PSYC 4345: Addressing Pressing Problems in a Diverse World

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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 appropriate 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.)

__Last day to Withdraw from the course: November 13th, 2023__

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 9th – January 15th	Looking at diversity and data	Davies Ch. 2, Culture Ch. 1 *Introduction Assignment*
2: October 16th – October 22nd	Presenting Data Accurately to Represent Diversity	Culture Ch. 3, Davies Ch. 3 *Identifying your Problem Assignment*
3: October 23rd – October 29th	Collecting Data	Davies Ch. 4, Culture Ch. 8 *Exploring Google Tools Assignment*
4: October 30th – November 5th	Setting Up an Exploration of Diversity	Culture Ch. 13 *Finding your Population Assignment*
5: November 6th – November 12th	Interpreting and Communicating Data	Davies Ch. 6 *Interpreting Data Assignment*
6: November 13th – November 19th	Pulling It Together	Davies Ch. 7 *Identifying Your Audience Assignment*
7: November 20th – November 26th	Thanksgiving Break!	No assignments
8: November 27th – December 2nd	Pulling It Together	*Presentations of Research Plans Due*