



**BHS 240 Research Methods (3)
Fall 2002**

Instructor: M. Wilkinson, PhD

Office Hours: TBA

Class Times: W/F @ 9:45 am; lab on Mon.

Email Address: Michael.Wilkinson@nuc.edu

Office: 505

Office Phone: 571-2550 x 234

Location: Room 2

Required Texts

Berg, Bruce L. 4th Edition. *Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences*. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon.

Del Balso, Michael and Alan D. Lewis. 2001. *First Steps: A Guide to Social Research, 2nd Edition*. Scarborough, ON: Nelson.

Reference – Library use only

Sproul, Natalie L. 1995. *Handbook of Research Methods: A Guide for Practitioners and Students in the Social Sciences*. Lanham, MD: The Scarecrow Press.

Vogt, W. Paul. 1993. *Dictionary of Statistics and Methodology: A Nontechnical Guide for the Social Sciences*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

Course Description

An introduction to the concepts and processes of both qualitative and quantitative social research. Research processes include problem definition, data collection and analysis. Students are expected to develop research skills through practical application.

Course Objectives

1. Gain an understanding of the logic of social research.
2. Become acquainted with research design and a variety of quantitative and qualitative research methods.
3. Apply quantitative and qualitative techniques through “hands on” exercises.

Course Schedule

Part One: What is so Important about Social Science Research?

1. Why know about social science research? Sept. 4&6
Reading: Del Balso, chap. 1
2. What is Social Science Research? Sept. 11&13
Reading: Del Balso, chap. 2 & Berg, chap. 1
3. Ethical Issues Sept. 18
Reading: Berg, chap. 3
Test 1: September 20

Part Two: Designing a Research Plan

4. Where do I begin? Sept. 25&27
Reading: Del Balso, chap 3, see Berg chap. 1
5. Approach: Distinguishing between Qualitative and Quantitative Research
Oct. 2&4
Reading: Berg, chap. 2
6. Using the right tools: Measuring what you set out to measure Oct. 9
Reading: Del Balso, chap. 4; see reliability and validity in Dictionary of Statistics and Methodology
Test 2: October 11

Part Three: Following the Research Plan

7. Interviewing Oct. 16&18
Reading: Berg, chap. 4&5
8. Survey Research Oct. 23&25
Reading: Del Balso, chap 5
9. Field Research Oct. 30 & Nov. 1
Reading: Del Balso, chap. 7; Berg, Chap. 6&9
10. Reading Break – No Classes November 6&8

11. Indirect or Non-Reactive Research and Secondary analysis Nov. 13&15
Reading: Del Balso, chap. 8 and Berg, chap. 8&11
12. Case Study Nov. 20&22
Reading: Berg, chap. 7&10
13. Experimental Research Nov. 27-29
Readings: Del Balso, chap. 6

Part Four: Analyzing and Presenting the Data

14. Writing up the Results Dec. 4&6
Reading: Del Balso, chap. 9, 10 and Berg chap. 12
Test 3: December 11

Course Requirements

NOTE: All assignments must be completed to meet course requirements. Late lab assignments will receive an "F" grade.

A. Lab Assignments (50%)

Labs are compulsory for all students. Grades will be based on participation and the assignment. The emphasis is on "hands on" methodology. In other words, the best way to learn how to do research is to combine theory/readings with practical exercises. The following are the lab exercises and the dates they are due.

1. Literature Review: Monday, September 30
2. Interview exercise: Monday, October 21
3. Observation exercise: Monday, November 11
4. Content analysis: Monday, November 18
5. Case study: Monday November 25

B. Tests x 3 (50%)

There will be three tests during the semester to cover the material (both text and class/lab). No final exam will be scheduled.

1. Thursday September 20 (10%)
2. Thursday October 11 (15%)
3. Thursday December 11 (25%)

Grade Assignments

96-100	A+	68-71	C+
91-95	A	63-67	C
86-90	A-	60-62	C-
82-85	B+	56-59	D+
75-81	B	50-55	D
72-74	B-		

Important Notes

- All assignments must be completed for the course. Failure to do so will result in a failing grade for the course.