

Utah State University  
Department of Family, Consumer, & Human Development

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

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<b>Course Name:</b>	Research Methods
<b>Course Number:</b>	FCHD 3130, Distance Delivery
<b>Current Semester:</b>	Fall 2016
<b>Instructor:</b>	Andy Harris aharris@aggiemail.usu.edu
<b>Office:</b>	FL 123
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Monday, 10:00 am – 11:00 am. Because this is a broadcast course, I will also be available by appointment. Please contact me if you wish to meet and we will try to arrange a meeting via Skype or Facetime.
<b>Class Times &amp; Location:</b>	Wednesday: 8:00 pm – 10:30 pm
<b>Classroom:</b>	Distance Education, Room 005 (Basement)
<b>Required Text:</b>	Leary, M. R. (2012). <i>Introduction to behavioral research methods</i> (6th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson. ISBN:9780205203987

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**Course Description:**

This course is intended to provide the student with a basic overview of research concepts and designs. We will cover common methodologies used in current family and human development research. The emphasis will be on becoming a knowledgeable and informed consumer of research. This course will enable students to understand the research process, to formulate research questions, and to critique current published research.

## Course Objectives:

1. Students will learn common terms and the process of research methods in the social sciences.
2. Students will learn fundamental principles of scientifically sound research in the social sciences.
3. Students will learn to apply course material to critically consider research findings for sound research design and appropriateness of conclusions.

## Course Policies:

### *Contacting the Instructor*

If you need to contact me, regular e-mail or canvas mail will work just fine. On non-class days, I usually stop checking my e-mail after 5pm and on weekends but I will respond during the next weekday.

### *Late Work*

Late assignments will only be accepted up to 24 hours after the original due date for 80% of the possible points. After 24 hours, no assignments will be accepted. This policy only applies to the Analysis Papers. No late exams or quizzes will be accepted.

### *Extra Credit*

I do not offer extra credit on an individual basis. Depending on the semester, extra credit might be offered for participating in research. It is the student's responsibility to take advantage of such opportunities when/if they arrive.

### *Grading Policies:*

Assignments	Points	Total Points
Illustrative Survey	10	10
In-class Activities (10)	10	100
Quizzes (10)	15	150
Exams (4)	25	100
Analysis Papers (5)	20	100
Research in the News	40	40
Total Points		500

Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points
A	470-500	B	410-429	C	350-369	D	290-309
A-	450-469	B-	390-409	C-	330-349	F	289 or less
B+	430-449	C+	370-389	D+	310-329		

## Course Requirements:

### ***Illustrative Survey – 10 points***

To help illustrate various principles of research methods, you and 2 of your friends or family members will need to fill out a brief survey about random aspects of your life (number of shoes you own, how many loads of laundry you do per week, etc.). This survey shouldn't take more than five minutes to complete. There will be an assignment on Canvas where you can declare that you and your two friends or family members have completed this survey.

### ***In Class Activities – 100 total points***

To help you understand the material that we are covering, in-class activities will be a part of our regular class time. Each in-class activity will be worth 10 points and will be graded as credit/no credit. You will only receive points for 10 in-class activities though there may be more than 10 during the semester. You will not be able to make up a missed in-class activity.

### ***Quizzes – 150 total points***

There will be an assigned quiz on Canvas every week during the semester except for the week of Thanksgiving. Quizzes are designed to help you study what we are learning that week as well as to help you prepare for the Exams. They will open after class ends and you will have until the next class starts to complete them. Quizzes will consist of 5 - 10 questions (multiple choice, True/False, matching) and are open-book and open-note. Quizzes will have no time limit. I drop the 3 lowest quiz scores. Even though you only receive points for the 10 highest quiz scores, I encourage you to take all of the quizzes as they will give you insight into the kinds of questions you will see on the exams. Quizzes will be available for you to view after you have completed them to help you study for exams.

### ***Exams – 100 total points***

There will be 4 exams, each worth 25 points designed to test your mastery of the course material. Each exam will consist of 50 questions (multiple choice, True/False, matching) and will be administered in class. Please bring a **blue** scantron to class to take the test. You will have the first hour of class to complete the exam. After the time has expired and you have turned in your exam, we will go over the exam. You will need

to schedule to take the final exam with a proctor sometime during finals week (Dec 12 – 16).

### ***Analysis Papers (AP) – 100 total points***

Analysis papers are designed to help you take what we are learning in class to become critical consumers of research. There will be five analysis papers and each is worth 20 points. For each of these papers, you will use the information we have covered in class to evaluate a published research article. You will give critiques of the author(s)' methodology and offer suggestions on how they could have improved their work. Articles to be critiqued and rubrics for each assignment will be available on Canvas.

### ***Research in the News – 40 points***

This assignment will serve as the final project for this course. You will be required to locate a news article that discusses research that is relevant to our field and then find the actual article that the news agency is referencing. You will create a short PowerPoint presentation (2-3 slides) and give a short presentation (5-10 min) on details from the research that the news agency missed and/or might not have understood. Detailed instructions for this assignment can be found on Canvas.

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## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

### **Honor Pledge**

As stated in the Student Code, “each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. The Honor System is designed to re-enforce the higher level of conduct expected and required by all Utah State University students.” When you received admission to Utah State University, you signed the Honor Pledge, which reads: “I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity.” Complete academic honesty is expected in this course. Cheating on exams or plagiarism on written assignments will result in a failing grade and may result in further action according to University policy. Please contact me with any clarifications. Full text of the USU Student Code is available: <http://www.usu.edu/studentservices/studentcode/>.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

The Instructors of this course will take appropriate actions in response to Academic Dishonesty, as defined the University's Student Code: Acts of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

1. *Cheating*: (1) using or attempting to use or providing others with any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, examinations, or in any other academic exercise or activity, including working in a group when the instructor has designated that the quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity be done “individually”; (2) depending on the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; (3) substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, in taking an examination or preparing academic work; (4) acquiring tests or other

academic material belonging to a faculty member, staff member, or another student without express permission; (5) continuing to write after time has been called on a quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity; (6) submitting substantially the same work for credit in more than one class, except with prior approval of the instructor; or (7) engaging in any form of research fraud.

2. *Falsification*: altering or fabricating any information or citation in an academic exercise or activity.

3. *Plagiarism*: representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes using materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the sale of term papers or other academic materials. Full text of the Student Code available at available at available at:

<http://www.usu.edu/studentservices/pdf/StudentCode.pdf>:

### **Grievance Process**

Students who feel they have been unfairly treated may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in the Student Code:

<https://studentaffairs.usu.edu/#secVII1>

### **Special Needs**

Students with ADA-documented physical, sensory, emotional or medical impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. Veterans may also be eligible for services. All accommodations are coordinated through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in Room 101 of the University Inn, (435)797-2444 voice, (435)797-0740 TTY, (435)797-2444 VP, or toll free at 1-800-259-2966. Please contact the DRC as early in the semester as possible. **Each student with special needs is responsible for contacting the DRC and providing a disability services contract.** Alternate format materials (Braille, large print or digital) are available with advance notice.

### **Emergency Preparedness**

In the case of a drill or real emergency, classes will be notified to evacuate the building by the sound of a fire/emergency alarm system or by a building representative. In the event of a disaster that may interfere with either notification, evacuate as the situation dictates (i.e., when shaking ceases following an earthquake, or immediately when a fire is discovered). Turn off computers and take any personal items with you.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Dates	Lecture Topics	Assignments*	Textbook Readings*
<b>Aug 31</b>	Introduction to Research Methods		Chapter 1 (pp. 1-27)
<b>Sep 7</b>	The Research Report	Descriptive Survey <b>Quiz 1</b>	Chapter 16 (pp. 333-351)
<b>Sep 14</b>	Ethics in Behavioral Research	<b>Quiz 2</b>	Chapter 15 (pp. 309-330)
<b>Sep 21</b>	<b>Exam #1</b> Behavioral Variability	AP #1 <b>Quiz 3</b>	Chapter 2 (pp. 31-43)
<b>Sep 28</b>	Measurement	<b>Quiz 4</b>	Chapter 3 (pp. 49-67) Chapter 4 (supplemental)
<b>Oct 5</b>	Sampling	AP # 2 <b>Quiz 5</b>	Chapter 5 (pp.99-114)
<b>Oct 12</b>	<b>Exam #2</b> Descriptive Research	<b>Quiz 6</b>	Chapter 6 (pp. 117-137)
<b>Oct 19</b>	Experimental Designs	AP #3 <b>Quiz 7</b>	Chapter 9 (pp. 182-208) Chapter 10 (supplemental)
<b>Oct 26</b>	Quasi-Experimental Designs	<b>Quiz 8</b>	Chapter 13 (pp. 269-288)
<b>Nov 2</b>	Correlational Designs	<b>Quiz 9</b>	Chapter 7 (pp. 140-159)
<b>Nov 9</b>	<b>Exam #3</b> Single Subject Designs	AP #4 <b>Quiz 10</b>	Chapter 14 (pp. 291-306)
<b>Nov 16</b>	Statistical Analysis	<b>Quiz 11</b>	Chapter 11 (232-238) Chapters 8 & 12 (supplemental)
<b>Nov 23</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Break (No Class)</b>		
<b>Nov 30</b>	Qualitative and Mixed-Methods	AP #5 <b>Quiz 12</b>	TBD
<b>Dec 7</b>	Social Science Research in the News	Research in the News* <b>Quiz 13</b>	No Readings
<b>Dec 14</b>	<b>Finals Week (No Class)</b>		

\* Unless otherwise noted, assignments and readings are due before class begins on the day they are listed.