



HIED 595: Research Methodology
Spring 2013
January 14 to March 1
Location: On-Line

Instructor: Derek Lester, PhD

Class Location: On-line

Class Time: TBD

Office Location: UCD, 1901 Main Street, Unit 107, Dallas, TX

Office Hours:

- Tuesday and Thursday 7pm to 7:45pm, via Google+
- Available by appointment: In-person, phone, and Google+

Cell phone: (206) 407-9904

Office Fax: (214) 915-1903

University Email Address: Derek.Lester@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Required:

Babbie, E.R. (2013). *The Practice of Social Research*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Publications Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.). (2010)
Washington D.C.: American Psychological Association.

Course Description

Research Methodologies. Three semester hours. Provides a study of research methodologies with appropriate practical application in relevant problem solving. Specific research types, including action research, will be emphasized. The student is required to demonstrate his or her competence in the investigation and formal reporting of a problem.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. The learner will be an active and engaged team member within his/her learning community by analyzing, constructing/creating, and evaluating information presented within the textbook, external readings/resources, student research, and class activities in order to contribute to and develop a research proposal.
2. The learner will compare and contrast different research designs and distinguish quantitative and qualitative methods.

3. The learner will prepare and execute steps in the process of research in the form of a written formal research proposal.

- The learner will identify and select a problem for research.
- The learner will collect and analyze relevant empirically based research and write a literature review.
- The learner will develop the purpose and research questions to address the problem.
- The learner will examine, select and design appropriate research designs to collect data.
- The learner will evaluate research data from pilot study and report results.
- The learner will properly format and cite research via the APA publication style

4. The learner will participate in a proposal review and revision process with group members providing constructive and thoughtful feedback to the construction and development of the research proposal.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Reading Logs (eCollege journals)

Students will write a 2-page reflection for each chapter of assigned reading for the Babbie text. Reflections may be on any topic addressed in the reading. Reflections are due the day of the class discussion for the related chapter. Post the article summaries and questions into the journal. Article summaries are posted under the Journal section because the reading and processing of ideas is a personal and contemplative experience. Each of the assigned readings deserves your time and calm, reflective thought. As doctoral students, the thoughtful processing of ideas is your main goal as you prepare to write a dissertation. Please enjoy this journaling process as you read and absorb this content.

Discussion Posts (eCollege posts)

For each posted discussion questions, respond with one comment or question to either the original question or to a colleague's comment/question. The purpose of on-line discussion posts is to help facilitate the understanding of the material before the class period. Discussion posts will add to the depth of discussions during the in-class period because of the additional time in thought and conversation outside of class.

Exams (eCollege)

Tests will be included in each eCollege module. Tests are to be completed before the start of the class period.

Final Paper and Presentation: Research Methodology Paper.

A final paper is due for the course. The final paper will detail a literature review of a research topic, an outline of the methods for a research project, and proposed findings. The paper will be 10-12 pages in length. The outline for the paper will be as follows: Introduction, Literature Review, Research Methods, Research Findings, and Conclusion.

Final Paper length: 10-12 pages will give you the opportunity to earn up to a grade of A on the paper. 8-9 pages will give you the opportunity to earn up to a grade of B. Papers with less than 8 pages of text will not be accepted.

The paper will be submitted in three drafts.

The First Draft will be 2-3 pages and include a brief outline of the following information:

- Title page
- Review of Related Literature
- Statement of the Problem
- Purpose of the Study
- Research Questions

The Second Draft will be a be 5+ pages of text that addresses the following sections:

- Title page
- Review of Related Literature
- Statement of the Problem
- Purpose of the Study
- Research Questions
- Significance of the Study
- Method of Procedure

The Final Draft will consist of the following sections:

- Title page
- Review of Related Literature
- Statement of the Problem
- Purpose of the Study
- Research Questions
- Significance of the Study
- Method of Procedure
- Findings
- Conclusions & Recommendations
- References
- Appendices

The research proposal will be developed via two Proposal Forums. Proposal Forums are group chats where students bounce ideas off of each other to help each other narrow their focus. In addition to developing your proposal, you will be placed in groups of 3 or 4 with similar topics to provide a peer review of their work. The sharing of feedback is expected to strengthen the outcome of your proposal as you will be exposed to a variety of ideas and be provided with constructive criticism for improvement.

In Proposal Forum 1, group members will discuss the following topics:

- Title page
- Review of Related Literature
- Statement of the Problem
- Purpose of the Study
- Research Questions
- References

In Proposal Forum 2, group members will discuss the following sections:

- Method of Procedure (survey development)
- Findings
- Conclusions & Recommendations
- Appendices

You will receive audio and visual feedback from me following Proposal Forums #1 and #2 a couple of days following the Sunday due dates. You will then have an opportunity to further edit your research proposal prior the next research proposal forum. You will receive audio and visual feedback from me for your completed research proposal at the conclusion of the semester. Each proposal forum will be devoted towards developing particular proposal sections.

Presentation.

A final presentation will briefly detail the literature review and research proposal of the final project. Presentations maybe be in the format of Prezi, voice over Power Point, or some other multimedia format. Presentations are to be 5-7 minutes in length and include about 7 slides.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is an integral part of the educational process. Students who miss class miss out on the dialectic process of exchanging ideas with the instructor and colleagues. One excused absences will not affect a student's grade. The second absence result in a loss of 5% of the total grade. Three absences will result in a failing grade for the course.

Writing Requirements

All papers are to follow APA format guidelines. Begin papers with an APA title page. Font is to be 12 point, New Times Roman, double-spaced. Normal margins: one inch left, right, top, and bottom. Secure the paper with one staple in the top left corner. No folders please.

Written assignments will be graded according to the following criteria:

- Completeness of response to the assignment: 50% of grade
- Organization and coherence: 30% of grade
- Appropriate grammar, punctuation, spelling: 15% of grade
- Use of disciplinary format and citation style: Paper displays correct use of student's disciplinary format and citation style (APA, 6th Edition) for papers submitted for presentation or publication (5% of grade). Non-cited statements within a paper will results in a loss of points in accordance with the 5% earned for APA format and citation.

Grading

The following final grading scale will be utilized to determine the final grade based on the average of the total points earned divided by the total points possible:

A =	4.0 = 90-100%
B =	3.0 = 80-89%
C =	2.0 = 70-79%
D =	1.0 = 60-69%
F =	0.0 = <60%

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Some Internet course assignments and internet-based research are required in this course. A computer, smart phone, or tablet with Internet access will be needed to complete some assignments. A wireless connection is available to students on campus. Computers are available for student use in the Gee Library, campus, and UCD computer labs. For more information concerning library or campus computer labs, visit <http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/library/>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

eCollege Technical Concerns

Please contact the eCollege HelpDesk, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by sending an email directly to helpdesk@online.tamuc.org. You may also reach the HelpDesk by calling (toll-free) 1-866-656-5511, or through the Online Chat by clicking on the "Live Support" tab within your eCollege course.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Email me at Derek.Lester@tamuc.edu. I will reply to emails within 48 hours. Use only your TAMU-Commerce email when communicating with me. I may also be reached on my cell phone: (206) 407-9904.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Respect Differing Views

As with all graduate courses, this course deals with ideas. Please be respectful of individuals with ideas and beliefs that differ from your own. If you disagree with someone then ask them

why they believe as they do, and then listen to the answer. People can have complex reasoning for what is seen as, on the surface, a simple idea. Only civil and even-tempered discussions will be permitted in class.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism within an assignment will result in a failing grade for that assignment. I expect all assignments for this course to be original works produced specifically for this course. At the instructor's discretion, if the plagiarism may have been accidental, an assignment may be redone for a maximum grade of 80% of the original total. Work produced, whether in part or whole, from assignments for other courses will not be accepted for credit.

Late Assignments

An electronic copy of each assignment is due at the beginning of class. Electronic copies of proposals and papers must be submitted to Document Sharing in eCollege (select private setting). Chapter summaries will be submitted via eCollege Journal. Late assignments will lose one letter grade (10%) per day late. The measurement of days ends at 11:59pm the following day of class. A new day begins at Midnight (12 am) and continues to 11:59 pm.

Examination Policy

Exams are timed and closed book, unless otherwise stated.

Religious Holidays Policy

Reasonable accommodation will be given to students who require class absences because of religious holidays. However, the attendance policy is still in effect.

Dropping the Class

If you need to adjust your schedule by dropping this course, please follow university procedures to officially drop the class. If you fail to officially drop the class, a failing grade shall be assigned at the end of the course. Incompletes: Per university policy, are granted only for circumstances beyond student's control that prevented the student from attending classes during Finals Week or the preceding three weeks (Policy A 12.07, 1998). The extension cannot exceed one semester. Failure to fulfill plan requirements within the specified time will result in an F. As a rule, I do not give a grade of incomplete unless the circumstances are deemed extreme.

Writing Center

Students are encouraged to visit the A&M-Commerce Writing Center for writing assistance. Visit the website at: <http://web.tamu-commerce.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/literatureLanguages/writingCenter/default.aspx>

Also, I am available to help with the writing process during office hours and by appointment.

Course Communication

Course communication will occur through your MyLeo Account. You will need to regularly and systematically review your e-mail on a timely basis.

University Specific Procedures

Students with Disabilities

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

Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

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* in the *Student Guide Handbook*).

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

COURSE SCHEDULE FOR SPRING 2012

Date	Topic	Reading(s)
Jan 14	Intro to Course: Course Requirements Intro to Babbie's <i>The Practice of Social Research</i> Babbie Part 1: An Introduction to Inquiry	Babbie 1, 2, 3
Jan 21	Babbie Part 2: The Structuring of Inquiry Writing a Literature Review Proposal Draft One Due	Babbie 4, 5
Jan 28	Babbie Part 2: The Structuring of Inquiry Proposal Forum 1: Proposal Draft Two	Babbie 6, 7
Feb 4	Babbie Part 3: Modes of Observation Proposal Draft Two Due Mid-Term	Babbie 8, 9
Feb 18	Babbie Part 3: Modes of Observation Proposal Forum 2: Final Draft	Babbie 10-12
Feb 25	Babbie Part 4: Analysis of Data	Babbie 13-14 Babbie 16
Mar 1	Final Presentations Final Draft Due Final Exam	