

RESEARCH METHODS 1

**Sept. 2004
Credit Hours: 3**

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Class location: 335 Isbister Building

Office hours by appointment

Texts: Singleton and Straits Approaches to Social Research 3rd edition

Additional readings will be assigned. These will be made available by the instructor.

OBJECTIVES

This course provides an overview of the major types of social research. The objective of the course is to familiarize students with the philosophical background of empirical research, the ethics of social research, and an understanding of experimental design, secondary analysis, field research, historical research, observational research, and evaluation research. The term paper requires the student to integrate this work into a comprehensive research proposal similar to a thesis proposal. The group assignment is intended to familiarize students with some of the major issues in evaluation research.

OUTLINE AND READINGS

1. Introduction to the Philosophy of Science
 - a) Ways of knowing
 - b) Theories, explanations, and hypotheses
 - c) Relationship between theories and methods

Readings:

Singleton

Chapters 1, 2, 3

2. The Production of Data
 - a) Experiments
 - b) Surveys
 - c) Sampling
 - d) Secondary Analysis
 - e) Structured Observation
 - f) Field Research

- g) Historical Research
- h) Case Studies
- i) Evaluation Research

Readings:

Singleton

Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13,14

3. Formulating a Problem for Investigation

- a) Findings
- b) Available Data
- c) Claims
- d) Theory

4. Basic Plan of Data Organization

- a) Reliability
- b) Validity
- c) Operationalization
- d) Multimethod Approaches

Readings:

Singleton

Chapters 4, 5

5. Ethics of Social Research

Readings:

Singleton

Chapter 17

Last date for voluntary withdrawal: November 17, 2004.

EVALUATION:

Will consist of 2 exams (one mid-term and one final) worth 25% and one term paper worth 30%. A group assignment will be worth 20% of the grade. The final exam will be held on December 10 if this does not conflict with other exams or a religious holiday.

STATEMENT OF CUT-OFF POINTS:

| | | | |
|------------|-----------|----------|----------------|
| A+ 90-100% | B+ 80-84% | C+65-74% | D 50-59% |
| A 85-89% | B 75-83% | C 60-64% | F 49% and less |

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students should be familiar with the University's policy on 'Examinations: Personations in Section 4.2.8 (p.25) and 'Plagiarism and Cheating' in Section 7.1 (p.26) found in the 2004-2005 Undergraduate Calendar.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND MAKE-UP TESTS

Late assignments will be penalized with a reduction of 1 percent per day. A make-up mid-term exam will be allowed if there is a reason such as illness. In the case of illness, a note from your doctor is required. Final examination regulations are found on page 24 in Section 4.2 of the 2004-2005 Undergraduate Calendar.