

Midwestern State University
College of Health Sciences and Human Services
Department of Health and Public Administration
HSAD 6063 : Seminar in Advanced Research Methods

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Email: Use the D2L mail for all private communications
about this class

Office hours: Are posted on the Homepage for this class

I may have previous appointments and meetings scheduled during these hours; so if you want to be sure to be able to meet with me, and not have to wait, make an appointment.

COURSE PURPOSE

The principal characteristic of scholarly and scientific inquiry, as opposed to informal, intuitive kinds of inquiry, is the use of rationally grounded procedures to extend knowledge regarded as reliable and valid. Therefore, this course will build on your first research course and will provide you advanced instruction in applying the methods and designs in social science research. For the majority of students this is your final class. It is a writing intensive class that asks you to show what you have learned in the program and to display that you have learned how to conduct research with a limited amount of assistance from your professor. Your research and writing efforts should result in a rigorous research paper.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this course are:

- To synthesize an appropriate research question,
- To evaluate and select the proper research design for the appropriate research problem,
- To evaluate the research work of others,
- To complete a research paper based on primary or secondary data, and
- To effectively present the results of your research.

By the end of the course, you will be able to appropriately use each research technique in

your own research project so as to be able to complete a final version of your paper. All students will be encouraged to discuss their own research efforts as well as comment on the research work of other students in the discussion area.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Cottrell, R and McKenzie, J (2011). *Health Promotion & Education Research Methods: Using the Five Chapter Thesis/ Dissertation Model*, Second Edition. JB Learning. ISBN-13: 9780763775070

Machi, L.A. and McEvoy, B.T. (2012). *The Literature Review Six Steps to Success*. Sage Pub.

The Little, Brown Handbook, Brief Version, 4th e, 2011 (replacing the APA Style Manual)

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Campbell, D. T. and Stanley, J. C. (1963). *Experimental and quasiexperimental designs for research (Paperback)*. NY: Houghton Mifflin. ISBN: 0395307872

Creswell, J. W. (1994). *Research design: Qualitative and quantitative approaches*. Thousand Oaks: Sage. ISBN: 0-8039-5255-4

Any other text found that discusses research methodology in social sciences is helpful.

Course Organization and Requirements

All students in this course must complete a final comprehensive paper during the semester. It is expected you will compose several drafts, and revise them until a final paper is prepared. Please understand this is a graded course and you must meet the course requirements.

Student Objectives: To accomplish the course objectives and provide performance measures, we have created three (3) arenas:

1. **Participation.** Students will participate in discussions; provide input and reviews on a timely basis. The minimum requirement is to post at least once each week. Participation in the form of peer reviews and discussion of assignments must be substantive and advance the discussion (defined later in course policies section). Assignments that are graded separately (required writings) do not count towards participation.

2. **Written Assignments.** Several key written assignments are required. These assignments direct you toward the course objectives and therefore it is important for you to complete them in a timely manner.

3. **Class Attendance.** This course requires you to check into your online class at least every two days.

Zoom Meetings will be offered during the semester for all interested students. The meetings will focus on the paper topic due during that module, students may present their work for discussion and suggestions.

Your grade in the class will be largely based on your final written paper. It will be graded on content and grammar as follows:

1. The research question for the paper must be unique and unanswered in the current literature. The question must primarily focus on a partially unanswered aspect of the administrative, organizational, policy and/or financial aspects of managing a health facility. It must NOT focus on the management of a specific disease or clinical issue. Examples of an unacceptable question might include those that focus on any type of disease management.
2. Content includes conceptualization of ideas; clarity and relevance of examples; logical organization of thoughts; insight and originality and is 80% of the grading criteria.
3. Grammar includes spelling, punctuation, and grammar and APA format and is worth up to 20% of the grading criteria.
4. Plagiarism will result in an immediate grade of C or less.

Grading

In this course, as in most graduate courses, there are no extra credit assignments.

Approved Hypothesis	P/F
Approved Proposal	P/F
Completed 1st Drafts Turned in on time	
Completed 2 nd Drafts	P/F points
Discussions (D)	5 Points
Final Research Paper (Graded)	100 Points

Explanation of Grading:

1. Two late draft assignments will automatically result in a grade of C for the class unless I have given you permission to turn in the assignment late. I will only give permission to do so IF a MAJOR life situation has occurred unexpectedly (ie hospitalization, death in the immediate family etc.)
2. Writing a research paper is a continuing process of review and rewrite. No one ever writes even a near 'perfect' research paper the 1st, 2nd or even third time. For example, sometimes one may find a new subtopic when conducting their literature review and need to go back and modify their introduction a tad to reflect this change. OR one may even find that the wording of your research question needs tweaking (always check with me on this!). Even the best writers often have to rewrite their final research articles after they have been initially accepted by a journal.

Therefore, I don't grade the first draft of each section, even though it should be your best attempt, it will in all likelihood need work as its also your first try. In the 2nd draft, I look at your work with more of a pass/fail 'grade' in mind not a specific letter grade, as you probably will still need to edit it. In fact, if I see a problem or two, I may still give you some broad recommendations for improvement on the 2nd draft.

3. An A, B, C grade isn't assigned until the entire document is put together; as the course final grade depends on how the whole paper hangs together EG did the paper stay on topic, did it cover all of the topic/subtopic areas needed to help answer the research question, did it develop semi-unique recommendations, did it actually answer the research question etc.

This syllabus is subject to change. All course participants will be notified of any changes.

Course Structure and Format

This course will be presented via D2L using texts, notes, and other electronic media, as well instructor and student led class discussions. Students are expected to express opinions, ask questions, and challenge each other and the instructor in a respectful and thoughtful manner.

Writing will also be a central feature of the course. Students will be expected to write several papers dealing with an ethics issue as well as respond to discussion questions posted on D2L by the instructor. The instructor reserves the right to assign additional readings from time-to-time.

Special Needs

If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and need assistance, please notify the Dean, College of Health Sciences and Human Services or the Chair, Department of Health and Public Administration immediately. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs.

Course Policies

Plagiarism and Dishonesty

Your work should be your own unless specifically stated otherwise. Using someone else's paper, copying directly from the internet, etc., are activities that are considered plagiarism. It can result in the student being dismissed and a recorded grade of "F." Here are several websites that provide guidance to avoid plagiarism. I urge you to take the time to review them and understand what is and is not plagiarism.

Student Honor Creed

"As an MSU Student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so."

As students at MSU, we recognize that any great society must be composed of empowered, responsible citizens. We also recognize universities play an important role in helping mold these responsible citizens. We believe students themselves play an important part in developing responsible citizenship by maintaining a community where integrity and honorable character are the norm, not the exception. Thus, We, the Students of Midwestern State University, resolve to uphold the honor of the university by affirming our commitment to complete academic honesty. We resolve not only to be honest but also to hold our peers accountable for complete honesty in all university matters. We consider it dishonest to ask for, give, or receive help in examinations or quizzes, to use any unauthorized material in examinations, or to present, as one's own, work or ideas which are not entirely one's own. We recognize that any instructor has the right to expect that all student work is

honest, original work. We accept and acknowledge that responsibility for lying, cheating, stealing, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty fundamentally rests within each individual student. We expect of ourselves academic integrity, personal professionalism, and ethical character. We appreciate steps taken by university officials to protect the honor of the university against any who would disgrace the MSU student body by violating the spirit of this creed.

Written and adopted by the 2002-2003 MSU Student Senate.

http://www.lib.usm.edu/plagiarism_tutorial/ (this is a tutorial which you must complete and email me the 2 quiz results to me as a part of your first discussion assignment)

By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a "limited right" in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The "limited right" shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student's work product in order to verify originality and authenticity, and for educational purposes. The college makes Turnitin available to the professor for the purpose of verifying the originality of a student's work.

Schedule

Module 1

Readings – How to write a research question

Discussion 1 – The formulation of your Research Question

The research question for the paper must be unique and unanswered in the current literature. The question must primarily focus on a partially unanswered aspect of the administrative, organizational, policy and/or financial aspects of managing a health facility. It must NOT focus on the management of a specific disease or clinical issue. Examples of an unacceptable question might include those that focus on any type of disease management.

Module 2

Readings – Writing a paper proposal

WA-1: Draft Proposal 1 Turnitin® enabled

WA-2: Draft Proposal 2 Turnitin® enabled

See sample proposal format as posted in the contents area.

Module 3

Readings – Writing the introduction Section of a research paper

Discussion 3

WA-1: Introduction - Draft 1 Turnitin® enabled

WA-2: Introduction - Draft 2 Turnitin® enabled

Module 4

Readings

Writing a literature review/the body of the paper

Discussion 4

WA-1: Lit Review-Draft 1 Turnitin® enabled

WA-2: Lit Review-Draft 2 Turnitin® enabled

Module 5

Readings

How to Write a Summary section

How to Write a Recommendation section

How to write a Conclusion

Discussion 5

WA-1: Summary/rec/conclusion Turnitin® enabled

Module 6

Readings

Discussion 6

WA - Completed Final Paper Turnitin®

IF your final paper is not passing but I think you might be able to bring it up to a passing level I will give you an additional week to do so.