

Phone:
Office
Office Hours by Appointment

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Overview

This course is designed to provide the students with knowledge about the scientific method, theory construction, and the relationship of theory to research. Students will learn the steps involved in designing a research proposal, including problem formulation, the development of conceptual frameworks, researchable questions, hypothesis development, justification of the research study, research design, instrument construction, measurement issues, sampling procedures, and ethical issues involved in research. Various types of experimental, quasi-experimental, and non-experimental designs will be presented. Specific methods such as survey research, participant observation, and evaluation research will be covered. The course will deal with issues related to the feasibility and practicality of implementing and conducting proposed research. Students will understand the connection between this course and their required statistics, theory, and policy analysis courses. By the end of the course, students will know how to design a sound scientific research study that is ethical, practical and feasible.

Course Objectives

The specific objectives of the course are:

- ◆ Understanding and being knowledgeable about the scientific method.
- ◆ Understanding the importance of conceptual frameworks for research and being able to develop them.
- ◆ Being knowledgeable about all the aspects and components of a research proposal and conducting a research study.
- ◆ Being familiar with the variety of available methods to conduct social and behavioral research.
- ◆ Being able to select designs appropriate to the proposed research questions and hypotheses.
- ◆ Designing research studies that are ethical, feasible, and practical while being appropriate to the question proposed and being methodologically sound.
- ◆ Developing the capacity to prepare a written research proposal.
- ◆ Developing the capacity to critique the research of others.

Required Texts

1. Kazdin, A. (2017). *Research Design in Clinical Psychology*. Fifth Edition, Pearson, Boston, MA.
2. Davis, J. (1985). *The Logic of Causal Order*. Sage Publications, Newbury Park.
3. Reynolds, P.D. (1971). *A Primer in Theory Construction*. Allyn and Bacon, Boston.
4. Hulley, S., Cummings, S., et al (ed.). (2013). *Designing Clinical Research*. 4th Edition. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Philadelphia.
5. Rubin, A., Babbie, E. (2017). *Research Methods for Social Work*, Ninth Edition, Cengage Learning, Boston, MA
6. Materials on Canvas

Books can be obtained from the Penn Book Store (Barnes & Noble) 36th & Walnut

Course Grade:

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|---------------------|-----|
| Class Participation | 10% |
| Assignment I | 15% |
| Assignment II | 15% |
| Research Proposal | 60% |

Students are expected to read all assignments, participate in class discussions, complete written assignments at scheduled times, attend all classes and to be on time. If students are sick or some other extraordinary circumstance arises that precludes them from attending class, they are to contact the professor before class. Similarly, if due to an unforeseen situation, a student expects to be late, the professor is to be notified in advance of the class. Assignments received after the due dates will be graded down. The research proposal will be submitted in parts for feedback. These parts will not be graded, but will be used to guide the student in developing the final proposal.

Students are expected to conduct themselves consistent with the University of Pennsylvania's Code of Academic Integrity, which presents standards regarding plagiarism, multiple submissions and other actions. Students are expected to be familiar with the Code, which can be found at <https://provost.upenn.edu/policies/pennbook/2013/02/13/code-of-academic-integrity>.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND REQUIRED READING RESEARCH 852

AUGUST 30

TOPICS

1. Introduction to course
2. Philosophy of Science
3. Nature of Scientific Method
4. Overview of Research Process

ASSIGNMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

1. Eleven Blue Men by Roueche (Canvas)

SEPTEMBER 6

TOPICS

1. Relation of Theory to Research
2. Developing Conceptual Models
3. Research Problem Formulation
4. Formulating research questions
5. Hypothesis Formulation

ASSIGNMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

1. Reynolds, A Primer in Theory Construction - Entire book
2. Kazdin, Chapter 1,4
3. Rubin & Babbie Chaps. 1,3,4,7,8
4. Hulley, Cummings, et al chaps. 1,2

SEPTEMBER 13

TOPICS

1. Ethical Issues in Research
2. Inclusion of Minority and Women in Research

ASSIGNMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

1. Rubin & Babbie Chap 5,6
2. Hulley & Cummings, Chapter 14
3. Kazdin, Chapter 16, 17
4. CITI training for social/behavioral science – provide certificate
5. Belmont Report, Code of Federal Regulations, Declaration of Helsinki (Canvas)
6. Assignment I in Reynolds, back of book

SEPTEMBER 20

TOPICS

1. Internal and External Validity
2. Construct and Statistical Conclusion Validity

ASSIGNMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

1. Kazdin, Chapters 2, 3
2. Rubin & Babbie Chaps. 11

SEPTEMBER 27

TOPICS

1. Experimental Design
2. Quasi Experimental Design

ASSIGNMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

1. Rubin & Babbie Chapter 12
2. Kazdin, Chapters 5 & 6
3. Hulley, Cummings, et al Chapters 10, 11
4. Assignment II in Reynolds, back of book

OCTOBER 4

TOPICS

1. Non-Experimental Designs
2. Cohort Studies
3. Cross-Sectional and Case-Control Studies

ASSIGNMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

1. Hulley, Cummings, et al Chapters 7, 8, & 9
2. Davis, entire book
3. Kazdin, Chapters 7
4. Concept paper of proposal due – problem statement – about 2 pages

OCTOBER 11

TOPICS

1. Sampling Procedures
2. Issues of Power
3. Sample Recruitment
4. Exclusion and Inclusion Criteria

ASSIGNMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

1. Rubin & Babbie, Chap 15
2. Hulley, Cummings, Chapters 3, 5, & 6
3. Kazdin, Chapter 13 (just pages 325-336)

OCTOBER 18

TOPICS

1. Measurement Issues - Validity and Reliability
2. Specificity and Sensitivity
3. Scaling Procedures

ASSIGNMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

1. Rubin & Babbie, Chaps. 8 , 9 & 10
2. Kazdin, Chapter 10,11, 12
3. Hulley , Cummings, et al Chapters 4, 12

OCTOBER 25

TOPICS

1. Survey Research
2. Questionnaires - Design and Development
3. Interviews - Design and Development

ASSIGNMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

1. Rubin & Babbie, Chap. 16
2. Hulley, Cummings, et al Chapters 15, 17
3. First part of proposal due (problem statement, background and significance) and outline of remainder see Hulley, Cummings, et al, pp. 12-13, modify – hypothesis, not null hypothesis & clearly operationalize all variables

NOVEMBER 1

TOPICS

1. Writing Research Proposals
2. Writing Research Articles
3. Critique research proposals and articles

ASSIGNMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

1. Kazdin, Chapters 18
2. Rubin & Babbie, Chap. 23
3. Hulley , Cummings, et al Chapter 19

NOVEMBER 8

TOPIC

1. Observational Techniques
2. Qualitative Methods

ASSIGNMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

1. Kazdin, Chapter 9
2. Rubin & Babbie, Chaps. 18, 19 & 20

NOVEMBER 15

TOPIC

1. Analysis of Available Data
2. Content Analysis
3. Historical/comparative method

ASSIGNMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

1. Rubin & Babbie, Chap. 17
2. Hulley, Cummings, et al Chapters 13

NOVEMBER 22

NO CLASS THANKSGIVING

NOVEMBER 29

TOPIC

1. Evaluation Research
2. Politics of Research
3. Practicality and Feasibility of Conducting Research
4. Single Case Designs

ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK

1. Rubin & Babbie, Chapters 13, 14
2. Kazdin Chapter 8

DECEMBER 6

No Class - Will schedule individual meetings with students

FINAL PROPSAL DUE ON DEC 6 at 5PM

ASSIGNMENT DUE FIRST WEEK OF NEXT SEMESTER

1. Rubin & Babbie, Chapter 2

7/26/17