Materials

Required Textbook: Research Design (4th ed.) by John W. Creswell  

Course Objectives

Students successfully completing this course should:

1. Understand and contrast different research approaches.
2. Be familiar with the Graduate School webpage and able to find on the webpage the resources needed to help in their graduate program.
3. Understand the process, order of events, deadlines, expectations for successfully completing a thesis.
   a. Preparing for submitting a proposal
   b. What is a thesis and its outline.
4. Critically review a journal paper and recognize strengths and weaknesses, the objective or hypothesis, and author’s conclusion.
5. Understand how to present research both as a poster and orally at scientific meetings.

Course Description

This course is for graduate students that are going to do a thesis (option I) as part of their graduate program. It introduces students to the processes of scientific investigation, research methodologies and techniques, data interpretation, experimental design options, and scientific methodologies involved with planning, executing, interpreting, and the scientific writing of research projects.

Course Overview

In addition to the material covered from the textbook, students will be given teaching opportunities by expanding and elaborating further with supplemental material. Students will also participate in the review of other students writing assignments as well as working on their own. This course will prepare students for the overall graduate experience and begin preparing them for designing a project and begin the proposal procedure.
Grading

- Two exams will be given through the course.
- Homework assignments:
  - Will be given from each chapter of the book that will include one of the following: examples of principles or concepts taught in the book provided orally to the class or as written assignments.
  - Will be given for each class member to investigate and discover material appropriate to their area of interest. (specific journals and formats, professional associations, their meetings, and meeting presentation formats)
- Presentations
  - Presentation and Critique of a scientific paper
  - Creation of a Poster
  - Mock presentation at scientific meeting.

Grading Policy:

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<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
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<td>Homework Assignments</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>B: 80-89%</td>
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<td>Presentations</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures

Academic Honesty
Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including (but not limited to) receiving a failing grade on the assignment, the possibility of failure in the course and dismissal from the University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. In ALL instances, incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Department Head. Please be aware that academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) cheating, plagiarism, and collusion.

Cheating is defined as:

- Copying another's test or assignment
- Communication with another during an exam or assignment (i.e. written, oral or otherwise)
- Giving or seeking aid from another when not permitted by the instructor
- Possessing or using unauthorized materials during the test
- Buying, using, stealing, transporting, or soliciting a test, draft of a test, or answer key
Plagiarism is defined as:

- Using someone else's work in your assignment without appropriate acknowledgement
- Making slight variations in the language and then failing to give credit to the source

Collusion is defined as:

- Collaborating with another, without authorization, when preparing an assignment

If you have any questions regarding academic dishonesty, ask. Otherwise, I will assume that you have full knowledge of the academic dishonesty policy and agree to the conditions as set forth in this syllabus.

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