



BHS 240 *Research Methods* (3) Fall 2001

Instructor: M. Wilkinson

Office Hours: TBA

Class Times: W/F @ 9:45 am; lab on Mon.

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Location: Room 2

Required Texts

Berg, Bruce L. 4th Edition. *Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences*. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon.

Del Balso, Michael and Alan D. Lewis. 1997. *First Steps: A Guide to Social Research*. Scarborough, ON: Nelson.

On Reserve

Sproul, Natalie L. 1995. *Handbook of Research Methods: A Guide for Practitioners and Students in the Social Sciences*. Lanham, MD: The Scarecrow Press.

Vogt, W. Paul. 1993. *Dictionary of Statistics and Methodology: A Nontechnical Guide for the Social Sciences*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

Course Description

An introduction to the concepts and processes of both qualitative and quantitative social research. Research processes include problem definition, data collection and analysis. Students are expected to develop research skills through practical application.

Objectives

1. Gain an understanding of the logic of social research.
2. Become acquainted with research design and a variety of quantitative and qualitative research methods.

3. Apply quantitative and qualitative techniques through “hands on” exercises.

Course Schedule

Part One: What is so Important about Social Science Research?

1. Why know about social science research? Sept. 5&7
Reading: Del Balso, chap. 1
2. What is Social Science Research? Sept. 12&14
Reading: Del Balso, chap. 2 & Berg, chap. 1
3. Ethical Issues Sept. 19
Reading: Berg, chap. 3
Test 1: September 21

Part Two: Designing a Research Plan

4. Where do I begin? Sept. 26&28
Reading: Del Balso, chap 3, see Berg chap. 1
5. Approach: Distinguishing between Qualitative and Quantitative Research Oct. 3&5
Reading: Berg, chap. 2
6. Using the right tools: Measuring what you set out to measure Oct. 10
Reading: Del Balso, chap. 4; see reliability and validity in Dictionary of Statistics and Methodology
Test 2: October 12

Part Three: Following the Research Plan

7. Interviewing Oct. 17&19
Reading: Berg, chap. 4&5
8. Survey Research Oct. 24&26
Reading: Del Balso, chap 5
9. Field Research Oct. 31 & Nov. 2
Reading: Del Balso, chap. 7; Berg, Chap. 6&9
10. Indirect or Non-Reactive Research and Secondary analysis Nov. 7&14
Reading: Del Balso, chap. 8 and Berg, chap. 8&11
11. Case Study Nov. 16&21
Reading: Berg, chap. 7&10
12. Experimental Research Nov. 23

Readings: Del Balso, chap. 6

Part Four: Analyzing and Presenting the Data

13. What are the Results? Nov. 28&30

Reading: Del Balso, chap. 9

14. The Research Report Dec. 5

Reading: Del Balso, chap. 10 and Berg chap. 12

Test 3: December 7

Course Requirements

NOTE: All assignments must be completed to meet course requirements. Late lab assignments will receive an “F” grade.

A. Lab Assignments (50%)

Labs are compulsory for all students. Grades will be based on participation and the assignment. The emphasis is on “hands on” methodology. In other words, the best way to learn how to do research is to combine theory/readings with practical exercises. The following are the lab exercises and the dates they are due.

1. Literature Review: Monday, October 15
2. Interview exercise: Monday, October 29
3. Observation exercise: Monday, November 5
4. Content analysis: Monday, November 19
5. Case study: Monday November 26

B. Tests x 3 (50%)

There will be three tests during the semester to cover the material (both text and class/lab). No final exam will be scheduled.

1. Friday September 21 (10%)
2. Friday October 12 (15%)
3. Friday December 7 (25%)

Grade Assignments

96-100	A+	68-71	C+
91-95	A	63-67	C
86-90	A-	60-62	C-
82-85	B+	56-59	D+
75-81	B	50-55	D
72-74	B-		

Important Notes

- All assignments must be completed for the course. Failure to do so will result in a failing grade for the course.