

Research Methods

FCHD 3130 | Spring 2017 | Online Section

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COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will learn common terms and the process of research methods in social sciences.
2. Students will learn principles of fundamentally sound research.
3. Students will identify strong research in social science.
4. Students will practice applying research analysis skills to research available in the field of Family and Human Development.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Leary, M. R. (2012). *Introduction to behavioral research methods* (6th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

ISBN:9780205203987

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Participation Points

50 points

There are weekly participation point activities. They will come in various forms: discussions, written assignments, quizzes to check understanding, surveys, activities, etc. There are 15 participation point activities available—one per week. To receive full participation points, you need to complete 12 of the activities. No makeup participation points are available, and no late participation point activities will be accepted.

Exams**300 points**

Exam questions will come from assigned readings and lectures. Exams will consist of 50 questions, worth two points each. You will have 60 minutes to complete your exams. Exams are open-book, open-note. There will be the option of four exams. Your top three scores will be used to calculate your grade. No makeup exams are available, and no late exams will be accepted. Exams will be open for a one-week window on Canvas.

Analysis Papers**100 points**

We are going to dive into actual articles and pick apart the presented research methods. All analysis papers will be submitted through Canvas. Assignments are due at 11:59 PM on the due date. You will use APA formatting, including an APA formatted title page, appropriate in-text citations, and reference page. If you do not have the most recent manual, please refer to the *APA* page on Canvas for tips and suggestions. All assignments should be double-spaced, have 1 inch margins, be college quality writing, and use a font of Times New Roman (or similar) 11-12 point size. Assignments should be uploaded in .doc, .docx, or .pdf format.

Research Methods in the News**25 points**

This is an opportunity for application. This is a discussion that will open after we finish content on sampling. This discussion will be available to you from the point until the end of the content we cover in the course. It will be a class-wide discussion, and you will get to find a news report and compare it to an actual journal article using your research method skills. Further instructions are available on Canvas.

Sharing Research**125 points**

This is the final project for the course. You will do the entire process we conducted with the analysis papers on an article of your choice. There is a document portion and a presentation portion. The document portion will either be a poster or a PowerPoint presentation. Presentations of the poster or presentation will take place within groups. Further instructions are available on Canvas.

GRADING:

Your grade will be based on the following:

Components	Points
Participation Points	50
Exams (3 counted)	300
Application Papers	125
Research Methods in the News	25
Sharing Research	125
Total Points	625

Your grade will be calculated using the following scale:

Grade	Percentage Range	Points
A	93 - 100%	582 - 625
A-	90 - 92%	563 - 581
B+	87 - 89%	544 - 562
B	83 - 86%	519 - 543
B-	80 - 82%	500 - 518
C+	77 - 79%	482 - 499
C	73 - 76%	457 - 481
C-	70 - 72%	438 - 456
D+	67 - 69%	419 - 437
D	60 - 66%	375 - 418
F	59% and below	374 or less

***Note. Percentages in this class are not rounded up. For example, if you have a 92.96%, this is considered a 92%. No extra credit opportunities are available in this course.*

COURSE POLICIES:

Contacting Instructor

Please use regular email, not the Canvas email. I am much faster at responding to e-mail received through regular email compared to Canvas mail. sarah.tulane@usu.edu

Campus Email

Although the majority of communication will take place over Canvas, email is an official means of communication as Utah State University. Emailed announcements and information about class, whether received or not, are considered communicated to students. To ensure that you will receive emails sent to you please take the time to double check your preferred email address with the university through Banner.

Grievance Process

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

<http://studentlife.tsc.usu.edu/stuserv/pdf/student.code.pdf> (Article VII Grievances, pages 25-30).

Late Work

Late assignments will only be accepted up to 48 hours after the original due date for 80% of the possible points. Assignments turned in within 24 hours of the due date have potential to receive 90% of the points. The following 24 hours, assignments have potential to receive up to 80% of the possible points. After 48 hours, no assignments will be accepted. This policy only applies to the written assignments (Analysis Papers, Research Methods in the News, and Sharing Research)—not to exams or participation point activities. No late exams or participation point activities will be accepted.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Honor Code

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 of all Utah State University students.” Upon admission to the university, you agreed to abide by this Honor Code by signing 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. This link provides some great information about checking your writing for plagiarism: <http://ocw.usu.edu/english/introduction-to-writing-academic-prose/plagiarism.html>.

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. Alternate format materials (Braille, large print or digital) are available with advance notice.

COURSE SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)

**Although not listed on this schedule, you will have participation point assignments due weekly*

Dates	Items Due	Topics	Required Readings
Unit 1			
Jan 9-14		Intro to Research Methods Theory in Research	Chapter 1
Jan 17-21		Ethics in Research	Chapter 15
Jan 23-28		Reading Research Articles APA Formatting Using the Library	*online reading*
Jan 30 – Feb 4	AP: Introduction/ Literature Review	Variability and Research	Chapter 2
Unit 2			
Feb 6-11	Exam 1 (Unit 1 content and required readings)	Measurement	Chapter 3
Feb 13-18		Measurement Continued	Chapter 4
Feb 21-25	AP: Measurement	Sampling	Chapter 5
Unit 3			
Feb 27 – March 4	AP: Sampling Exam 2 (Unit 2 content and required readings)	Descriptive Research	Chapter 6
Mar 6-10	Spring Break		
Mar 13-18		Correlational Research	Chapter 7
Mar 20-25		Experimental Research and Design	Chapters 9 and pp. 212-217 of Chapter 10
Unit 4			
Mar 27 – Apr 1	Exam 3 (Unit 3 content and required readings)	Quasi-Experimental Research Program Evaluation	Chapter 13 *online reading*
Apr 3-8	AP: Procedure and Design	Data Analysis	*online reading*
Apr 10-15	AP: Discussion and Results	Sharing Research	*online reading*
Apr 17-22	Research Methods in the News	Qualitative Methods Mixed Methods	*online reading*
Apr 24-29	WORK WEEK		
May 1-6	Exam 4 (Unit 4) Sharing Research—Document and Presentation		