

Course ID:	Course Title:	Fall 2018
BHS: 240	Research Methods	Prerequisite: Math: 30, SO: 121, PS: 121
		Credits: 3

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
Days:	Monday	Instructor:	Dr. David Mayers	First day of classes:	Wed., Sept 5
Time:	8:15am – 11:15am	Email:	david.mayers@ambrose.edu	Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:	Sun, Sept 16
Room:	A2210	Phone:	(587) 893-5531	Last day to request revised exam:	Mon, Oct 22
		Office:	L2091	Last day to withdraw from course:	Mon, Nov 12
		Office Hours:	Monday 11:15 am – 1:15 pm	Last day to apply for coursework extension:	Mon, Nov 19
Final Exam:	TBA			Last day of classes:	Tue, Dec 11

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the concepts and processes of quantitative and qualitative research. Research processes include problem definition, designing a study, selection and development of theory, literature review, data collection, interpretation and analysis of data, and writing the research report. Students will develop research skills through the practical application of material covered in class, in the text readings, and in weekly labs.

Expected Learning Outcomes

Through classes and directed readings, students will:

1. Gain an understanding of the research process and the mechanisms by which it is orchestrated.
2. Develop a rationale for when and how to incorporate quantitative and/or qualitative research methods.
3. Identify factors that bolster and undermine the validity and reliability found in research projects.
4. Discriminate the advantages and disadvantages of different data collection procedures.

Textbooks

Gravetter, F. J., & Forzano, L. A. B. (2018). *Research methods for the behavioral sciences*. Cengage Learning.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Important Dates
1	Sept. 10	Scientific Method, Research Ideas, & Hypotheses	Chapter 1, 2, 3	
2	Sept 17	Ethics in Research & Participants	Chapter 4, 5	
3	Sept. 24	Research Strategy and Validity	Chapter 6	
4	Oct. 1			<u>Exam 1</u>
5	Oct 8	No Classes	Chapter 7	
6	Oct. 15	Between Subjects Design	Chapter 8	Research Topic Due
7	Oct. 22	Within Subjects Design	Chapter 9	
8	Oct. 29	Non-Experimental Designs	Chapter 10	
9	Nov. 5	No Classes		
10	Nov. 12			<u>Exam 2</u>
11	Nov. 19	Factorial Designs	Chapter 11	
12	Nov. 26	Correlational & Descriptive Research	Chapter 12, 13	
13	Dec. 3	Single-Case Experimental Research Designs	Chapter 14	
14	Dec. 10	Exam Review		Research Proposal Due

Requirements:

Exam 1: 20% of final grade

Exam 2: 20% of final grade

Final Exam: 30% of final grade

Research Proposal: 30% of final grade

Research Proposal

A major component of this course is learning about how to properly design a research study in the behavioural sciences. Thus, students will be required to select a suitable topic in the social sciences, and develop a formal research proposal.

Research Topic: Students will be required to develop a suitable research proposal for a topic of their choosing. Topics can be selected that are within the purview of the behavioural sciences. The topic should include the area of focus, the proposed & the proposed research method. The proposal can be completed using point form notes, so long as enough information is provided regarding the topic and chosen research method. The research proposal topic must be approved by October 15th. Students are encouraged to hand in a one-page summary of the research topic that will be given back with feedback. Failure to submit a research topic by the 15th will eliminate to possibility to receiving feedback before the final due date.

Research Proposal: The research proposal should be done in a way that would allow for any researcher to complete the study. The research proposal will include the major sections that are typically included in a research proposal (title page, Abstract, Introduction, Method). Students are encouraged to focus on concepts and key terms discussed throughout the semester. Proposals should be 1000-1500 words (4-6 pages), should include a reference section, and should be written in APA 6th Edition style. A cover page is required for this submission.

Exams

There will be three exams in this course. The first exam covers all material covered from the beginning of the semester (Chapters 1-6). This exam will include a mix of short answer and multiple-choice. The second exam will cover material in chapter 7- 10. The second exam will include a mix of short answer and multiple-choice. The final exam will be non-cumulative and include content from chapters 11-14. The final exam will include a mix of short answer and multiple-choice, and long answer questions.

Attendance:

Students are expected to regularly attend lectures. Missing class regularly without adequate rationale will not only impact your ability to successfully complete the course, in extreme cases the instructor reserves the right to ask the student to withdraw from the course. You are not required to inform the instructor if you miss a class, but you should coordinate with a friend in the class to obtain any notes and instructions missed. Failure to communicate with the instructor regarding multiple absences or extenuating circumstances severely limits your ability to receive any accommodations.

Grade Summary:

Letter Grade	GPA	Percentage	Descriptor
A+	4.00	96-100	
A	4.00	90-95	Excellent
A-	3.70	85-89	
B+	3.30	80-84	
B	3.00	75-79	Good
B-	2.70	70-74	
C+	2.30	65-69	
C	2.00	60-64	Satisfactory
C-	1.70	55-59	
D+	1.30	50-54	
D	1.00	45-49	Minimal Pass
F	0.00	< 45	Failure

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform University-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor's assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously.

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are not mailed out.

Ambrose University Academic Policies:

Communication

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, they will need to forward all messages from the Ambrose account to another personal account.

Registration

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and/or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty or record. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a "Request to Withdraw from a Course" form or by sending an email to the Registrar's Office by the **Withdrawal Deadline**; please consult the List of Important Dates on the my.ambrose.edu website. Students will not receive a tuition refund for courses from which they withdraw after the Registration Revision period. A grade of "W" will appear on their transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

Exam Scheduling

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a Revised Examination Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) the student has three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will

be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information (information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual) may be required as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a course Extension from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Registrar's Office in writing and providing the basis for appeal within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to acknowledge to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

Note: Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.