"Perspective allows one to understand things the way they really are”

Course description:

The course, Research Methods, provides a scientific approach to studying social phenomena. Systematic analyses of social life are important for a number of reasons. Systematic research replaces common sense conclusions or observations that are not accurate. Much of what we see, as well, in the popular media is incorrect, misleading, or biased. This course provides an overview of social research methods by studying ways researchers formulate research questions, design a research project, collect data, measure aspects of social life, and interpret results.


It is required that you bring your book to every class.

I. Objectives

- Provide a structured and comfortable environment for all students to learn effectively;
- Challenge students to be critical in their assessment of the literature;
- Apply a fair assessment of student performance;
- Provide effective mechanisms for students to demonstrate their knowledge;
- Encourage students to articulate their ideas effectively;
- Assign projects that sensitize students to community involvement;
- Connect teaching and research to involvement with the community;
- Assist students in the development of their writing skills;
- Encourage an intellectual understanding of diversity in all of its forms.

My goal is for every student to earn the highest possible score by performing at your highest possible potential and completing all work to the best of your ability. My support is always on the side of students. If you have concerns, please inform me immediately. Your goal can be achieved more effectively by working with the professor and not against your own interests.
Stop by my office for help with your individual needs.

II. Requirements and Evaluation

All evaluation or analysis is based on content, critical thinking, writing skills, and oral articulation of ideas. Please work with me to develop these skills.

Late papers are not accepted. There are no exceptions as ample time will be given to complete all assignments. All assignments must be presented at the beginning of the class period, when requested. Electronic submission will not be accepted. Papers left in the main office or underneath my office door will not be retrieved. The Office Manager does not have the authority to accept your paper. It is not advisable to miss class to write a paper.

How to write an essay. (100 pts.). Guidelines will be discussed and distributed. Due Sept. 4.

Required: Oct. 16 AFRS Conference attendance and essay are Required. Write a page essay on the Maxwell-Roddey Lecture using the guidelines provided for essay #1. (100 pts.). Due Oct. 23.

Conference Attendance and participation (Oct. 15-16). 10 extra credit points per session (total 3). Your presence must be documented and you must remain for the entire session. Program will be distributed.

Tests/In-class Writing: Content. (100 pts. each). A test or oral assessment will be given each meeting date beginning September 11. Tests will be in the form of objective and essay questions, covering all material from previous lectures, handouts, and text. All tests and oral activities are cumulative and will be given within the first 30 minutes of the class (3:30-4:00). Expect one each class period. All electronics must be turned off and left in your pocket/bag.

Draft Proposal: Only draft of literature review is required. I will provide extensive feedback and return. Due Sept. 26.

Hands on Research Experience. (100 pts.). Each student will be required to interview one grandparent caregiver for grandchildren. 10 extra points will be awarded for each additional survey that is documented. The survey and instructions will be provided by the professor. Contact information must be documented. I will provide some contacts. Due Oct. 30

How to write a Research Report: (100 pts.). Writing skills and critical thinking. (100 pts.). To write an effective research report (proposal), you will need to follow the
Reminder: Stop by my office for help with your individual needs.

trajectory of the course. Each section of the course is connected to the final product. If you miss significant parts of the puzzle, you will not be able to produce the final report.

Due Dec. 4. Your report must consist of at least 15 double-spaced typewritten. You will be advised of formatting as we move through the course.

Oral Presentation of Research Findings: (100 pts.). Articulation and critical thinking. Each student will present their research proposal including all aspects of the process. All sections are equally as important; however, specific attention will be placed on the literature review and theoretical perspective, showing how each of these supports your research question and objectives. Audio visuals are not allowed. Use handouts instead of PowerPoint presentations. Select your date today.

Your presentation must not exceed 20 minutes. Due: schedule listed at the bottom of the syllabus.

Verbal Participation: Critical thinking. Extra credit points for students with meaningful contribution to the class discussion. Please refrain from speaking just because … Think through your ideas before you speak. Consideration will be given for serious effort. Please do not fail to speak for fear that your ideas are being criticized. Criticism is good as it helps to develop your perspective more effectively. Please respect your classmates by not trying to monopolize the discussion. Please keep your contribution concise and to the point. You need not speak daily to achieve the maximum extra credit points allowed.

Statement on Academic Integrity:

All students are required to read and abide by the code of Student Academic Integrity. Violations of the Code of Student Academic Integrity, including cheating, plagiarism, fabrication or falsification, multiple submissions or abuse of academic materials will result in disciplinary action as provided in the Code. The Code is available from the Dean of Students Office or online at: http://www.legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps-105.html.

Evaluation is based on the following:

First short essay (100 pts.)
Second short conference participation essay (100 pts.)
Exams/writing (100 pts. each)
Research Survey grandparents (1 minimum) (100 pts.)
Written Report (100 pts.)
Oral Report (100 pts.)
Verbal Participation (extra credit pts.)
First Draft of Proposal (100 pts.)
Only Draft of Literature Review (100 pts.)

**Grading:** All grades are given based on your performance. Your success or failure in this class is based solely on you. The guidelines are applied in the same manner for all students. Consideration is most often given to those students who support class goals. If you miss class and fail to keep up with the deadlines, you compromise your ability to do well.

Please refrain from the following expressions: *I want/need a B in this class, I need to graduate, what do I need to do in order to get an A in the class?* My response to all is - focus on your work as the requirements are clear.

Note: It is very easy to fail a course and equally as easy to pass.

**Evaluation**

Grading is standard:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59-below</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You will need to complete at least 60% of the course requirements in order to pass the class. Please keep track of your grades and discuss your performance or concerns on an ongoing basis.

**III. Intellectual Context:** All chapter assignments must be read before coming to class. The intellectual context is divided into 5 parts: (1) understanding the terms and procedures; (2) literature review; and (3) the research proposal draft; (4) the oral report; and (5) the final proposal. Parts 1 and 2 are done concurrently.

**Week one 8/21:** Introduction and overview of the course, reflections on research topics; interactions, questions from students.


**Week two 8/28:** Discuss chapter one: The Role and Importance of Research.
Assignment 1 short essay: How to write an essay: **Due 9/4.** Using the topic for your
research, write a 3 page essay using the guidelines provided in this document. Library
and/or internet research is required to complete the assignment.

**Week three 9/4**: discuss chapter two. The Research Process

**Week four 9/11**: discuss chapter 3. Selecting a Problem and Reviewing the Literature.

**Assignment due 18**: develop a bibliography of relevant research on your topic. At least
10 articles, books, internet sources. Do not internet addresses containing opinions. Your
sources must be manuscripts published in referee journals, books, or published internet
articles.

**Week five 9/18**: discuss chapter 9. Nonexperimental Descriptive and Correlational
Methods. Chapter 10. Nonexperimental Qualitative Methods

**Week six 9/26**: Chapter 13: Writing a research proposal. **First draft of literature review
due.**

**Week seven 10/2**: We will not meet as a group. Assignment. Work on research proposal

**Week eight 10/9**: Workshop: work with students individually. Questions and discussion
from class. Continue to work on research proposal.

**Week nine 10/16**: Class meets at conference site. Continue to work on proposal

**Week ten 10/23**: **Survey assignment due. First draft of proposal due.**

Oral Reports: Oct. 30-Dec.4. 5 students per date.

10/30

11/6

5

11/13

11/20
Reminder: at any point feel free to stop by my office for individual assistance with your any of your work. I will even go over some of the concepts with you for each quiz and well as help you to develop your proposal.

12/4 Due: How to Write a Research Proposal

The guidelines below pertain to the two short essay that will be assigned and not the research proposal. Guidelines for the proposal are in the text.

Short Essay guidelines only:

Guidelines and evaluation criteria for essay writing.

Guidelines for essay writing. The following guidelines require that your paper must be at least 3 ½ pages in order to be evaluated based on the maximum score of 100. The grading criteria may change based on the length and requirements of the paper.

The introduction consists of 2 paragraphs.

First introductory paragraph: general to the specific. The introduction must contain 2 paragraphs. The first paragraph is general, but focuses on your subject. The introduction is based on factual information. It is not your opinion. The second paragraph is more specific and contains the thesis statement. At least one half page. Not using factual information weighs heavily. 0-10 pts.

Second introductory paragraph: Discuss thesis ideas (3 or more) in the second introductory paragraph and then state the thesis at the end of the second paragraph. At least one half page. Thesis statement: Must include at least 3 ideas/objectives. A thesis is a structured statement which tells the reader specifically what the paper is about. The thesis must consist of a complete sentence. The thesis statement must be underlined. At least one half page. Not discussing thesis ideas weighs heavily. A thesis that is not logically consistent weighs heavily. 0-30 pts.

Body: Each paragraph must have an introductory sentence and a concluding sentence. The introductory sentence presents the idea that you will discuss. The first sentence must reflect specifically and clearly the idea to be discussed, using the actually concept/term or a synonym. The concluding sentence connects your idea with the following idea (paragraph). This gives your essay its flow and helps to tell your story. Each sentence must be a logical flow from the preceding sentence. This makes for a well developed paragraph and ease in flow. Avoid writing in the first person. Two points will be
deducted each time first person is used. Deductions will be made for sentence structure, punctuation, spelling, and organization. 0-30 pts. total or 0-10 pts. each paragraph.

First paragraph (at least one half page and 10 pts.). use only one paragraph
Second paragraph (at least one half page and 10 pts.). use only one paragraph
Third paragraph (at least one half page and 10 pts.). use only one paragraph

**Interpretation/discussion:** This section connects your ideas in a logically consistent manner. This is where you give your critical analysis of what you have written. How do you interpret what you have written? What does it all mean in some broader context? What does it mean for the black family or community? 0-20 pts. Evaluation for this section is based solely on critical analysis and interpretation of what you have written, as well as how you have integrated your concepts with the opinion in your thesis statement. Do not use first person in this section (I or we in particular). Two points will be deducted for each instance.

**Summary:** Restate your theses in other words, provide an overview of major points, and conclude. Do not include ideas that have not already been discussed in the paper. The summary is not an interpretation in this paper. Do not underline your thesis in the summary. At least one half page. 0-10 pts.

Note: Papers obtained from any other source than class material will be assigned an “F” Papers that do not conform to the assignment guidelines will not be read, and will receive an “F”
Totally opinionated papers will receive an “F”
Papers written on some other topic other than that given will receive an “F”

The Writing Center is very helpful. If you need clarification on any of the above issues, please visit the Writing Center. I am also free to meet with you as often as needed.

Note: Fifty percent of first papers - result in failing grades - primarily because students do not follow the guidelines or turn in a paper which has little to do with the assignment, including plagiarism.

**Note:** Guidelines for your research proposal are found in the textbook.