

COUN 695: Research Methodology Summer 2015

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Office Hours: In this course, I will be available prior to any face to face class if we have a scheduled appointment. We can schedule a phone conference if needed by email.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

695. Research Methodology. Three semester hours.

An overview of research methodology includes basic concepts employed in quantitative and qualitative research methods. Includes computer applications for research. Meets requirements for a Level I research tool course. Prerequisites: Doctoral status or consent of the instructor.

OVERVIEW:

This course has three goals: (a) to increase your understanding of research concepts and procedures, (b) to develop your appreciation of the importance of research in education, and (c) to develop your skills in preparing a research manuscript. This course is the first course in a doctoral studies research curriculum. There are several stages in conducting research: planning, piloting, data collecting, data analyzing, and reporting. This class will not cover all of these areas but will provide the blueprint for these areas, which will be elaborated upon in future course work.

TEXTBOOKS:

Heppner, P. P., Wampold, B. E., & Kivlighan, D. M. (2008). Research design in counseling, 3rd ed. Belmont, CA: Thomson Brooks/Cole.

American Psychological Association Publication Manual (6th Ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Additional Reading as Assigned

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Understand the nature, purpose, and types of educational research
2. Understand the procedures for reviewing research literature
3. Understand sampling procedures
4. Understanding procedures for selecting and administering tests and other measurement devices
5. Understanding concepts and procedures relating to research design
6. Understanding statistical concepts appropriate for analyzing data from different research designs

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

A13.12 Academic Honesty

Effective September 1, 1996

Revised April 14, 1998

Supplements System Policy 13.02

Section A. Students

1. Graduate students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work. Faculty members are expected to uphold and support student integrity and honesty by maintaining conditions that encourage and enforce academic honesty. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material.

2. If a student is accused of academic dishonesty, the faculty member making the accusation is responsible for initiating disciplinary proceedings. The penalty assessed should be related to the severity of the infraction. If the student and faculty member agree on the penalty, assessment of the penalty concludes the disciplinary action.

However, certain violations of academic honesty, such as plagiarism, infringe upon the academic community's basic tenets of scholarly inquiry. Therefore, if a faculty member believes the infraction is severe enough to warrant further action and/or if the faculty member believes the problem may be cumulative, occurring in other classes in which the student is enrolled, the faculty member may file a report of the infraction with the Dean for Graduate Studies and Research. The student must be notified that the report has been filed with the Dean for Graduate Studies and Research so as to allow the student the opportunity to file a response. If a faculty member believes the infraction is so severe that a penalty greater than failure on a project and/or course is warranted, the faculty member may recommend to the Dean for Graduate Studies and Research through the department head and academic dean that the student be suspended or expelled.

If the student disagrees with the charge or level of penalty, he/she is entitled to due process in accordance with the University procedure for student appeals. The appeal process for this procedure is through the following channels: department head, Dean for Graduate Studies and Research and the Administration Committee of the Graduate Council, which will present its recommendation to the full Graduate Council for final disposition of the appeal. Final jurisdiction on graduate student appeals is with the Graduate Council.

Attendance and Late Assignment Policies

Students are expected to attend all classes. More than one absence from face to face classes will result in a deduction of one letter grade from your final grade. In other words, if you miss two face to face classes for any reason, you will not make an A in the course. Late assignments will result in a 10-point deduction for each class the assignment is late. Arriving habitually late to class is inappropriate and will count the same as being absent

Digital Devices

In class, it is inappropriate and disrespectful to check email or text during class. Do not bring laptops to class and turn off cell phones. If you have an emergency situation in which you must be contacted during class, bring it to my attention prior to class and set your phone on vibrate.

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 Rm 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

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

UNIVERSITY CLOSING DUE TO WEATHER

Check <http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/> regarding class cancellations. Also, KETR radio on 88.9 FM and television channels 4, 5, and 8 (channel 7 for Tyler & Longview Area).

Discrimination Free Environment

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

All assignments due for a given day will be collected at the beginning of class. Any assignment not turned in at the time will be considered late. All late assignments receive a letter grade deduction. No late assignment will be accepted more than one week after due date. Do not wait until the last minute to print your papers because things can happen that keep you from finishing.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS: To get full credit on written assignments, use American Psychological Association Publication Manual (6th Ed.) guidelines. All written assignments should use 12 point font, Times New Roman, 1" margins on top and bottom; 1" for left and right margins. Written assignments are graded for content, mechanics, and structure.

1. **Brief Literature Review:** Before you begin your lit review, I would highly recommend that you familiarize yourself with the tutorials on the library page of our online site. For the assignment, you will submit a brief literature review (8-10 pages) that is relevant to a topic of interest to you. This topic may become your dissertation or a manuscript that you submit for publication at some point in time. Do not waste this opportunity to create something of value just to complete an assignment. If you do not have curiosity about the topic, if you do not want to

know more about it, choose another topic. It is completely unacceptable to turn in a paper that you did in another class. Your review should include the following:

- At least twelve peer reviewed references cited in text.
- A rationale for your research
- A topic that is a feasible research project- we will help with this part
- Research questions
- APA 6th Ed. Format (see above)
- A reference section

2. **Dissertation Review:** Select a dissertation from the ones available on the 695 website or one relevant to your research area of interest and in a paragraph describe why you selected it. Summarize the contents of the first three chapters, including major subsections. If you selected a dissertation-based article, summarize the introduction and literature review (which may be combined) and the method section of the article. I should have a pretty good idea what the dissertation is about after reading your review. React to strengths and weaknesses of the dissertation. If you choose one that is not on our website, you will need to include a digital copy of it with your review.

3. There will be one **exam** in the course that includes objective and essay questions.

4. Final Draft Proposal: Detailed handout will be provided

5. Study Presentation: Detailed handout will be provided

Grading:

Attendance/participation	30 points
Brief lit review	40 points
Dissertation review	50 points
Exam	70 points
Study Presentation	40 points
<u>Final draft proposal</u>	<u>70 points</u>
Total	300 points

A	90%	270 points
B	80%	240 points
C	70%	210 points

Flexible Schedule

- July 14** Introduction to research and statistics, Syllabus, Opening Activities, Electronic databases, View Doing Research Tutorial prior to next class, Literature review assignment, Read Ch. 1, 3, 4, 6 & 14 **prior to next class**
- July 16** Quantitative sampling, Choosing research designs, Ethical issues in research, IRB submission, CITI training, Literature review assignment, Read Ch. 7 & 8 **prior to next class**
- July 21** Experimental and quasi-experimental designs, Validity, Chapter one issues such as research questions, purpose of study and statement of problem, Qualitative research, Literature review assignment, Read Chapters 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 & 20 **prior to July 28 class**
- July 23** Library/study groups, online dissertation reviews, Research for Lit Review
- July 28** Non-experimental quantitative research, independent variables, Hypothesis testing Single Case Design, Dependent variables, Reliability, Qualitative research,
Brief Lit Rev Due
- July 30** Library/study groups, online dissertation reviews, work on research proposal
- Aug 4** Library/study groups, online dissertation reviews, work on research proposal
- Aug 6** **Exam- discuss research proposals/presentations**
- Aug 11** **Presentations**
- Aug 13** **Presentations*****
Final Draft
Proposal Due