



## AG 595: Research Literature Techniques COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2017

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### COURSE INFORMATION

#### **Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:**

*Textbook(s) Required:* Creswell, J. W. (2014). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods approaches*, 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Description:** Research Literature and Techniques. Three semester hours. A careful study of the latest research literature and techniques available in different fields of agriculture. A research paper will be required according to the interests of the individual student.

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| <b>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</b> |
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**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. ***The exception is during the first week of the course as the class starts on Tuesday and your discussion is due Sunday.***

**Discussion Forums: 8 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 at least two peers over the weekend.

**Assessment Method:**

|                                                                                                       |   |   |   |   |   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>5=Excellent; 4=Good; 3=Meets Expectations; 2=Needs Work; 1=Below Expectations</b>                  |   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Quality and thoroughness of response in original post. Must be posted on or before Friday</b>      | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| <b>Quality and level of interaction with others in forum providing more than "I agree" statements</b> | 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. A template is provided to you to use. 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 descriptions of 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: 210**

**210-189=A**

**188-168=B**

**167-147=C**

**147-0=D/F**

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- To fully participate in online courses you will need to use a current Flash enabled internet browser. For PC and Mac users the suggested browser is Mozilla Firefox.
- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
  - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
  - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
  - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
  - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
  - Speakers or headphones.
  - \*For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)  
<http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp>
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.
- Run a browser check through the Pearson LearningStudio Technical Requirements website. [Browser Check](http://help.ecollege.com/LS_Tech_Req_WebHelp/en-us/#LS_Technical_Requirements.htm#Browset) [http://help.ecollege.com/LS\\_Tech\\_Req\\_WebHelp/en-us/#LS\\_Technical\\_Requirements.htm#Browset](http://help.ecollege.com/LS_Tech_Req_WebHelp/en-us/#LS_Technical_Requirements.htm#Browset)

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.

Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
  - [Adobe Reader](https://get.adobe.com/reader/) <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
  - [Adobe Flash Player](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/) (version 17 or later) <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>

- [Adobe Shockwave Player](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/) <https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/>
- [Apple Quick Time](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/) <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.
- For additional information about system requirements, please see: [System Requirements for LearningStudio](https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical) <https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical>

## 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](mailto: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](http://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:

## **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html)

## **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

**Late work:** Late work is not accepted – you have a total of 10 days to complete your assignment each week.

**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*

*Students with Disabilities*

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 162**  
**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**

Fax (903) 468-8148  
Email: [Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu](mailto:Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)  
<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### ***Nondiscrimination Notice***

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### ***Campus Concealed Carry Statement***

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

| <b>TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR SPRING 2017</b> |  |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
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| <b>Week</b> | <b>Activities</b>                                                                                                                     | <b>What's due</b>                                                          |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b>    | Course introduction<br>Read chapter 1 and other material provided<br>– begin to identify a researchable topic<br>Online discussion #1 | Conclusion of online discussion #1                                         |
| <b>2</b>    | Read chapter 2 and other material provided<br>Online discussion #2<br>Begin proposal development activity #1                          | Conclusion of online discussion #2                                         |
| <b>3</b>    | Read chapter's 3 & 4 and other material provided<br>Online discussion #3                                                              | Conclusion of online discussion #3                                         |
| <b>4</b>    | Read chapter 5 and other material provided<br>Online discussion #4                                                                    | Conclusion of online discussion #4<br>Proposal development activity #1 due |
| <b>5</b>    | Read chapter's 6 & 7 and other material provided<br>Online discussion #5                                                              | Conclusion of online discussion #5<br>Proposal development activity        |

|          |                                                                                                                 |                                                                   |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
|          | Begin proposal activity #2                                                                                      | #2 due                                                            |
| <b>6</b> | Read chapter 8 and other material provided<br>Online discussion #6<br>Begin proposal development activity #3    | Conclusion of online discussion #6                                |
| <b>7</b> | Read chapter 9<br>Online discussion #7                                                                          | Conclusion of online discussion #7<br>Proposal development #3 due |
| <b>8</b> | Read chapter 10 and other material provided<br>Online discussion #8<br>Proposal development – finishing touches | Conclusion of online discussion #8<br>Proposal due                |

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