

CRIM/PSYC/SOC 342 (1M) - RESEARCH METHODS
Spring 2010

Time: 6:00-8:50 Tuesdays **Credits:** 3

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Course D2L Website: <http://learn.maryville.edu>
Instructor Web Page: <http://accweb.itr.maryville.edu/kbausman/>
Office Hours: MW 11:30-12:30 and TTH 2:00 -4:00

Instructor Communication Policy: The fastest and most effective way of getting in touch with me for time sensitive issues is via e-mail, but I would prefer that you use the course discussion forums first because all students can share the communication and assist you with any questions you may have. I check and respond to email regularly Monday thru Thursday.

Blended Learning Disclosure:

This course requires additional online interaction and may have a different class schedule from a traditional section of the same course. This format may not be ideal for all learners, so please contact your advisor or myself if you are unsure whether this instruction format meets your requirements, particularly if you have any special accessibility needs related to computer skills or learning disability matters.

If you have questions about the navigation and management of your account in the D2L learning environment, review the document “D2L Quick Reference for Students” on the course D2L website under “News”.

Textbook: Neuman, W. L. (2009). Understanding Research. New York, NY: Pearson Allyn and Bacon.

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the basic methods of research used in the social and behavioral sciences. Subjects examined will include the logic of science, social science ethics, how to ask empirical questions, analyze data, variable control, correlational research, observational & survey methods, and experimental & quasi-experimental designs

Course Objectives:

The purpose of the course is to give students an understanding of the basic procedures and principles of social science research methodology, including both quantitative and qualitative components. Students will apply this understanding by designing their own study and learning how to communicate the results in the form of a journal article-style paper. Upon completion of this course, students should be able to do the following:

- Understand how to critically evaluate that which is presented as evidence
- Formulate a research question and understand how to properly pursue answering it
- Be able to engage in causal reasoning

- Appreciate the various research designs utilized in the social sciences and comprehend their appropriate applications
- Conduct searches for peer-reviewed research and how to properly read and review research articles
- Construct research reports

Course Requirements:

Examinations – Three in-class exams will be given at roughly even intervals throughout the semester. The majority of the content for these exams will come from material covered in the face-to-face lecture format. Forty percent of your final grade will be determined by these three exams.

Research Paper – The research paper may be conducted individually or in a group (groups cannot exceed 2 members in size). The individual or group will decide on a topic for proposed research. In the research paper, you are expected formulate a research question that can be tested using a college student population. Thirty percent of your final grade will come from a final evaluation of your paper.

Details:

- Your research question must be grounded in the existing research literature. The literature is the basis for your hypothesis. There are two main limitations to your question. It must:
 - Be testable in a sample of Maryville University students
 - Cannot involve any questions pertaining to respondents' engagement in illegal behavior
- Your hypothesis must include an independent variable (IV), a dependent variable (DV), and at least one control variable (think of another variable that may affect the DV).
- Each student or group will submit to me a set of questions that attempt to measure your IV, DV, and control variable.
- Through, D2L, each student or group will discuss me with the statistical results of your analysis and how it pertains to the hypothesis you tested.
- The final paper follow **APA style guidelines for writing research reports**.
 - Papers are expected to be a 13 to 20 pages in length (of text, ***not*** including a title page, abstract page, or reference pages).
 - Papers should have a minimum of 10 cited sources (6 must be peer-reviewed articles). Any source listed in your reference section must be cited in the paper.
- All requirements must be met to earn better than a C on the paper
 - For more assistance pertain to APA style guidelines consider the following sources
 - <http://www.apastyle.org/apa-style-help.aspx>
 - <http://www.stylewizad.com/>

Online Quizzes – During the course of the semester there will be four online quizzes. Each quiz will cover an assigned chapter not covered in the face-to-face lecture format. Quizzes will be given online during the weeks that the class does not meet (see course schedule for assigned due dates). Students may use their textbook in

completing these quizzes, however since these are timed quizzes students are strongly encouraged to read the assigned chapter for the quiz. Following the honor code, students are expected to work alone and not to discuss the contents of a quiz with each other. Twenty percent of your final grade will be determined by these quizzes.

Online Participation – Because this course has been designed to integrate online and face-to-face work, the online activities are not optional. Students are expected to share their ideas, work and commentary with each other for the purpose creating a cooperative learning environment. Toward this end, a series of online contributions are expect of you. Students are encouraged to use the discussion board to assist each other (see course schedule for assigned participatory themes and due dates). Ten percent of your final grade will come from an evaluation of your participation in online discussion. Our first online discussion activity is scheduled for the first week of class and is intended to familiarize you with posting to D2L (although many of you may have experience with D2L, I am not able to determine who does and doesn't therefore this is why we have this first exercise, so I can gauge everyone's familiarity with D2L) . This discussion contribution should be a brief introduction of yourself to the rest of the class (*Who are you? What's your major? Why did you choose that major and what would you like to do with it? Finally, what is something that most would consider surprising about you?*). I will even post my own so that you can get to know me a bit better.

Grading Scale

A: 94 and above
A-: 90-93
B+: 87-89
B: 80-86
C+: 77-79
C: 74-76
C-: 70-73
D: 60-69
F: 59 or lower

Attendance policy:

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each classroom session. Attendance and participation are vital in all classes in order to enhance learning. The maximum allowable numbers of absences (excused or otherwise) for this class is ONE. If a student misses two classes he/she will receive an "AF" (Attendance Failure). Further "being absent" shall be defined as missing 30 minutes or more of any one class. As such, arriving late and/or leaving early may result in an absence. Failure to participate in the online class sessions during the assigned time period(s) will result in an absence. Due to the reduced class meetings, the one-absence (excused or otherwise) policy is strictly enforced. Additionally, please refer to the "Class Attendance" guidelines (in the Policies and Information section), found in the current Academic Catalog for further information, and/or the current Student Handbook.

Peer Tutoring:

The following services available to all students free of charge in Maryville’s Academic Success Center: Peer Tutors help with specific classes, study skills, and test-taking strategies. Writing Center tutors recommend strategies that will help students improve their writing skills. For an appointment call 314-529-9228, e-mail peertutors@maryville.edu, or stop by the Peer Tutor Office in the University Library.

Further questions, pertaining to use of D2L can be directed by e-mail to learn@maryville.edu or by phone at (314) 529-9647. Also refer to the “D2L Quick Reference for Students” on the course D2L website under “News”.

Course Schedule

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to accommodate instructional and/or student needs.

Face-to-Face Meeting Dates: 1/12, 1/26, 2/9, 2/23, 3/9, 3/23, 4/6, 4/20

The shaded sections refer to our face-to-face meeting dates

DATE	RECOMMENDED READING	LECTURE EXAM	QUIZZES	ONLINE DISCUSSION
1/12	Chapter 1 and 2 Why do research and planning a study	The course management system (D2L) will be demonstrated Research paper requirements will be introduced Ch. 1 & 2		Post a brief introduction of yourself to the rest of the class, (Refer to “Online Discussion” under “Course Requirements”) Due <u>January 17</u>
1/19			Quiz Chapter 2 Due January 24	
1/26	Chapter 3 Becoming an Ethical Researcher	Ch. 3		Post Your Proposed Research Question(minimum one paragraph), Due <u>January 31</u>
2/2	Chapter 4 Sampling		Quiz Chapter 4 Due February 7	
2/9	Chapter 6 The Survey	<u>Exam (Ch. 1, 2, 3 & 4)</u> Ch. 6		Post questionnaire items for your IV, DV and control variable, Due <u>February 10</u>
2/16	Chapter 5 Measuring Social Life		Quiz Chapter 5 Due February 21	
2/23	Chapter 7 The Experiment	Ch. 7		Post One Peer-Reviewed Article you intend to cite as justification for the

				hypothesized relationship between your IV and DV, Due <u>February 28</u>
3/2				
3/9	Chapter 10 Observing People in Natural Settings	<u>Exam (Ch 5, 6 and 7)</u> Ch, 10		
3/16	Chapter 9 Making sense of the numbers		Quiz Chapter 9 Due March 21	
3/23	Chapter 8 Research with Nonreactive Measures	Ch. 8 Data analysis completed and returned for discussion		Post draft of introduction to your paper (minimum 1 page). Due <u>March 28</u>
3/30				Post One Peer-Reviewed Article you intend to cite as justification for the selection of your control variable. Due <u>April 1</u>
4/6	Catch Up on Lecture Material Question and Answer Session for Research Paper			
4/13				
4/20		<u>Exam (8, 9, and 10)</u>		