



AG 595: Research Literature Techniques COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2016

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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Required: Creswell, J. W. (2009). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods approaches*. 3rd edition, Sage publications

Supplemental readings are embedded throughout the course.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Learning outcomes are what you are able to do as a result of the activities, readings, instruction, etc. that have occurred in this course - these are my expectations of you. Assignments/activities related to these outcomes are described in the assignments and assessments portion of the syllabus.

Learning Outcome #1: The learner will be an active and engaged team member within his/her learning community by analyzing, constructing/creating, and evaluating information presented within the textbook, external readings/resources, student research, and class activities in order to contribute to and develop a research proposal.

Learning Outcome #2: The learner will compare and contrast different research designs and distinguish between quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods approaches.

Learning Outcome #3: The learner will prepare a written formal research proposal that includes the following criteria:

- The learner will develop a literature review
- The learner will identify and select a problem for research.
- The learner will develop the purpose and research questions to address the problem.
- The learner will examine, select and design an appropriate research design to collect data.
- The learner will properly format and cite research via the APA publication style

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional Methods / Activities/ Assessments

This course is made up of a series of assignments and assessments to assist you in achieving the course learning outcomes. Each week you will work on various combinations of assignments, activities, discussions, readings, research, etc. which will be made available to you on each Friday and close on the following Sunday - allowing for 10 days total to complete the activities.

Discussion Forums: 10 total @ 10 points/discussion

Learning Outcome #1: The learner will be an active and engaged participant in discussion forums within his/her learning community by analyzing, constructing/creating, and evaluating information presented within the textbook, external readings/resources, student research, and class activities.

Learning Outcome #2: The learner will compare and contrast different research designs and distinguish between quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods approaches.

Description: The discussion forums are related to the chapter readings, external resources and activities. Upon completion or near completion of the assigned readings and activities, you are expected to engage in an **ongoing** discussion/debate with your learning community peers. Your contributions to the discussion forums will be graded for **quality** not quantity, **timeliness** of your contributions, and a **detailed analysis** of linking together theory (readings) to application (activities).

One major piece of advice for this assignment...To avoid point deduction, you should have an original post (response to the question) by Friday and interact with your peers over the weekend.

Assessment Method:

5=Excellent; 4=Good; 3=Meets Expectations; 2=Needs Work; 1=Below Expectations					
Quality and thoroughness of response in original post. Must be posted on or before Friday	5	4	3	2	1
Quality and level of interaction with others in forum providing more than "I agree" statements	5	4	3	2	1

Proposal Development Activities: 3 total @ 10 points/activity

Learning Outcome #3: The learner will prepare a written formal research proposal that includes the following criteria:

- The learner will identify and select a problem for research.
- The learner will develop a literature review
- The learner will develop the purpose and research questions to address the problem.
- The learner will examine, select and design an appropriate research design to collect data.
- The learner will properly format and cite research via the APA publication style

Description: We will conduct a series of activities to assist you in designing a formal written research proposal. Through the analysis of appropriate research literature, you will identify a problem you wish to further investigate. This problem needs to be one that is "researchable." On occasion, we will conduct an activity to further assist you in developing your research proposal. This research proposal in its entirety is due at the end of the semester; however, you will be graded on the development of the components via the proposal development activities as you progress through the semester.

Assessment Method:

5=Excellent; 4=Good; 3=Meets Expectations; 2=Needs Work; 1=Below Expectations					
Quality of activity produced	5	4	3	2	1
Addressed all of the components to the activity	5	4	3	2	1

Research Proposal: 100 points

Learning Outcome #3: The learner will prepare a formal research proposal that addresses the criteria set in the proposal development activities. The final proposal should be grammatically sound and use appropriate APA formatting/citations.

Description: The formal research proposal will consist of the following sections and should be formatted per graduate school guidelines. This will be accomplished via the proposal development activities.

- Title page
- Review of Related Literature
- Statement of the Problem
- Purpose of the Study
- Research Questions
- Significance of the Study
- Method of Procedure (to include selection of participants, selection of instrumentation, collection and analysis of data)
- References
- Appendices

Assessment method: The rubric will be made available midway through the semester.

Grading

Grades will be determined via a simple point system and grading rubrics. Rubrics are posted in the course syllabus under each assignment description. **You** are responsible for reviewing them prior to submitting an assignment - they tell you all you need to know in order to earn a passing grade in this course.

Total Points Possible: 230

230-207=A

206-184=B

183-161=C

160-138=D

137-0=F

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

This is an online course and some obvious technological resources will be required.

Access to a computer with

- Internet access (high-speed preferred)
- Speakers so you can hear any audio enhanced assignments throughout the semester.
- Word processing software (Microsoft Word preferred)

As a student enrolled at Texas A&M University-Commerce, you have access to an email account via myLeo - all my emails sent from eCollege (and all other university emails) will go to this account, so please be sure to check it regularly. Conversely, you are to email me via the eCollege email system or your myLeo email as our spam filters will catch yahoo, hotmail, etc. and I will not check for your email in spam.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

eCollege Technical Concerns: Please contact the eCollege HelpDesk, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week by sending an email directly to helpdesk@online.tamuc.org. You may also reach the HelpDesk by calling (toll-free) 1-866-656-5511, or through the Online Chat by clicking on the "Live Support" tab within your eCollege course.

Course Concerns: If you have questions pertaining to the content of this course (e.g., questions about an exam, about course due dates, etc.), please contact me via email, through the Q&A Forums or during office hours.

Other Questions/Concerns: Contact the appropriate TAMU-C department relating to your questions/concern. If you are unable to reach the appropriate department with questions regarding your course enrollment, billing, advising, or financial aid, please call 903-886-5511 between the hours of 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Participation & Communication: I expect each of you to be active and thoughtful participants within the learning environment (eCollege) and your learning community. You are to expect the same of me. This includes completing the extensive readings related to course topics.

1. Email is the best way to reach me as I check it daily. A reply will be sent within 12 hours depending upon the time your message was received. Please do not send me panicked last minute

emails with the word HELP!!!!!!! in the subject line. **HOWEVER.... in order to avoid duplication of questions and answers I prefer that you post all class related questions in the Q&A forum provided each week. It is likely that your peers will have the same question. Emails of a personal nature should be sent to my email address via eCollege.**

2. Or if you want to talk via the "phone" download a program called Skype - a free internet calling service that you can use to chat live or place a call to me. I have a video camera and can also transmit my video via a skype call. To download the program, go to www.skype.com and search for **drleah** as the contact to add me to your list. You may also call me on my cell phone listed in the introduction of the syllabus.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Citizenship: All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Student 92s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

Late work: Late work is not accepted.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism **WILL NOT** be tolerated and will result in an automatic **F** in the course.

Attendance: This is an online class therefore attendance is up to you! The quality of your contributions and regular participation activities will be considered attendance. It is strongly encouraged that you attempt to log into the course everyday and/or check your email for messages in order to not get behind.

Scholarly Expectations: All works submitted for credit must be original works created by the scholar uniquely for the class. It is considered inappropriate and unethical, particularly at the graduate level, to make duplicate submissions of a single work for credit in multiple classes, unless specifically requested by the instructor. Work submitted at the graduate level is expected to demonstrate higher-order thinking skills and be of significantly higher quality than work produced at the undergraduate level.

University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu
[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR SPRING 2016
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Week	Activities	What's due
1	Course introduction Read chapter 1 and other material provided – begin to identify a researchable topic Online discussion #1	Conclusion of online discussion #1
2	Read chapter's 2 & 3 and other material provided Online discussion #2 Begin proposal development activity #1	Conclusion of online discussion #2
3	Read chapter 4 and other material provided Online discussion #4	Conclusion of online discussion #4
4	Read chapter 5 and other material provided Online discussion #5	Conclusion of online discussion #5 Proposal development activity #1
5	Read chapter's 6 & 7 and other material provided Online discussion #6 Begin proposal activity #2	Conclusion of online discussion #6 Proposal development activity #2
6	Read chapter 8 and other material provided Online discussion #8 Begin proposal development activity #3	Conclusion of online discussion #8
7	Read chapter 9 Online discussion #9	Conclusion of online discussion #9
8	Read chapter 10 and other material provided Online discussion #10	Conclusion of online discussion #10 Proposal development #3
9	Begin preparation of proposals Final proposals due at the end of week 11	
10		
11		Final proposal