requesting a withdrawal, bring your petition and appropriate documentation to the instructor. From Feb 21 – April 17, you may not withdraw from a class or the University, except in the case of a serious, documented illness or verified accident.

**CR/NC option:** March 19, 2007 is the last day to request the CR/NC option. The Associate Dean will not approve requests for changes if you miss this deadline.

**Late Add Policy:** The last day to add classes with a late permit number is Feb 8, 2008. It is your responsibility to procure a late permit number from your instructor and add the class. Faculty cannot add you into a class. After this deadline a Late Add Justification form and Add form must be signed by your instructor, Chair and CHHS Associate Dean to add. This will be approved only if there was an administrative error.

**Check your registration through MySFSU:** Sign up for CR/NC, drop and add classes by the appropriate deadline online through MySFSU. ALWAYS check your registration after making any changes and BEFORE deadlines to be sure you are registered properly for your classes. This is a student responsibility. Deadlines for all registration procedures, including withdrawals and requests for credit/no credit, are listed in the class schedule and will be strictly adhered to by the instructor, the Department Chair, and the Associate Dean of College of Health & Human Services.

This can be viewed on the Registration Calendar at the following website: [http://www.sfsu.edu/~admisrec/reg/noindex/reg074.html](http://www.sfsu.edu/~admisrec/reg/noindex/reg074.html)

**Classroom Etiquette** - Colleagues are expected to:
1. Attend class on time and stay for the entire class period
2. Turn off cell phones and pagers for the entire class period — visit the restroom prior to class and during the break
3. Respect other colleagues’ contributions/opinions by listening and not carrying on side conversations

**C. E-mail** – Students are required to have an active SFSU e-mail address and check it regularly.

**D. iLearn** [https://ilearn.sfsu.edu/login/index.php](https://ilearn.sfsu.edu/login/index.php) will be used for class announcements, including due dates for assignments changes in the schedule and additional assigned readings. Class documents will also be available on iLearn. These will include examples of grant proposals, Powerpoint presentations, and other relevant information. Students must check iLearn regularly and are responsible for information posted there.

**Required Readings**

Readings are available via the links provided in the syllabus or via the iLearn website. A reader with the Powerpoint presentations associated with class lectures is available at the SFSU bookstore.
Assignments, exams and evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments/Exams</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percent of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Analysis of article</td>
<td>2/18; 3/10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem statement/Background</td>
<td>3/3</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Subjects Training</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work plan (methods)</td>
<td>3/17</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact of activities/Evaluation</td>
<td>4/21</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>4/28</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>5/5, 5/12, and 5/12, and finals day as needed***</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grading of colleagues</td>
<td>5/5, 5/12, and finals day as needed***</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final grant writing project</td>
<td>5/12</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>300</td>
<td>100</td>
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**Due dates.** If you are unable to complete an assignment on or before the due date you need to let me know prior to the assignment due date. Any late assignments received without prior communication will lose 10% of the possible points each day. After ten days the assignment will have zero points remaining. Electronic submissions are accepted only with prior permission from Meschke.

**Incompletes.** Incompletes will be granted only in *exceptional* circumstances and *only* if your work is up to date one month prior to the end of the semester.

**General paper criteria**

- All written assignments should be typed, double spaced, in a font no smaller than 12 pt.
- If you are unable to complete an assignment on or before the due date you need to let Meschke know prior to the assignment due date. Any late assignments will lose 10% of the possible points for each day they are late.
- Papers must utilize APA format (5th edition). Papers that do not use APA format when applicable (including references). Appropriate use of the APA format will always be included in the grading criteria.
- Specific scoring criteria by paper are available on iLearn. More thorough discussions regarding each paper assignment will be provided in class and on iLearn. In general, papers will be graded on the following criteria:
  a. Content – Extent to which student demonstrates knowledge of the subject matter and addresses the assignment in a thorough, creative, and thoughtful manner. The extent to which student analyzes and poses reasoned questions about the material and its meaning will also be considered.
  b. Organization and Presentation – Extent to which the paper is organized, logical, and coherent. This criteria includes the student’s proper use of APA (5th edition) writing style and guidelines.

- Students who plagiarize will receive 0 points for that assignment. Plagiarism is the misuse of published or unpublished works of others by representing the material used as one’s own.
- **The final paper is due no later than Monday, May 12, 2008 in class — if you choose to submit a final paper.**
Grading. Based on the following point distribution (University grading system includes + and -):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grades</th>
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<tr>
<td>285-300</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>270-284</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>255-269</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>249-254</td>
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<td>210-218</td>
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<td>209-180</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>179 and below</td>
<td>F</td>
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Assignment descriptions are available on iLearn.

Dates of Interest
2/8: Last day to add a class with permit number
2/20: Last day to drop a class and last day for international and out-of-state students to withdraw
2/15: Deadline for undergraduates to file application for May graduation
2/21: Course withdrawal begins; requires written approval of instructor and department chair
3/19: Last day to request the CR/NC option
3/24 to 3/29 Spring recess: No classes; offices open
3/31 Cesar Chavez Day observed: No classes; offices closed
4/24: Course withdrawal deadline
2/15: Last day of instruction
5/17 to 5/23: Finals week
5/18: CAD graduation ceremony
5/24: Spring 2008 Commencement
5/26: Memorial Day: No classes; Offices closed
6/2/08: Grades due