

**CANADIAN NAZARENE COLLEGE**  
**BHS 240 Research Methods**

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Class: 3 hours – Wednesday and Friday, 2:30 p.m.  
Lab: 3 hours – to be determined in class

***Course Description and Objectives***

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.

Students will...

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 Social Science Research?**

1. Why know about social science research?  
Reading: Neuman, Chap. 1 & 2
2. Selecting a topic for research: Issues to consider  
Reading: Neuman, Chap 3, 4, 5

**Part Two: Designing a Research Plan**

3. Where do I begin?  
Reading: Neuman, Chap 6  
Lab #1: Library search and topic selection
4. Measuring what you set out to measure  
Reading: Neuman, Chap 7  
Lab assignment #1 due
5. Sampling  
Reading: Neuman, Chap 8    TEST #1 Friday October 8

### **Part Three: Following the Research Plan: Quantitative Research**

6. Survey Research  
Reading: Neuman, Chap 10  
Lab assignment #2: Interviewing
7. Experimental Research  
Reading: Neuman, Chap 9  
Lab assignment #2 due
8. Non-Reactive Research and Secondary analysis  
Reading: Neuman, Chap 11  
Lab assignment #3: Content analysis
9. Analysing the data  
Reading: Neuman, Chap 12  
Lab assignment #3 due  
TEST # 2 Friday November 5

### **Part Four: Following the Research Plan: Qualitative Research**

10. Field Research  
Reading: Neuman, Chap 13  
Lab assignment #4: Observation exercise
11. Historical Comparative Research  
Reading: Neuman, Chap 14  
Lab assignment #4 due
12. Analysing the data  
Reading: Neuman, Chap 15  
Lab assignment #5: Case Study

### **Part Five: Last but not least...**

13. Writing the Research Report  
Reading: Neuman, Chap 16  
Lab assignment #5 due  
TEST #3 Friday December 3

### ***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 during the term.

1. Library search and topic selection
2. Interview exercise
3. Content analysis
4. Observation exercise
5. Case study

#### 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.

#### **Required Text**

Neuman, Lawrence W. 1997. *Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*. Needham Heights, MA: Allyn and Bacon.

#### **On Reserve**

Babbie, Earl. 1998, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition. *The Practice of Social Research*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Baker, Therese L. 1999, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. *Doing Social Research*. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Berg, Bruce L. 1995. *Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Bernard, H. Russell. 1995, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. *Research Methods in Anthropology*. London: Sage.

Bouma, Gary D. and G.B.J. Atkinson. 1996. *A Handbook of Social Science Research*. New York: Oxford.

Bryman, Alan and Duncan Cramer. 1997. *Quantitative Data Analysis with SPSS for Windows*. London: Routledge.

Del Balso, Michael and Alan D. Lewis. 1997. *First Steps: A Guide to Social Research*. Scarborough, ON: Nelson.

- Gray, George and Neil Guppy. 1999, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. *Successful Surveys: Research Methods and Practice*. Toronto: Harcourt Brace.
- Heider, Karl G. 1976. *Ethnographic Film*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.
- Heilbrun, Carolyn. 1988. *Writing a Woman's Life*. New York: Ballantine Books.
- Jackson, Winston. 1999. *Methods: Doing Social Research*. Scarborough, ON: Prentice Hall.
- Jorgensen, Danny L. 1989. *Participant Observation*. London: Sage.
- Katzer, Jeffrey, Kenneth H. Cook and Wayne W. Crouch. 1998, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. *Evaluating Information: A Guide for Users of Social Science Research*. New York: McGraw Hill.
- Langness, L.L. and Gelya Frank. 1981. *Lives: An Anthropological Approach to Biography*. Novato, CA: Chandler & Sharp.
- Lofland, John and Lyn H. Lofland. 1995. *Analyzing Social Settings: A Guide to Qualitative Observation and Analysis*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.
- Sommer, Barbara and Robert Sommer. 1997, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. *A Practical Guide to Behavioral Research: Tools and Techniques*. New York: Oxford.
- Stewart, David W. and Prem N. Shamdasani. 1990. *Focus Groups*. London: Sage.
- Vogt, W. Paul. 1993. *Dictionary of Statistics and Methodology: A Nontechnical Guide for the Social Sciences*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.
- Weiss, Carol H. 1998, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. *Evaluation*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall.