AG 595—Research & Literature Techniques   **Dr. Bob Williams**
Course Syllabus   **903-886-5350**
Bob.Williams@tamuc.edu   AGET 247

Textbook:

Most of the materials used in the class will be available online through designated hyperlinks in the D2L online course management tool. You may access D2L through your myleo account. Access to a printer for your computer is recommended for success in this course due to the need to print reference materials for various assignments and online class discussions.

The textbook for this course is available online for free.

Bhattacherjee, Anol. (2012). *Social Science Research: Principles, Methods, and Practices, 2ⁿᵈ edition*. Textbook Collection, 3.
     https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/oa_textbooks/3?utm_source=digitalcommons.usf.edu%2Foa_textbooks%2F3&utm_medium=PDF&utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages

We will have a new module/unit each week that includes:
1. Review of textbook chapter assigned.
2. Viewing of videos or weblinks posted in the module.
3. Reading of assigned research article for the week.
4. Online discussion (1-2 prompts) of key topics from module.

There will be 3-4 major assignments that require interpretation of research, synthesis into your own words, citing sources, and application to professional context such as a research or grant proposal, evaluation plan, or thematic literature review. You will also be expected to select research methods appropriate to solving problems or finding answers to research questions in one or more of the following contexts (teaching and learning, extension programs, classroom or community-based research, professional development, farmer/consumer training, agricultural literacy).

This course is designed to prepare you as a consumer and user of research literature and provide a foundation for further study on research methodology, should your professional or educational goals take you that direction. It is not designed for students pursuing a thesis as part of their master's degree requirements and will not count toward a degree for thesis students.

Professor note: I have not taught this course since 2011, so I am rebuilding the course, one module at a time. I reserve the right to modify class activities and content as we proceed through the course. I will try to be flexible if you encounter extenuating circumstances but need you to be responsible for responding to discussion prompts and submitting assignments on time. There will be a late penalty for work submitted after the due date. The weekly module will open each Monday, and you will have access to course content and materials for the remainder of the week. Responses to discussion prompts and assignments are due at 11:30 p.m. on the Sunday following the Monday the module opens, unless otherwise specified.

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Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course the student will be able to:
1. Apply the *scientific method* to solving education-related problems.
2. Demonstrate understanding of ethical issues and conduct in research related to human subjects[1].
3. Analyze research articles and:
    a. Discuss relevance to your profession.
    b. Distinguish between research methods.
    c. Determine the purpose(s) of each study.
    d. Recognize limitations of the study.
    e. Discuss implications for educators or stakeholders.
4. Utilize library and online databases and bibliographic search indexes.
5. Review master's thesis and/or dissertation research projects.
6. Explain the importance of research in school and extension settings.
7. Explain the importance of validity, reliability, and usability to research.
8. Recognize the types of, factors affecting, and methods used to determine validity and reliability.
9. Describe the basic procedures of survey research using questionnaires.
10. Discuss various types of experimental designs used in educational research.
11. Discuss qualitative research methods and uses.
12. Apply research methods to program evaluation.
13. Compose a literature review and cite sources appropriately.
[1]   Indicated by completion of Responsible Conduct in Research/IRB training
[2]

Grade Determination:

	Possible Points
Online interaction and discussion participation	120
Reflection on of quantitative research articles	50
Comparison of qualitative research articles	50
Conference proceedings review	50
Thesis or dissertation review	50
Literature review on an approved topic or theme	100
Responsible Conduct in Research (RCR) training for Soc Sciences	100

$$\text{Your Grade (\%)} = \frac{\text{Points Earned}}{620}$$

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Online Interaction and Participation in Discussions
Students are expected to respond to each discussion prompt using proper grammar including spelling, capitalization (when applicable), and punctuation. You do not have to reply to posts of other classmates unless specifically directed to do so.

Comparison of Quantitative Articles
Students will utilize online databases, bibliographic indexes, and journals to select at least three articles that report research that used *quantitative methods*. They will complete a comparison exercise per instructions that demonstrates their understanding of the methods used.

Comparison of Qualitative Articles
Students will utilize online databases, bibliographic indexes, and journals to select at least three research articles that utilize *qualitative methods*. They will complete a comparison exercise per instructions that demonstrates their understanding of the methods used.

Research ethics assignment (University-approved online RCR/IRB training/quizzes)
This assignment will allow the student to demonstrate:
1. Consider case studies related to ethical issues in research.
2. Interpret, define, and/or utilize key vocabulary related to research.
3. Recognize strategies for protecting Human Subjects.
4. Discuss implications of research to a profession, population, or society.

Conference proceeding paper or poster summary
The student will review the proceedings of at least one relevant research conference and select a research papers or poster to summarize as directed.

Thesis or dissertation review
Students will select a thesis or dissertation reflecting research similar to the topic or theme upon which they have decided on for their literature review. They will follow the directions provided to complete a written review of the thesis or dissertation.

Thematic literature review and citations
Each student will compose a review of literature (minimum of 10 references) on a topic or theme approved by the professor. Format of the written proposal shall be written in a format compatible with the *American Psychological Association (APA) Manual for Publication*, 7th or latest edition. This reference may be purchased through the bookstore or online from various sources. It will be a very useful tool for this semester and future graduate courses.

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Syllabus Addendum for Dr. Bob Williams for the Semester

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours are available for student conferences with the professor for additional course support and, if applicable, academic/career advisement. The following hours will be maintained for this purpose, provided they are not circumvented by administrative assigned tasks beyond the professor's control, professional travel to conferences or meetings, or medical appointments for professor or his household dependents.

Monday   9:00-9:50 a.m.
Tuesday   9:30-11:30 a.m.
Wednesday   9:00-9:50 a.m.
Thursday   by appointment
Friday   by appointment

TECHNOLOGY ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

The electronic gradebook on D2L will be used in this course.
You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu**.**

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace [D2L] , please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words "click here" to submit an issue via email.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

The professor and GAs or SIs will be accessible to students via email as well as the professor will have specific office hours and times when students may schedule an appointment. Email is the most effective form of correspondence with the professor. **Do not attempt to text, Skype, or Facetime the professor.** Response to emails, except for the weekends or during times which the professor may be in remote area conducting research, will normally occur within 24 hours or receipt of the original message.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

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University 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

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01.

http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf

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

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- Room 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148

Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/

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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.

COVID-19 Conditions and Response

In the event of another pandemic, you may face periods of isolation or restriction of movement. Since this is an online course, it is designed for your completion from anywhere that internet access exists. If you do not have internet access in your current residence, you need to identify how you will access your assignments if you cannot leave. This may include the use of a smart phone or other digital device that can offer connectivity. Most assignments can be completed offline, but the internet may be required for research, online discussions, and the uploading of assignments/projects. If you have a medical reason for an assignment to be delayed, I will excuse that. Internet access, or the lack of it, is not a medical excuse.

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