

PSY/SO 316 QUANTITATIVE METHODS
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SPRING 1999
T/TH 12:30-1:50 PM
OFC HRS: T 9-10 AM; Th 2-3 PM

Hg

SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to introduce students to quantitative methods and the scientific approach to social and behavioral sciences research. The focus will be on the scientific model of inquiry, the research process, measurement, and the quantitative methods of data gathering. Original research will be conducted by each student, according to the principles and techniques learned in the course, and culminating in an end-of-term research report.

Quantitative research methods is a "writing intensive" course in the Behavioral Sciences Department. Students will have regular written assignments and the quality of writing will be emphasized in evaluating student progress in the course.

OBJECTIVES: Students are expected to learn to:

1. develop systematic methods for observing, recording and summarizing behavior;
2. do a literature review around some topic of study;
3. develop a research proposal related to the study of this topic;
4. construct valid and reliable measures of variables;
5. conduct the research proposed;
6. statistically analyze the data gathered, in relation to the hypothesis or hypotheses stated in the proposal;
7. communicate research results in a clear and appropriate format.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS: Students will be assigned three short papers (2-5 pages) during the term. The papers will focus on the stages of the research process. The style of writing is expected to become increasingly formal, to reflect familiarity with, and understanding of, behavioral sciences research and reporting. Other written assignments may be made as deemed necessary.

Late papers will lose 10% off the score, for each day past the due date. All papers must be typed and follow the writing standards of Chaminade University.

RESEARCH PAPER: The research paper will reflect a) a proper literature review, b) the principles of valid and reliable measurement and operational definitions, c) sampling design and instrument construction, and d) appropriate statistical analysis, d) discussion of results and conclusion, and e) references page. **APA style format is required for all papers. See Psych journal articles or the APA Pub. Manual.**

GRADING:	Exams	50%	
	2 tests	20%	90-100% = A
	Final	30%	80- 89% = B
	Papers	50%	70- 79% = C
	3 papers	15%	60- 69% = D
	Res. paper	35%	x < 60% = F

	Total:	100%	

EXAMS: The test dates are tentatively scheduled. Any changes to the schedule will be discussed in class at least one week before the scheduled change. Anyone missing the test date will have to make up the test **before the next class period**. Unexcused absences from a test will automatically lower the test score by 10% for the student.

TEXT: Babbie, E. (1999). *The basics of social research*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company.

COURSE OUTLINE:

- 1/12-14 Introduction: science & the social research.
Ch. 1
- 1/19-21 Identifying the problem and arriving at a
research question. Appendixes B & C
- 1/26-28 Paradigms, theory & research. Ch. 2
Assignment for 2/2: Pick a topic, state a research
question. Type & hand in.
- 2/2-4 Discuss & critique assignment. Causation. Ch. 3
- 2/9-11 Research design & ethics. Ch.4 & Appendix A
- 2/11 **1st paper is due. Introduction and literature
review of your research topic.**
- 2/16 **1st Test Ch. 1-4 & appendixes**

- 2/18-23 Quantitative measurement Ch. 5
- 2/25-3/2 Operationalization Ch. 6
- 3/4-9 Indexes, scales, & typologies Ch. 7
- 3/11 **2nd paper is due. The research proposal=Intro,
lit review, hypothesis & method section.**
- 3/11-16 Sampling Ch. 8
- 3/18 **2nd Test Ch. 5-8**
- 3/23-25 **Part of Spring Break--No Classes!**
- 3/30-4/1 Experimental research designs Ch. 9
- 4/6-8 Survey research Ch. 10
- 4/13 **3rd paper is due. Data Analysis**
- 4/13-15 Field research Ch. 11
- 4/20-22 Unobtrusive research Ch. 12
- 4/27-29 Evaluation research Ch. 13
Summary and Review for the Final
- 4/29 **Final Paper is due.**

- 5/4 **FINAL EXAM CH. 9-13**
12:45-2:45 PM
E 108