



RADS 6773 RESEARCH METHODS II – Spring 2024

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Prerequisite: RADS 5003 – Research Methods I

Online course providing opportunities to develop skills in information literacy, including critical analyses of published research. Students develop a substantial, scholarly research paper that demonstrates graduate-level writing. Students must register for this course each semester until the scholarly paper is satisfactorily completed.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the students will:

- Complete a substantial scholarly paper (literature review) on an approved topic of interest in imaging sciences and radiation therapy using the American Psychological Association (APA) writing style.
- Prepare a personal reflection.

TEXTBOOKS

Required

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. [ISBN: 9781433805615] \$26.00+

GRADING

50% Scholarly Research Paper (Literature review)

25% Personal Reflection

15% Synthesis Matrix

10% Class Participation (Assessment of Writing Gains)



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COURSE SCHEDULE WITH ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES – DAYS ARE
MONDAY EXCEPT FOR MAY 7**

Course schedule

Date	Assignment/Activity
January 16	Class Starts
January 29	Topic Approval – Address how you are expanding your paper from 5003 - Dropbox
February 12	Synthesis Matrix - Dropbox
February 26	Zoom meeting for questions, help, etc.
March 18	First Draft - Dropbox
April 15	Second Draft (if needed) - Dropbox
April 29	Final Paper - Dropbox
May 6	Personal Reflection – Dropbox
May 7	Assessment of Writing Gains – Assessment Data Collection - Dropbox

Note: Assignments are due by 11:59 pm CST on the date indicated.

**Please note: The draft dates can be flexible – please contact the instructor for assistance.
The last opportunity to drop this course with a grade of W is 4:00pm CST on April 24, 2024.**

ATTENDANCE

This is an online course. Students should regularly access D2L and check their emails for important communications from the instructor.

GRADING SCALE

- A 90-100
- B 80-89
- C 70-79
- D 60-69



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F 59 and below

Deadlines for submission of assignments are provided in this syllabus. Failure to comply with the established deadlines may result in a grade reduction. **Assignment submissions are considered complete and graded as such.** Be sure to look at all requirements including the grading rubrics before submitting course assignments within D2L.

PROGRESSION POLICY

Graduate students are expected to do uniformly high quality work on all MSRS coursework pursued (final course grades of A or B). Only grades of A or B are acceptable for graduate courses transferred from another university.

Graduate students may earn a grade of C in one or two graduate courses and be allowed to continue in the MSRS program as long as their cumulative GPA is 3.0 or higher. If a graduate student earns a grade of C in three or more graduate courses, the student will be dismissed from the MSRS program. Any grade below a C will also result in dismissal from the MSRS program.

ASSIGNMENTS

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Topic Approval

Students must obtain instructor approval for their RADS 6773 research paper topics. The research paper topics will be based on the foundations established in RADS 5003, Research Methods I. Appropriate topics include those directly related to IMAGING SCIENCES or RADIATION THERAPY issues or strategies and must be relevant to the students' major. IMPORTANT NOTE: **Address how you are expanding your paper from 5003.**

NOTE: If the instructor and student determine the research paper should include a survey or any other research design that requires approval or exemption by the MSU Institutional Review Board (IRB), the student should expect the process will require more than one semester. Due dates may be adjusted accordingly.

Although there is a due date in the course, students are encouraged to submit their topics earlier rather than later in case revisions are needed.



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Synthesis Matrix

After a comprehensive review of the resources, students will create a synthesis matrix by the due date indicated on the course schedule. The matrix should include in-text style citations of the sources next to each article block in the matrix. Although the final paper may deviate from the matrix somewhat, it should reflect the organization of this matrix content. Therefore, students must be very familiar with their resources to create an accurate and realistic matrix. A sample of a matrix and corresponding discussion section are located in this syllabus.

Scholarly Research Paper (Literature Review)

The scholarly paper will demonstrate the student's critical analysis of published research and graduate level writing skills using appropriate APA format. The paper should be long enough to provide thorough coverage of the topic, but should be appropriately concise to conform with professional standards. **Typically, the body of the paper (excluding components such as the title page, abstract, reference list, appendices, etc.) will be 25 - 30 pages.**

The literature review should be based on scholarly and peer-reviewed resources published within the past five (5) years. ***Students who choose to include other resources will have to satisfactorily defend those choices.*** The paper should demonstrate the student's ability to gather and discriminate pertinent resources, the ability to SYNTHESIZE information from a variety of sources, the ability to apply new information to a topic, and the ability to correctly use the APA writing style.

Personal Reflection

Students will submit a personal reflection of the research process they experienced in the sequence of MSRS courses:

RADS 6443 Survey Design in Radiologic Sciences

RADS 6553 Graduate Data Analysis in Radiologic Sciences

RADS 5003 Research Methods I

RADS 6773 Research Methods II

The reflections should include clearly labeled sections to address each of the following points:



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- Understanding - How has your understanding of the research process changed as a result of being in the MSRS Program?
- Challenge - What was the most challenging aspect of the research process for you? What suggestions do you have for future students to manage this challenge?
- Reward - What was the most rewarding aspect of the research process for you?
- Self-Awareness - What did you learn about yourself while completing the research and producing this scholarly paper?
- Publication Potential - Do you have plans to submit either this or another manuscript for publication in the future? Why or why not?
- Professionalism - How has your experience in the MSRS Program changed your perspective on professionalism?

Students should submit the completed reflection (3 – 6 pages in length) as a Microsoft Word document in the appropriate D2L dropbox by the due date indicated on the course schedule.

Class Participation

Timeliness of submitting assignments and responsiveness to emails affect the class participation grade. Check the schedule within this syllabus for important dates.

LATE SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments have due dates indicated on the course schedule. Due dates are in place to keep students on target for the semester and allow instructors the time to provide detailed, constructive feedback. Assignments not turned in on time will result in a 0 being recorded for that assignment.

With that being said, the instructor understands students who are enrolled in the MSRS program may be responsible for managing many employees and/or students as well as personal family matters. If students need any assistance regarding a deadline, they must contact the instructors at least two days before the due date to discuss the issue. “After the fact” stories are not accepted and will result in a grade of 0. Emergencies (death, severe illness, etc.) occur so students should contact the instructors as soon as possible to resolve any due date conflicts. Assignment extensions are decided on a case-by-case basis.



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Incomplete grades are given only at the instructors' discretion and must be requested by the student. If the instructors grant the incomplete, the student has until 90 days after the beginning of the next regular semester (fall or spring) to complete the course requirements. If the student does not complete the course requirements within this deadline, the grade of incomplete will automatically convert into a grade of F. Please note incomplete grades are given only in an emergency or when there are extenuating circumstances. Refer to the Graduate Catalog for additional details about receiving a grade of incomplete in a course.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

This course adheres to the MSU Code of Student Conduct. In particular, academic dishonesty, however small, creates a breach in academic integrity. A student's participation in this course comes with the expectation that his or her work will be completed in full observance of the MSU Code of Student Conduct. Students should consult the MSU Student Handbook for answers to any questions about the code of conduct.

Some components of this course are designed to be highly interactive with students helping each other learn; however, all assignments are designed to represent the efforts of each student individually and not to be shared. When students submit their efforts for grading, they are attesting they have abided by this rule.

Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, artificial writing generators, etc.) will not be tolerated in this class. Whenever a student is unsure of whether a particular situation will be interpreted as academic dishonesty, the student should ask the professor for clarification. If students are guilty of academic dishonesty, a grade of zero (0) will be given for the quiz, assignment, etc., and the student will not be given an opportunity to resubmit the assignment. Based on the severity of the cheating, plagiarism, or use of artificial writing generators, the professor reserves the right to fail the student in the course and refer the student to the department chair for further disciplinary action, which could include permanent dismissal from the program. Cases may also be referred to the Dean of Students for possible dismissal from the university and the ARRT as a possible ethics violation.

Using Artificial Writing Generators includes but is not limited to



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- Using any artificial intelligent agent (e.g., Chat GPT) to generate written work that the student uses within their course paper, poster, presentation, or any other project, with or without proper citation, or;
- Using any artificial writing generator as a primary source, or;
- Using any artificial writing generators in place of traditional methods of research to obtain sources and any interpretations about the content of those sources.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is not tolerated in this course whether intentional or not. By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a *limited right* in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The *limited right* includes but not limited to the right to reproduce the students work product to verify originality and authenticity and for educational purposes.

SPECIAL NEEDS

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Support Services in Room 168 of the Clark Student Center, (940) 397-4140. Documentation of disability from a competent professional is required.

GRADUATE COMPETENCIES

Graduates of the MSRS program should be able to:

- Use knowledge of current and future trends and well-developed skills to lead a medical imaging department, teach in a radiologic sciences program, or perform advanced clinical procedures.
- Use critical thinking strategies and communication skills to develop an ethical and legal framework for the resolution of concerns and issues in radiologic administration, education, or advanced clinical practice.



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- Demonstrate leadership skills and knowledge of the political process to effect change within administration, education, or advanced clinical practice settings.
- Evaluate, design, and conduct research studies for the improvement of radiologic science administration, education, or advanced clinical practice.
- Demonstrate a sound academic foundation to support lifelong learning and to prepare for future matriculation in post-master or doctoral programs.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS

Unresolved issues related to this course should be first addressed between the student and the course instructors. If there is no resolution, students must follow this sequence:

Department Chair – Dr. Beth Veale (940) 397.4611

College Dean – Dr. Jeff Killion (940) 397.4594

Dean of Students – Mr. Matthew Park (940) 397.7500

Senate Bill 11 Senate Bill 11, passed by the 84th Texas Legislature, allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the [University's campus carry webpage](#). If you have questions or concerns, please get in touch with MSU Interim Chief of Police [Steven Callarman](#) by email at steven.callarman@msutexas.edu.

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [Safety / Emergency Procedures](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “*Run. Hide. Fight.*” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)