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Course Description:
This course will address the research process as it applies to solving problems in 
behavioral sciences. Procedures used in the selection, development, and critique of 
research designs are central to this course. Also stressed are investigations, 
interpretation, and presentation of results.

General Course Objectives:
1. Identify sources of knowledge.  
2. Identify and discuss the steps involved in the scientific approach.  
3. Identify components of a research proposal.  
4. Write and present a research proposal.  
5. Identify and develop a correctly written problem statement.  
6. Conduct a review of literature.  
7. Utilize the literature to develop research methodology.  
8. Differentiate between strong and weak applications of research methods.  
9. Develop usable hypotheses from theory, logic, and related research.  
10. Define a population and sampling procedures for a research study.  
11. Describe the importance of careful conceptualization and operationalization in 
social science research.  
12. Identify and classify variables used in studies.  
13. Select an appropriate research design according to the end sought.  
14. Discuss and select methods for data collection.  
15. Identify the types of measurement instruments used in social science research.  
16. Discuss methods to assess the validity and reliability of measurement instruments.  
17. Select the appropriate descriptive or inferential statistics to analyze and report data collected 
through the research process.  
18. Discuss ethics in research.
Required Text for class:


Supplemental References:


Students with Disabilities:

If you believe you have special needs addressed by the American with Disabilities Act, you may wish to self-identify. You can do so by providing documentation to the Service for Students with Disabilities (SDD) office located in Garcia Annex (Phone: 648-6840). Reasonable effort will be made to accommodate your special needs.

If you have a condition which may affect your ability to exit safely from the premises in an emergency or that may cause an emergency during class, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or director of SDD.

Academic Misconduct:

Academic misconduct of any kind will not be accepted. Examples of academic misconduct include but is not limited to plagiarism and dishonest practices with assignments and/or examinations. More detailed information regarding academic misconduct can be obtained from the instructor or by referring to the NMSU Student Handbook.

Assignments and Evaluation:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percent of Final Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Problem Statement</td>
<td>2.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data Base Search</td>
<td>2.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Article Critique</td>
<td>15.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Proposal</td>
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<td>Proposal Presentation</td>
<td>5.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Examinations:</td>
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<td>Exam 1 - 15%</td>
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Regular attendance and class participation are expected.

To facilitate your learning, read all assigned readings before each class.

All assignments are expected to be typed or word processed.

Work is due on the date specified. Late work will be penalized 5% per day for each school day they are late.

Individuals desiring to change their problem statement after the due date, must submit a new problem statement for approval.

Grading Scale:

A = 92.5% +
A - = 90.0 - 92.4%
B+ = 87.5 - 89.9%
B  = 82.5 - 87.4%
B-  = 80.0 - 82.4%
C+  = 77.5 - 70.9%
C   = 72.5 - 77.4%
C-  = 70.0 - 72.5%
D+  = 67.5 - 69.9%
D   = 62.5 - 67.4%
D-  = 60.0 - 62.4%
F   = Less than 60%

Class Schedule:

Session 1 in Las Cruces (Gerald Thomas Hall, Room 114).

Friday, January 17       6:00 - 9:00 PM
Saturday, September 20, 8:00 AM to 12:00 noon and 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Reading Assignment      Topics
Chapter 1,2              - Introductions
Chapter 16               - Course Overview
Chapter 3                - Introduction to Research
Chapter 4                - The Research Proposal
Chapter 3                - The Research Problem
Chapter 4                - The Language of Research
Chapter 4                - Review of Literature
Session 2 - Centra Tuesday, February 11  6:00 - 8:30 pm
Chapter 5 + pp. 175-187 - Research Hypotheses and/or Questions

February 14 - Problem Statement Assignment due (email, or fax)(2.5 pts.)

Session 3 in Las Cruces (Gerald Thomas Hall, Room 114).

Friday, February 21  6:00 - 9:00 PM
Saturday, February 22  8:00 AM to 12:00 noon

Reading Assignment  Topics
Exam 1 (15 points)
Interpreting and Analyzing Research
pp. 52-54, and pp. 169-172 - Population and Sampling
Chapter 13 - Descriptive Research
pp. 374-386 - Survey Research
Chapter 8 - Instrumentation

February 27 - Data Base Assignment due (email or fax 2.5 pts.)

Session 4 - Centra Thursday, February 27  6:00 - 8:30 pm

Chapter 9 Validity and Reliability

Session 5 - Centra Tuesday, March 4  6:00 - 8:30 pm
pp. 433-460 - Data Collection

March 5 - last day to drop a class with “W”

Session 6 - in Las Cruces (GTH 114)

Friday March 14,  9:00 am - 4:00 PM

Reading Assignment Topics
Exam 2 (15 points)
Chapter 11 - Correlational Research
Chapter 12 - Causal- Comparative Research
Chapter 10 - Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Research
- Proposal Budget and Time Schedules
- Guidelines for Presentations

April 14 - Article Critique Assignment due (15 pts) - (mail or fax)
Draft - Chapter 1 due (optional)
Session 7 - in Las Cruces (Gerald Thomas Hall, Room 114)

Friday April 25  
6:00 - 9:00 PM

Saturday, April 26,  
8:00 AM to 12:00 noon

Topics
- Course Wrap-up, Review and Evaluation
- Exam 3 (final) - (15 pts)
- Research Proposal Presentations
  - oral report ( 5 pts.)
  - written paper (30 pts.)

The above schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change based on class progress and available opportunities.