



NAZARENE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

BHS 240 Research Methods Fall 2003

Instructor: M. Wilkinson, PhD

Office Hours: TBA

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

Email Address: Michael.Wilkinson@nuc.edu

Office: 511

Office Phone: 571-2550 x5909

Location: Room 633

Required Texts

Berg, Bruce L. 2004. *Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences 5th Edition*. 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.

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: Foundations of Social Science Research

1. Introduction to Science and Research Sept. 3&5
Reading: Del Balso, chap. 1
2. Dimensions of Social Science Research Sept. 10&12
Reading: Del Balso, chap. 2 & Berg, chap. 1
3. Distinguishing between Qualitative and Quantitative Research Sept. 17&19
Reading: Berg, chap. 2
4. Ethical Issues Sept. 26
Reading: Berg, chap. 3

Part Two: Planning and Preparation

5. Reviewing the Literature Oct. 1&3
Reading: Del Balso, chap 3, see Berg chap. 1
6. Measurement Oct. 8&10
Reading: see reliability and validity in *Dictionary of Statistics and Methodology*
7. Sampling Oct. 15
Reading: Del Balso, chap. 4;
MIDTERM EXAM - 25% October 17

Part Three: Data Collection (Main Research Methods: Survey, Field Research, Secondary Analysis, Experimental Research)

8. Survey Oct. 22&24
Reading: Berg, chap. 4&5
9. Interviewing techniques Oct. 31& Nov. 5
Reading: Del Balso, chap 5
10. Field Research Nov. 12&14
Reading: Del Balso, chap. 7; Berg, Chap. 6&9
11. Secondary analysis Nov. 19&21
Reading: Del Balso, chap. 8 and Berg, chap. 8&11
12. Case Study Nov. 26&28
Reading: Berg, chap. 7&10
13. Experimental Research Dec. 3
Readings: Del Balso, chap. 6

Part Four: Analysis and Presentation of Research

14. Data Analysis Dec. 5
Reading: Del Balso, chap. 9.
15. The Research Report Dec. 10
Reading: Del Balso, chap. 10 and Berg chap. 12

Course Requirements

A. Lab Assignment Work Book: December 1 (40%)

Weekly 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 exercises will be covered during the lab time. Details will follow in class.

1. Interview exercise
2. Observation exercise
3. Content analysis
4. Case study

B. Midterm Exam: October 17 (30%)

C. Final Exam: To be scheduled by the University College (30%)

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.
- A thorough and careful reading of the required material is required of all students. It is important that you do not fall behind in the readings. Class discussions will be based on the readings.
- Regular attendance in class and participation in discussion. It is your responsibility to come to class and initiate discussion based on your readings.
- Advance notice to the professor is required if you are having difficulty with your assignments or need an extension due to extenuating circumstances (e.g. illness or death in the family: documents required). Otherwise, please do not ask for an extension. Instead, expect problems and interruptions to occur and plan to have the work completed several days before the deadline. Meeting deadlines is very important.
- Intellectual honesty is very important. Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offence and may result in expulsion from the university.