Research Writing

Instructors: Ching Kang Liu
Class time: Wednesday (9:10-12:00)
Office hours: Tuesday (3:10-5:00)
Nicenet: www.nicenet.org
Class Key: GZ7682ZR93

        Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (5th ed.). American Psychological Association, D.C.


Objectives: This course is designed to help the attendants (1) to get familiar with essential factors that make a good research paper; (2) to organize literature review, methodology and to interpret the findings; and (3) to wrap the whole paper with good discussion and conclusion in appropriate formats or styles.

Course policies: Students are expected to attend class regularly, to turn in all assignments, including the term paper, on time, and to participate fully in class discussions. Absences from classes will be taken as giving up part of the following 20% of their total scores.

Grades: Participation and performance in class 20%
        Assignments and reports 40%
        Final paper 40% (Total = 100)

A Tentative Schedule:

Sep. 20 Course Introduction—How to get started with the research writing
Sep. 27 Getting to know the basic elements of research (Read RDAS Chapters 1-2)
          Assignment: Start thinking about a proposal you are going to write or write about.
Oct. 4 Constructing and reporting research designs (Read RDAS Chapters 3-4); Discuss proposal structure
          Assignment: Write a proposal for a study; construct your own research design based on the materials you have learned from the previous chapters.
Oct. 11 Reporting a proposal in class and hand it in to the instructor (1)
          Assignment: Start collecting your data, organizing literature review for the paper
Oct. 18 Reporting a proposal in class and hand it in to the instructor (2)
Oct. 25 Citations, the use of footnotes and parentheses, and other formats of RW
Nov. 1 No academic schedules for today
Nov. 8 How to sort and display the data (Read RDAS Chapters 5-6); A t-test and how to apply the results
Nov. 15 Mid-term
Nov. 22 Read sample articles; criticizing samples 1-4
Nov. 29 Read sample articles; criticizing samples 5-8
          Assignment: Get ready for a final oral report with your paper
Dec. 6 Students’ oral reports (1)
Dec. 13 Students’ oral reports (2)
Dec. 20 Students’ oral reports (3)
Dec. 27 Students’ oral reports (4)
Jan. 3 Wrapping up the course and the final exam
Jan. 10 Deadline for the final written paper (No class today)