Course Description

An introduction to the methods and skills important to the conduct and consumption of research. Both quantitative and qualitative research paradigms are addressed.

Rationale and Course Goals

This course is intended for all graduate students who are interested in understanding the essential components of a variety of research methods. It is offered through the Division of Counseling and Psychology at USD and is consistent with the course numbering system of the state universities in South Dakota. The purpose of this course is to help you as a graduate student make the best use of educational research to improve your practice and to expand your understanding of the role of research in educational theory. The course serves as a basis for expanded course work in quantitative and qualitative research methods and in measurement. Inspiring and leading through excellence in education is the shared vision of the USD School of Education for all of its programs. The underlying intent of the vision requires that students be exposed to learning experiences that will enhance their ability to engage in life-long learning and leadership roles anchored in reflective practice. Therefore, students are expected to make data-driven decisions based on reflection of context, theory, research, inquiry, and culturally competent practice. The primary goals of the course are to enable students to develop the knowledge, skills and understandings necessary to become good consumers of educational research. To achieve this purpose, the course is designed to enable you to:

- Understand the variety and usefulness of various research designs.
- Differentiate between various kinds of research and expectations particular to each.
- Analyze and evaluate the quality and usefulness of various research studies.
- Translate and apply basic statistical and qualitative findings in a published article.

This course will be taught entirely through D2L with a required text, a required APA style manual and supplementary D2L materials provided by the instructor. You are also encouraged to take advantage of the additional provided online by Pearson Publishing.

Remember that you can contact me through email with any questions or thoughts you have about the course and its’ organization. Please refer technical difficulties to the D2L support personnel at USD, available as the WebMaster on your D2L Homepage. For issues of registration, etc., you should call Continuing Education at 1-800-233-7937.
Required Texts:


*Be sure to get the 11th Edition, as the chapters have changed with the most recent edition.*


Expectations

To successfully complete this course, students are expected to:

- Thoughtfully and thoroughly read all course materials and assigned chapters in a timely manner.
- Consult D2L and publishers online resources for the course.
- Participate in online discussions.
- Complete 4 quizzes appropriate to various chapters.
- Complete 3 assignments that challenge you to apply research methods tools, strategies, knowledge and skills to your own field of study.
- Complete 5 homework assignments.
- Develop skills in applying research methods to novel situations.

Office Hours

Office hours are by appointment to best accommodate various schedules. Virtual office hours will be held through Collaborate Ultra on D2L. If you have a question about the course or a concern, please e-mail me in D2L and I will respond within 24 hours, excluding weekends/holidays. If you would like to schedule a time to speak with me, please e-mail me your phone number and possible times that I may call you. To access Collaborate Ultra, go to D2L Course Page > Communication > Collaborate Ultra > Join Room.

Freedom in Learning and Academic Responsibility

Students are responsible for learning the content of any course of study in which they are enrolled. Under Board of Regents and University policy, student academic performance shall be evaluated solely on an academic basis and students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study. Students who believe that an academic evaluation is unrelated to academic standards but is related instead to judgment of their personal opinion or conduct should contact the dean of the college which offers the class to initiate a review of the evaluation.

Instructional Methods and Activities

Methods and activities for instruction include lecture instruction (PP with Audio), class discussions (discussion board), reading assignments homework assignments and research proposal assignments.
## Requirements and Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Participation (4 x 12.5 points each)</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz 1, Introductory Concepts (Chs. 1-2, 13)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiz 2, Literature review and proposal (Chs. 3 - 5)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz 3, Quantitative Research (Chs. 6 - 8)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz 4, Qualitative Designs (Chs. 9 - 12)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Proposal Assignment 1*</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Proposal Assignment 2*</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Proposal Assignment 3*</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework Assignments (5 x 30 points each)</td>
<td>150</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total** 1000 points

*Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Direct quotes will receive minimal credit. All work submitted should be the result of the student’s own, independent effort.

Grading Letter Grade Equivalents: 92%-100%=A, 81%-91.9%=B; 70%-80.9%=C; <70%=D

All assignments will be submitted electronically through D2L—quizzes through the online quiz, discussion sessions are automatically recorded. Scores will be privately posted in the system as soon as they are ready.

## Graded Components

**Discussion Participation:** Discussion participation will account for 5% of your course grade. You will participate in weekly discussions in assigned groups on the discussion board in D2L. You will first locate your group discussion forum and post a response to my prompts for the week. There may occasionally be an activity or a reading to accompany your discussion post. Please read the instructions for each discussion carefully before submitting. You will then respond to two group members’ posts. Discussion Guidelines, Netiquette Guidelines and a Discussion Rubric are available in D2L. To access Discussion Forum, go to D2L Course Page > Communications > Discussions.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes will account for 40% of your course grade. The content on quizzes will stem from the material presented in the textbook as well as the material covered in the Lectures. The quizzes are in multiple choice format and will be completed in the Quiz section of D2L. To access Quizzes, go to D2L course page > Assessments > Quizzes.

**Research Proposal Assignments:** The Research Proposal Assignments will account for 40% of your course grade. You will develop a mixed methods research proposal, including both qualitative and quantitative components. The proposal is a cumulative project divided into three assignments that will build off of one another. It is expected that feedback on previous assignments will be applied to subsequent assignments. All assignments must be in complete APA style. Use 12-Point Times New Roman Font and double space your assignment before submitting. For additional formatting instructions consult the *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. To submit Research Proposal assignments, go to D2L Course Page > Assessments > Dropbox.

**Homework Assignments:** Homework Assignments will account for 15% of your course grade. The assignments are designed to prepare you for the research proposal assignments. All of the Homework Assignments will be covered in the first unit of the course. There will be five individual assignments including: APA Style Review HW 1, Variable/Hypothesis Identification HW 2, Identifying Research Components HW 3, Scales of Measurement HW 4, and Operationalizing Variables HW 5. To submit Homework Assignments, go to D2L Course Page > Assessments > Dropbox.
Matrix: Course Objectives/Outcomes, Standards and Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective/Outcome: By the end of this course, students will..</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Related Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Understand the goals, purposes, procedures, and ethics of research methods in the social and behavioral sciences.</td>
<td>SOE Adv # 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Discussion participation, Homework Assignments 1, 2 and 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be able to identify and explain elements of original research reports.</td>
<td>SOE Adv # 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Discussion Participation, Assignments 1, 2 and 3, Homework Assignments, Quizzes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understand the structure of QL and QN research, including commonalities and differences.</td>
<td>SOE Adv # 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Discussion participation, Homework Assignments, Quizzes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describe QN research Designs.</td>
<td>DOE 24:16:07:01(7)</td>
<td>Discussion Participation Quiz 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describe QL Research Designs.</td>
<td>DOE 24:16:07:01(7)</td>
<td>Discussion Participation Quiz 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop skills to become an informed consumer of professional research.</td>
<td>DOE 24:16:07:01(7)</td>
<td>Discussion Participation, Homework Assignments 1, 2 and 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design a QL or QN research project.</td>
<td>DOE 24:16:07:01(7)</td>
<td>Assignments 1, 2 and 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describe the basic processes in statistical analysis and interpret statistical reports.</td>
<td>SOE Adv # 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Discussion participation Quiz 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describe the basic processes in QL data analysis and interpret QL reports.</td>
<td>SOE Adv # 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Discussion participation Quiz 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value the contributions of QL and QN research and articulate paradigm perspectives.</td>
<td>SOE Adv # 1 &amp; 2, 9 &amp; 10</td>
<td>Discussion participation Quizzes</td>
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Course Schedule

You can access the course schedule from course content and home page on D2L.
Class Policies

- Students are expected to thoughtfully and thoroughly read all assigned chapters and to consult D2L and other resources, found on their own, for the course.
- For information about USD's technical, academic and student support services, as well as how to take advantages of these services, please refer to the CE Online Student Orientation (http://www.usd.edu/cde/upload/Online-Orientation-Guide.pdf). This document also contains important information pertaining to minimum technology requirements, registration information, as well as other university services and policies.
- Students may contact me with questions via D2L email. Although I typically respond to students fairly quickly, please plan ahead and only expect a response within 48 hours - only on days in which class is in session (Monday through Friday, except for holidays).
- Feedback on written assignments can be expected within 1 week of the assignment due date, depending on my schedule and other commitments.
- Although it is often used for personal or informal messages, email is also a professional means of communication (e.g., communication with instructors). What you say in an email and how you say it reflects on you professionally. All emails to the instructor are considered public information. The instructor will only respond to emails: (1) That seek assistance for which other sources are not available (e.g., textbook, Web, other students), (2) That are written respectfully and professionally (including grammar and capitalization). The instructor will not respond to emails that are: (1) Informal or too familiar, (2) Imperative. Please utilize USD e-mail for all communications regarding this course. All see D2L for Netiquette policy.
- Students are required to electronically save all copies of completed coursework that are submitted.
- All assignments are submitted via Desire2Learn in their respective drop boxes.
- Exams will cover material both from the readings and from lecture. Objectives for each unit can be found in D2L.
- Late materials (assessments turned in after the due date and time) will be docked 25% for each day beyond the deadline.
- If an extreme emergency arises, contact the instructor immediately. Excuses such as computer/internet problems will not be accepted. It is advised that students save their work on a pen drive as well as hard drive, locate alternate computing resources in the event of a problem, and arrange to finish assignments/test prior to the deadline.
As stated in the Student Code of Conduct (USD Student Handbook, available online at the myUportal on the Campus Life tab), the integrity of the University community is contingent upon fulfillment of a trust—that the members of the student body will engage in reasonable behaviors to promote and protect the educational environment. The current handbook defines academic dishonesty in this way:

1. Cheating, which is defined as, but not limited to the following: a. use or giving of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examination; b. use of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; or c. acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the institutional faculty or staff.

2. Plagiarism, which is defined as, but is not limited to, the following: a. the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment consistent with accepted practices of the discipline; b. the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials. (p. 76)

Therefore, no credit can be given for a dishonest assignment. At the discretion of the instructor, a student caught engaging in any form of academic dishonesty may be:

1. Given a zero for that assignment.
2. Allowed to rewrite and resubmit the assignment for credit.
3. Assigned a reduced grade for the course.
4. Dropped from the course.
5. Failed in the course.

Furthermore, violation of the University Academic Honesty Policy could result in the University taking disciplinary action including expulsion from school (see USD Student Handbook).

- Freedom in learning. Students are responsible for learning the content of any course of study in which they are enrolled. Under Board of Regents and University policy, student academic performance shall be evaluated solely on an academic basis and students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study. Students who believe that an academic evaluation is unrelated to academic standards but is related instead to judgment of their personal opinion or conduct should contact the dean of the college which offers the class to initiate a review of the evaluation.

- Any student who feels s/he may need academic accommodations or access accommodations based on the impact of a documented disability should contact and register with Disability Services during the first week of class. You can contact Ernetta Fox, Director of the Office of Disability Services, at Service Center 199 or 677-6389. Disability Services is the official office to assist students through the process of disability verification and coordination of appropriate and reasonable accommodations. Students currently registered with Disability Services must obtain a new accommodation memo each semester.

- No credit can be given for a dishonest assignment. At the discretion of the instructor, a student caught engaging in any form of academic dishonesty may be:

  a. Given a zero for that assignment.
  b. Allowed to rewrite & resubmit the assignment for credit.
  c. Assigned a reduced grade for the course. **
  d. Dropped from the course. **
  e. Failed in the course. **

** Preferred for this course