



NAZARENE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

BHS 240 Research Methods (3)

Fall 2005

Instructor: Peter Doell PhD

Contacting the Instructor

Office: 515

Office Phone: 571-2550 x 5902

Class Times: W/F 2:30-3:45;

Class Location: 517

Lab Monday 4:00

Office Hours: T/W/TH/F 1:00-2:00

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Course Description

This course is an introduction to the concepts and processes of quantitative and qualitative research. Research processes include problem definition, designing the study, selection or development of theory, literature review, data collection, determination of appropriate statistical methods, interpretation and analysis of data, and writing of the research report. Students will develop research skills through application of textual concepts. NOTE: This course involves a Monday laboratory component. Absences from labs will result in 5% reduction per missed lab in the final grade.

Course Objectives

By the conclusion of this course students will

- Gain an understanding of the logic of social research
- Understand the ethical implications of conducting social research
- Be acquainted with research design and several quantitative and qualitative research methods.
- Be able to conduct a literature review
- Be able to interpret data appropriately
- Apply both qualitative and quantitative techniques to actual research situations
- Be aware of the importance of avoiding plagiarism
- Be able to draft a research proposal

Required Texts

Neuman, Lawrence. 2004. *The Basics of Social Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*. Toronto: Pearson Education, Inc.

Nardi, Peter. 2006. *Interpreting Data*. Toronto: Pearson Education, Inc.

Johnson, William J., Richard P. Rettig, Gregory M. Scott, and Stephen M. Garrison.

2006. *The Sociology Student Writer's Manual*, 5th Ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education Inc.

On Reserve

Babbie, Earl. 2004. The Practice of Social Research, 10th Ed. Belmont, CA:

Wadsworth Publishing Co.

Berg, Bruce L. 1998. Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences. Toronto:

Allyn & Bacon.

Course Schedule

Part I: Foundations of Social Science Research

1. Introduction to Science and Research	Sept. 7, 9
Reading: Neuman, Ch. 1; Babbie, Ch. 1	
2. Theory and Social Science Research	Sept. 14, 16
Reading: Neuman, Ch 2	
3. Ethical Issues	Sept. 21
Reading: Neuman, Ch. 3	
4. Reviewing the Literature & Planning the Study	Sept. 23, 28
Reading: Neuman, Ch. 4	
LAB 1: Reviewing the Literature (Assignment 1)	Sept. 26
5. Qualitative and Quantitative Measurement	Sept. 30, Oct. 5
Reading: Neuman, Ch. 5; Nardi, Introduction; Ch. 1	
LAB 2: Assignment 1 Due	Oct. 3
6. Sampling	Oct. 7
Reading: Neuman, Ch. 6	

Part II: Conducting Quantitative Research

7. Survey Research	Oct. 12, 14
Reading: Neuman, Ch. 7	
LAB 3: Interviewing (Assignment 2)	Oct. 17
8. Experimental Research	Oct. 19
LAB 4: Assignment 2 Due	Oct. 24
Reading: Neuman, Ch. 8	
9. Non-Reactive Research and Secondary Analysis	Oct. 21, 28
Reading: Neuman, Ch. 9; Berg, Ch. 11	
LAB 5: Description of Data; Interpretation of Tables (Assignment 3)	Oct. 31
10. Analysis of Quantitative Data	Nov. 2, 4
Reading: Neuman, Ch. 10; Nardi, Ch. 2	
LAB 6: Assignment 3 Due	Nov. 7

Examination 1 – 15% Nov. 9

LAB 7: Sociological Observation (assignment 4)	Nov. 14
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Part III: Conducting Qualitative Research

11. Field Research	Nov. 16, 18
Reading: Neuman, Ch. 11	
LAB 8: Assignment 4 Due	Nov. 21
12. Historical-Comparative Research	Nov. 23, 25
Reading: Neuman, Ch. 12	

LAB 9: Case Study (Assignment 5)	Nov. 28
13. Analysis of Qualitative Data	Nov. 30, Dec. 2
Reading:	Neuman, Ch. 13; Berg, Ch. 10
LAB 10: Assignment 5 Due	Dec. 5
14. Writing the Research Report	Dec. 7, 9
Reading:	Neuman, Ch. 14
15. Examination 2 – 15%	Dec. 14

Final Assignment – 20% **Dec. 16**

The final assignment constitutes a Research Proposal of a hypothetical study you might conduct based on your exposure to various research designs during the course of this term. This assignment is due Dec. 16/05.

Course Requirements

- Readings must be completed prior to the class sessions in which the respective readings are featured.
- In consideration of your lab instructor, missed Labs may not be made up.

Course Grade

Laboratory Assignments	(Each Lab = 10% of course grade)	50%
Examinations x 2 @ 15%		30%
Final Assignment	(Research Proposal)	20%

Important Notes

- Last day to enter course without permission and/or voluntarily withdraw from course without financial penalty:Sept. 16/05
- Last day to voluntarily withdraw from course or change to audit without academic penalty:Nov. 16/05
- It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with, and adhere to, NUC Academic Policies, such as the policy on Academic Dishonesty, which are stated in the current Catalogue.
- Questions regarding Laboratory assignments should be directed in the first instance to the Lab Instructor.

[NB/ Formatting details – Times New Roman 14 pt. bold to be used for Course No., Title, Credits & Term; Times New Roman 12 pt. on body of syllabus - bold on main headers]