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American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Security and Global Studies
INTL300
Research Methods in Intelligence Studies
Credit Hours: 3
Length of Course: 8 Weeks
Prerequisite: NONE

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Instructor Information

Instructor: [insert name with credentials]
Office Hours: [insert office hours here]
Please contact your instructor through the Messages tab in the classroom.
After the class is over, instructor contact information: [insert mycampus address]

Course Description (Catalog)

INTL300: Research Methods in Intelligence Studies (3 hours)
This course prepares students to employ basic research methods and writing skills to produce sound research papers and analytical products. Students will learn how to develop the elements of a research strategy, critically read and evaluate data, and communicate their findings in coherent, well-organized written work.

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Course Scope

As a 300-level course, this course provides a foundation of knowledge that the student will use in the Intelligence Studies program to be successful in higher level courses. The purpose and scope of this course is to provide the student with the educational concepts on which to build a deeper understanding of Intelligence.

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Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

CO-1: Summarize the scientific method and phases of the basic research cycle.

CO-2: Describe the components of a research paper.

CO-3: Apply scholarly research material.

CO-4: Assess various research approaches, data collection methods and their relative merits in accordance with ethical practices and standards.

CO-5: Produce an empirically-based qualitative research paper.

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Course Delivery Method
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This course, delivered via distance learning, will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course resources and access to an online learning management system will be available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET and include all written assignments, examinations, and research papers submitted for grading. Weekly Forum questions (accomplished in groups in a Forum) require an initial response by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET, with all other required responses due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET. The assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

Course Resources

- Required Course Textbook

  There is no required textbook for this course

- External websites and other assigned reading found in the Lessons area of the classroom.

- Various resources from the APUS Library are used. Please visit http://apus.libguides.com/index.php to locate the course eReserve.
  - Please visit http://apus.libguides.com/er.php and search by the course number (ex: LITR210) to access your required resources.

- Weekly Lesson Notes and videos or audio files are found in the Lessons area of the classroom.

Evaluation Procedures

Forum discussions – 25 percent

Each week, a discussion question is provided and posts should reflect an assimilation of the readings. Students are required to provide a substantive initial post by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET and respond to 2 or more
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classmates by Sunday 11:55 pm ET. Forum posts are graded on timeliness, relevance, knowledge of the weekly readings, and the quality of original ideas.

**Weekly assignments – 75 percent**

There are 6 assignments for this course and starting in week 2 and ending in week 8. It is imperative that you look at the assignment to get the instructions for the assignments.

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<th>Grade Instruments</th>
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<td>Forum Discussions (8)</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>Weekly Assignments</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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**8 – Week Course Outline**

**Week 1: Defining Research**

Learning Outcomes:
C0-1: Summarize the scientific method and phases of the basic research cycle.

**Assignments:** Complete all required forums.

**Required Readings:**
Williams, Joseph M. and Lawrence McEnerney. n.d. “Some Crucial Difference Between High School and College Writing.” The University of Chicago Writing Program. 1-7


**Week 2: Developing a Research Question**
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Learning Outcomes:
CO-3: Apply scholarly research material.
CO-4: Assess various research approaches, data collection methods and their relative merits in accordance with ethical practices and standards.

**Assignments:** Research question and library exercise assignment and complete all required forums.

**Required Readings:**

George Mason University Writing Center. 2014. “How to Write a Research Question.” 1-2


**Week 3: Scientific Method, Reasoning, and Hypothesis**

Learning Outcomes:
CO-1: Summarize the scientific method and phases of the basic research cycle.
CO-2: Produce the components of a research paper.

**Assignments:** Research question and hypothesis exercise and complete all required forums.

**Required Readings:**


**Week 4: Choosing Resources**

Learning Outcomes:
CO-1: Summarize the scientific method and phases of the basic research cycle.
CO-4: Assess various research approaches, data collection methods and their relative merits in accordance with ethical practices and standards.
**Assignments:** Article review assignment and complete all required forums.

**Required Readings:**
Williams, Joseph M. and Lawrence McEnerney. n.d. “Preparing to Write and Drafting the Paper.” The University of Chicago Writing Program. 1-6


**Week 5: Research Approaches**

Learning Outcomes:
CO-4: Assess various research approaches, data collection methods and their relative merits in accordance with ethical practices and standards.

Assignments: Research approaches exercise and complete all required forums.

**Required Readings:**


**Week 6: Writing a Short Article or Essay**

Learning Outcomes:
CO-2: Produce the components of a research paper.
CO-3: Apply scholarly research material.
CO-4: Assess various research approaches, data collection methods and their relative merits in accordance with ethical practices and standards.

CO-5: Produce an empirically based qualitative research paper.

Assignments: Short article assignment and complete all required forums.

Required Readings:


Week 7: Preparing to Write a Research Paper

Learning Outcomes:
CO-2: Produce the components of a research paper.

Assignments: Complete all required forums.

Required Readings:
Williams, Joseph M. and Lawrence McEnerney. n.d. “A Strategy for Analyzing and Revising a First Draft.” The University of Chicago Writing Program. 1-7

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Week 8: Writing a Research Paper

Learning Outcomes:
CO-5: Produce an empirically based qualitative research paper.

Assignments: Short research paper assignment and complete all required forums.

Required Readings:
Williams, Joseph M. and Lawrence McEnerney. n.d. “Revising the Introduction and Conclusion, and Polishing the Draft.” The University of Chicago Writing Program. 1-5


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Policies
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Please see the Student Handbook to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked questions about policies are listed below.

- Drop/Withdrawal Policy
- Plagiarism Policy
- Extension Process and Policy
- Disability Accommodations

Citation and Reference Style
Attention Please: Students will follow the Turabian/Chicago Style as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University. See [http://www.apus.edu/Online-Library/tutorials/chicago.htm](http://www.apus.edu/Online-Library/tutorials/chicago.htm).

Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

Deductions:

Late forum posts can be penalized up to 5 points per day.

Late assignments can be penalized up to 5 points per day.

Netiquette

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.
Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.

- **Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors’ publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- **Electronic Books:** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- **Electronic Journals:** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
- **Tutor.com:** AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutor.com connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.
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Request a Library Guide for your course
(http://apus.libguides.com/index.php)

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu.

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Selected Bibliography


The Elements of Style - http://www.bartleby.com/141/strunk101.html

The University of Chicago Writing Program, Writing in College (Chicago, accessed 2013)

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