

Course ID:	Course Title:	Fall 2020
BHS 240	Research Methods	Prerequisites: Math 30 SO 121 PS 121
		Credits: 3

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
Days:	Monday	Instructor:	Mitch Colp, PhD	First day of classes:	September 9
Time:	(Class) 8:15am-11:00am (Lab) 11:00am- 1:00pm	Email:	Mitchell.Colp@ambrose.edu	Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:	September 20
Room:	Virtual	Office:	Virtual	Last day to request revised exam:	November 2
Final Exam:	December 14, 2020	Office Hours:	By Appointment	Last day to withdraw from course:	November 20
				Last day to apply for coursework extension:	November 23
				Last day of classes:	December 14

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.
5. Understand research methodology in the behavioural sciences, including constructing and implementing quantitative and qualitative research designs, analyzing and critiquing empirical results, and presenting clear outcomes and recommendations to appropriate audiences

Textbooks

Picardi, C. A. & Masick, K. D. (2013). *Research Methods: Designing and Conducting Research with a Real-World Focus*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publishing Inc.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Deadlines
1	September 14	Introduction to Research Methods Variables, Measurement, and Hypotheses	Picardi & Masick Chapters 1 & 2	
2	September 21	Ethical and Legal Considerations in Research Reliability	Picardi & Masick Chapters 3 & 4	
3	September 28	Statistical Conclusion and Internal Validity Construct and External Validity	Picardi & Masick Chapters 5 & 6	
4	October 5	Experimental Research Designs Quasi-Experimental Research Designs	Picardi & Masick Chapters 7 & 8	
5	October 12	Thanksgiving (No Class/Tutorial)		
6	October 19	Examination #1		
7	October 26	Non-Experimental Research Designs Survey Research Designs	Picardi & Masick Chapters 9 & 10	
8	November 2	Integration of Statistical Terminology with Validity and Statistical Analyses	Picardi & Masick Chapter 11	
9	November 9	Reading Week (No Class/Tutorial)		
10	November 16	Generalization of Results to Field Settings Bridging the Science-Practice Gap	Picardi & Masick Chapters 12 & 13	Article Critique Due: November 16
11	November 23	Writing a Research Report	Picardi & Masick Chapters 14	
12	November 30	Program Evaluation		
13	December 7	Course Review		Literature Review Due: December 7
14	December 14	Examination #2		

Please note that changes to the course schedule may occur in response to student questions and conversations.

Learning Tasks and Assessment:

There are three required Learning Tasks for this course.

Learning Task	Description of Task	Percentage of Grade
Learning Task #1	Literature Review	30%
Learning Task #2	Article Critique	25%
Learning Task #3	Examinations	45%

Important Note. Percentage scores will be given for each course assignment. The weighting of each will be calculated and summed to provide the final letter grade. The completion of all assigned tasks is required for a passing grade in this course. Except for the scheduled examinations, the reading quizzes and article review is due by 11:59pm of the assigned date.

Late Bank. A 3-day late bank will be provided to all students, and they can use these days at their own discretion and without explanation during the term. For instance, a student could submit their weekly reading quiz 3 days late. **The late bank cannot be used for any of the scheduled examinations.** This is designed to provide students with some flexibility regarding personal situations, illness, workload management, or other concerns that may arise during the course timeline. Once you have used up your 3 late bank days, a penalty of 10% per day will apply for unexcused late submissions.

Learning Task #1: Literature Review (30%) – December 7, 2020

Throughout the semester, students will work independently to develop a research question based on some existing published research in psychology or sociology. These literature review should not be just a “shopping list” of findings from articles. Rather, it should be a critical review that examines relevant research with an eye to identifying gaps in the literature and limitations of previous research that, once identified, provide a reason to do more research. More information regarding this assignment will be provided in during scheduled classes and tutorials. Submitted responses should follow APA 7th Edition guidelines for general style and referencing. A cover page is required for these submissions. This literature review will constitute 30% of the final grade.

Learning Task #2: Article Critique (25%) – November 16, 2020

Students will be asked to provide a thoughtful review of a published journal article in an area of their own interest. In writing this review, students should begin their papers with an overall summary of the journal article that can be understood by individuals to whom are not familiar with the specific topic. The summary should include reference to the background literature, research question(s), research methodology, analysis, and obtained results. Next, students should focus specific attention to the research methodology utilized and outline two strengths and weaknesses. In the event the journal article demonstrates no clear strengths or weaknesses, feel free to discuss the general strengths and weaknesses that are commonly found in this form of the research methodology. For clarity, research methodology encompasses participant recruitment, sampling procedures, variable measurement, and overall research design (e.g., experimental). Submitted responses should follow APA 7th Edition guidelines for general style and referencing. A cover page is required for these submissions. This article review will constitute 25% of the final grade.

Learning Task #3: Examinations (45%) – October 19, 2020 and December 14, 2020

Students will be given three time-limited examinations that assess their knowledge, understanding, and synthesis of course materials and core concepts. The examinations are expected to be completed independently.

Examination #1 – October 19, 2020: The exam will cover the first four weeks of readings and lectures and constitute 20% of the final grade. It will contain a series of short answer and multiple-choice questions. The exam questions will be taken from the assigned chapter readings and presented lectures. They will include theoretical and applied applications of knowledge. Students will be given three hours to complete the examination.

Examination #2 – December 14, 2020: The exam will encompass assigned readings and lectures hosted between Weeks 7 and 13. This second examination will constitute 25% of the final grade. It will contain a series of short answer and multiple-choice questions. The exam questions will be taken from the assigned chapter readings and presented lectures. They will include theoretical and applied applications of knowledge. Students will be given three hours to complete the examination.

Attendance:

Students are expected to regularly attend lectures and tutorials. Missing these 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:

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

Letter Grade	GPA	Percentage
A+	4.00	96-100
A	4.00	91-95
A-	3.70	86-90
B+	3.30	82-85
B	3.00	75-81
B-	2.70	72-74
C+	2.30	68-71
C	2.00	63-67
C-	1.70	60-62
D+	1.30	56-59
D	1.00	50-55
F	0.00	0-49

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.

Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. We encourage students to build mental health supports and to reach out when help is needed.

On Campus:

- Counselling Services: ambrose.edu/counselling
- Peer Supportive Listening: One-to-one support in Student Life office. Hours posted at ambrose.edu/wellness.
- For immediate crisis support, there are staff on campus who are trained in Suicide Intervention and Mental Health First Aid. See ambrose.edu/crisissupport for a list of staff members.

Off Campus:

- Distress Centre - 403-266-4357
- Sheldon Chumir Health Care Centre - 403-955-6200
- Emergency - 911

Sexual Violence Support

All staff, faculty, and Residence student leaders have received *Sexual Violence Response to Disclosure* training. We will support you and help you find the resources you need. There is a website with on and off campus supports – ambrose.edu/sexual-violence-response-and-awareness.

Off Campus:

- Clinic: Sheldon Chumir Health Centre - 403-955-6200
- Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse - 403-237-5888

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