EDCI 696: Applications of Research Methods  
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL - 2012

Instructor: David L. Brown, Ph.D.  
Office Location: Education South, 229  
Office Hours: By Appointment  
Office Phone: 903-886-5536  
Office Fax:  
University Email Address: David.Brown@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Class Meetings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 27</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>4:30 PM – 10:00 PM</td>
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<td>September 10</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>4:30 PM – 10:00 PM</td>
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<td>September 24</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>4:30 PM – 10:00 PM</td>
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<td>October 8</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>4:30 PM – 10:00 PM</td>
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<td>October 22</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>4:30 PM – 10:00 PM</td>
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<td>November 5</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>4:30 PM – 10:00 PM</td>
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<td>November 19</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>4:30 PM – 10:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 3</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>4:30 PM – 10:00 PM</td>
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* Denotes Instructor Attending Conference (if indicated above)

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Required:


Recommended Texts:


Course Description: An application of research methodology in curriculum and instruction including basic concepts employed in quantitative and qualitative research methods. Includes carrying out the pilot study designed in EDCI 695, data collection, data analysis, and use of computer applications for research. Student will by the end of semester, revise and/or write a research proposal. This is not a statistics class but students should have completed one intro to statistics course. Prerequisites EDCI 695, EDCI 699, and Doctoral level standing or consent of the instructor.

Course Objectives:

1. The student will analyze data using excel and SPSS, present and interpret results, and write a brief report using tables.
2. The student will create or revise a current research proposal.
3. The student will create a power point to present a summary of the research investigations completed in this course.
4. The student will develop data sets using excel and import into SPSS for analysis.

Course Topics:

1. Conducting Policy Research
2. Research Designs.
3. Identifying a Research Problem.
4. Identifying a Possible Research Question.
5. The Purposes of a Literature Review.
7. Understanding and Writing a Literature Review.
8. Issues in Validity and Reliability.
10. Designing and Conducting Qualitative Research.
15. Analyzing and Interpreting Descriptive Research.
16. Writing Research Reports.
17. Developing Data Sets.
1. **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. **Attend every class and be prepared to discuss, question, analyze, critique, and debate** assigned readings, special topic readings, and other class assignments. Each student will attend and participate in discussions, readings, and collaborative activities during each class session. Additionally, each student will complete assigned readings and be ready to share and discuss in class. Class participation is defined as regular attendance to class, coming to class prepared by having read the assigned readings; formulating questions for class discussion; active participation during in-class activities and discussions; and displaying professional conduct during class.

2. **Presentation:**

   **Analyzing Data:** Each student enrolled in EDCI 696 will engage in data analysis using data collected from the IRB proposal submitted in EDCI 695. This assignment will provide students practice in doing basic descriptive statistics and interpretation of data.

   Each student will work in concert with the Instructor of record and their statistics professor to develop and analyze a set of data and write a brief report with tables and interpretation of results.

3. **Present Summary of Research:** Each student will present a summary of a research study to the class including a discussion of results with directions for future research. The presentation and discussion during the EDCI 696 class meeting will last for approximately 45 minutes. The presentation should be done in power point and include:

   A. A summary of the purpose of the study, why it is relevant, research questions addressed, methods use, and results and conclusions from study.

   B. Identify major strengths and weakness of the research study according to a criteria discussed in class.

4. **Chapter Presentation:**

   Each student will select chapters from textbook and develop a 4-6 page (power Point) presentation and reaction to the key ideas. The student will provide copies of the (power point) handout for each class members, during their presentation. Students are strongly encouraged to actively engage class members in their presentation.

   **Guidelines for Chapter Presentations:**

1. Please remember to bring copies of your handout materials during the Chapter Presentation.
2. If you choose to use the PowerPoint projector, please arrive early and check to see if you are able to open your file.
3. Please plan to share the key ideas orally, but do not read the information, but, discuss with the class.
4. Try to keep within your 20 – 30 minutes time period. However, if you have to extend the time period, we have some additional time that must be used strategically.
5. Finally, please actively engage the class in understanding the key ideas within the chapter.
6. Research Proposal – students are expected to submit a draft of their research proposal using the Doctoral Template on the website of the Graduate School Office. The link to the website is enclosed for your review - [http://web.tamu-commerce.edu/academics/graduateschool/graduateForms.aspx](http://web.tamu-commerce.edu/academics/graduateschool/graduateForms.aspx)

**Grading:**

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Data Analysis Assignment/Notebook</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present Summary of Research Study</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Presentations</td>
<td>60 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revisions of Research Proposal</td>
<td>30 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>300 pts</strong></td>
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**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

This is not an Online Course but some technological resources will be required.

Access to a Computer with
- Internet Access.
- Microsoft Word Processing Software.
- Microsoft Power Point Software.
- Adobe or Foxit Reader to open PDF File.

**ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

Dr. Brown will send email attachments of all readings relating to course topics. We will not use e-college in this course.

**COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

**Participation & Communication:** Each of you are expected to participate fully in assigned readings related to course topics, chapter presentations, discussions of current articles, and presentations of research topics. Your active and thoughtful participation is expected in all course assignments. Regular attendance is necessary and will be expected of all students.

In regards to communication, please use my email ([David.Brown@Tamuc.edu](mailto:David.Brown@Tamuc.edu)) to correspond with me regarding class matters. Also, I will be happy to schedule individual appointments with you, if needed. Also, I will post readings on my website for individual and class assignments. Students will be provided with information to access documents on the website.
Websites on Data Analysis:

http://lilt.ilstu.edu/jpda/

http://www.kdnuggets.com/websites/microarray.html

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_analysis#Qualitative_data_analysis

http://statistics.merlot.org/

References


COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Citizenship: All Students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Student 92s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

Late Work: Late work is not accepted. You will have plenty of notification and time to complete course assignments. If you know you are going to be out of town and unable to access a computer, Plan ahead. Instructor will provide topical schedule noting dates for all course assignments.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism WILL NOT be tolerated and will result in an automatic F in the course. Various versions of your work and final papers will be run through Turnitin software – this is not meant to “catch” you in the act, but rather assist you in seeing possible areas that may be unintentionally plagiarized and allow for editing your work.
**Attendance:** Attend all classes. Arrive on time and remain until class is dismissed. Class meets on alternate Mondays from 4:30 PM until 10:00 PM unless noted otherwise by the instructor. If you must miss a class due to a professional responsibility and know ahead of time, discuss this with the instructor on the first night of class to create a make-up plan. If you must miss a class due to an unforeseen excused absence or professional responsibility, email or leave a telephone message for the instructor before class, then give the instructor a written plan for make-up work at the beginning of the next class session. You must discuss this plan with the instructor and gain his approval to receive make-up credit. Each unexcused absence will lower your final average score by 10 points. For a definition of an excused absence, please see the Texas A&M University-Commerce Catalog or Student's Guidebook.

**Cell Phones/Computers:** Please respect the instructor and your peers by turning off your cell phones and other technical devices during chapter presentations, unless you have notified me at the beginning of class that you have a critical family situation about which you must be notified. This should constitute only emergencies.

**Scholarly Expectations:** All works submitted for credit must be original works created by the scholar uniquely for the class. It is considered in appropriate and unethical, particularly at the graduate level, to make duplicate submissions of a single work for credit in multiple classes, unless specifically requested by the instructor. Work submitted at the graduate level is expected to demonstrate higher-order thinking skills and be of significantly higher quality than work produced at the undergraduate level.

**University Specific Procedures:**

*ADA Statement*

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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu
Student Disability Resources & Services

*Student Conduct*

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).

**COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

A topical course schedule will be developed collaboratively in class during our first meeting.