

Program: Mental Retardation Counsellor

Course Title: Research Seminar

Course Number MRC 213

Instructor: Karen Cameron

PART I

Course Philosophy

"A close searching" of written materials which involves not only a studious inquiry into the subject/ but also a critical examination, assessment, and interpretation of the materials found, is a necessary component in the H.R.C. program. After college; the methods used in writing the research paper will continue to serve in the professions, and in the civic and social activities they will pursue. Fact finding, with its analysis and reporting, is so important an aspect of our present-day civilization that every educated person must be prepared to undertake it.

PART II

Course Goals

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to confront and investigate some of the current issues in the field of mental retardation. This course will be conducted on an individual assignment basis for research topics allowing for diversified interests to be pursued.

PART III

Terminal/Behavioural Objectives

On successful completion of the Research Seminar course **the** student must be able to do the following;

- A» Identify and utilize proper and efficient research procedures in completing his/her assignment.
- B» Isolate a problem which relates to the mentally retarded and research it.
- C* Discover and make use of all the resources of a library in .. gathering materials on a specific subject as well as his ingenuity in finding other sources yielding additional information
- D,^ Select from the material available those facts and ideas that **are** immediately pertinent to his topic

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- E. Organize and document his/her information properly; and write it clearly, logically, effectively, and correctly with respect to grammar, spelling and punctuation.
- F. Work through a project to completion using the teacher only for guidance and a resource.

PART IV

Syllabus

Unit I " Topic Selection (1st through 2nd week)

- a. Suggestions for topics
- b. How to narrow the topic

Unit II - Collecting Material (3rd through 5th week)

- a. Using the library
- b. Library visitation - the information desk, the reference room, the card catalogue, periodical indexes, professional journals
- c. Evaluating source materials
- d. Additional references

Unit III - Planning the paper (6 through 8th week)

- a. Exploratory reading
- b. Making a preliminary bibliography .
- c. Forms for bibliography cards
- d. Outlining
 - 1. Taking stock
 - 2. Organizing your material
- e. Notetaking
- f. Individual meetings are assigned

Unit IV - Writing the paper (9 through 10th week)

- 2. Audience and attitude
- b.. Purpose and tone
- c. Writing the first draft
 - 1. Paragraph development - unity, coherence, emphasis, variety, diction, transitional expressions
- d, - Footnotes
- e» Diction
 - 1. abbreviations
 - 2. numbers
 - 3. plurals
 - 4« quotations
 - 5. division of words at ends of lines

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