PSY 510 Research Paper Guidelines

Instructions:
The final project is the completion of a research paper. The research paper represents an assignment that ties together many aspects of our work this term. This paper will be on a topic of your choice selected from the list below. This paper is to be a minimum of 2,500 words, is required to be in APA format, and must include at least five additional scholarly sources in addition to your text. **This paper must also include a discussion of the application of at least two of the Saint Leo core values.** The paper must be your own work. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any format. If it is determined that the paper is not your original work, you will automatically fail the assignment.

First, you must select a topic approved from the list below, write an overview (2-3 sentences) of the selected topic, and email it to the instructor via course email **no later than Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT of Module 1.**

Topics:

- Considering concepts from your text (Patrick), explore current research that examines the conceptualization of clinical diagnosis and measurement of psychopathic behavior. Given your discussion of the history of these concepts, how does the current research further our understanding? What new ideas or methods are being offered? How might these new developments affect how we understand or measure psychopathy, and what changes might result? Integrate the Saint Leo University core value, professional development, in your response.

- Considering concepts from your text (Patrick), explore current research to find a criminal case in which it was determined that an underlying biological mechanism (genetic, neurochemical, brain injury, etc.) caused or exacerbated psychopathic behavior. Use concepts from the book chapters to discuss the underlying mechanism, and discuss possible treatment implications. Additionally, discuss possible ways in which such problems might be prevented in the future. Integrate the Saint Leo University core value, professional development, in your response.

- Considering concepts from your text (Patrick), explore current research to find a criminal case from a specific social population (such as an adolescent, or female, or of an ethnic minority). Discuss how issues specific to this population affect assessment and treatment. What were the main findings of your research? What implications for future assessment or treatment do the findings have for this population? Integrate the Saint Leo University core value, professional development, in your response.

Ensure that the paper conforms to APA standards of writing (including a title page, abstract, discussion, reference page, in-text citations, and appropriate formatting). This is **not** an opinion piece; theories are to be supported with facts, evidence, and scholarly research.
The paper should be of quality and format that is sufficient to merit publication in a professional journal. Toward that end, in addition to the textbook, students will use a minimum of five peer-reviewed scholarly journal articles, professional journals, or books from the Saint Leo University Library to craft the paper.

Students may use information gathered from a reputable website as one of the sources. A reputable website is one maintained by trustworthy and renowned organizations or individuals. For example, for a conservative viewpoint on a topic, The Heritage Foundation site would be valid. Conversely, a liberal perspective may come from The Cato Institute.

Non-reputable articles from general websites like Wikipedia do not constitute peer-reviewed articles, professional journals, or texts. Anyone can post any article on Wikipedia as one can create a website about anything, whether the person knows about the topic or not. This makes the information very unreliable for academic research. As a result, sources used from these types of sites will not be accepted.

Newspaper, magazine, opinion, or op-ed pieces may be used as secondary sources; in addition to, not in place of, the five primary source minimum.

See the scoring rubric on the next page for grading criteria. Students will submit this assignment to the Dropbox no later than Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT of Module 7. (This Dropbox basket is linked to Turnitin.)
Rubric (200 points possible):

Students will complete the assignment with attention to the criteria below.

Ratings:

**Exceptional** corresponds to an A (95-100%). Performance is outstanding; significantly above the usual expectations.

**Proficient** corresponds to a grade of B to A- (83-94%). Skills and standards are at the level of expectation.

**Basic** corresponds to a C to B- (75-82%). Skills and standards are acceptable but improvements are needed to meet expectations well.

**Novice** corresponds to an F (< 74%). Performance is weak; the skills or standards are not sufficiently demonstrated at this time.

0 corresponds to criterion is missing or not in evidence.

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<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Ratings</th>
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<tr>
<td>The paper addresses the topic in an organized manner that logically analyzes and discusses the topic.</td>
<td>0: 1-22, Novice: 23-24, Proficient: 25-28, Exceptional: 29-30</td>
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<td>Shows depth and understanding of the subject, with appropriate analysis and integrates the core value of personal development</td>
<td>0: 1-22, Novice: 23-24, Proficient: 25-28, Exceptional: 29-30</td>
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<td>Presents ideas in a clear and concise manner and assesses the core value of excellence</td>
<td>0: 1-22, Novice: 23-24, Proficient: 25-28, Exceptional: 29-30</td>
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<td>Meets length requirements</td>
<td>0: 1-14, Novice: 15-16, Proficient: 17-18, Exceptional: 19-20</td>
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<td>APA is the only acceptable and recognized writing format- Wikipedia is not an acceptable or reputable source.</td>
<td>0: 1-22, Novice: 23-24, Proficient: 25-28, Exceptional: 29-30</td>
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<td>Follows format for a research paper without opinion or personal forms</td>
<td>0: 1-22, Novice: 23-24, Proficient: 25-28, Exceptional: 29-30</td>
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Total: _____/200

Instructor Comments: