Course Summary

Course: PADM500  Title: Applied Research Methods in Public Administration  
Length of Course: 8  
Prerequisites: N/A  Credit Hours: 3

Description

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the elements for building research projects and analyzing research in the public administration setting. Topics will include developing research questions, research hypotheses, use of theory in the research project, and the distinction between qualitative and quantitative methods. Students will learn how to select the best methods for the issue or problem being researched. Methods covered in the class include interviewing, survey research, focus groups, content analysis, case study methods, observations, and an overview of statistical methods focused on comprehending statistics. No prerequisite.

Course Scope:

This course examines a range of research methods and strategies within in the social sciences with an emphasis on public administration problems and issue. The core focus is on an enhanced understanding of research methods and research writing. The overall theme of the course focuses on the identifying problems in public administration, defining research questions and selecting the best research method.

Objectives

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

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

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

CO-3: Locate 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: Construct an empirically based qualitative research paper.
Outline

**Week 1: Introduction to Social Research**

Learning Outcomes:

CO-1: Analyze the scientific method and phases of the basic research cycle.
CO-3: Locate scholarly research material.

Assignments:

Complete week 1 forum posts, CITI Training (see assignment section for due date), and graduate orientation (due the end of week 2).

Required Readings:

Please see the weekly reading and websites under the Materials section below. The websites are required and explain the concepts you will be using in the class so please make sure to access and explore all the tabs!

Denhardt, Janet and Robert Denhardt. (2015) *The New Public Service: Serving, not Steering.* New York: Routledge. Although this text is not due to be completed until Week 8 I suggest you read a few chapters each week so you will be ready for the forum by the end of class. This text is required for MPA students. MPP students can read any article by Denardt found in the library to answer the question in this course. It will not be in other MPP courses but will be required in all core courses for the MPA.

**Week 2: Research Design**

Learning Outcomes:

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

Assignments:

Complete week 2 forum posts, research question and hypothesis exercise, and graduate orientation.

Required Readings:

Please see the weekly reading and websites under the Materials section below. The websites are required and explain the concepts you will be using in the class so please make sure to access and explore all the tabs!

**Week 3: Professional Research and Writing**

Learning Outcomes:

CO-1: Analyze the scientific method and phases of the basic research cycle.
CO-3: Locate scholarly research material.
CO-4: Assess various research approaches, data collection methods and their relative merits in accordance with ethical practices and standards.

Assignments:

Complete week 3 forum posts and article deconstruction exercise.
Required Readings:

Please see the weekly reading and websites under the Materials section below. The websites are required and explain the concepts you will be using in the class so please make sure to access and explore all the tabs!

**Week 4: Theory and Its Role Within Research**

Learning Outcomes

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

Assignments:

Complete week 4 forum posts and literature review assignment.

Required Readings:

Please see the weekly reading and websites under the Materials section below. The websites are required and explain the concepts you will be using in the class so please make sure to access and explore all the tabs!

**Week 5: Qualitative Research Methods**

Learning Outcomes:

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

Assignments:

Complete week 5 forum posts and methodology draft assignment.

Required Readings:

Please see the weekly reading and websites under the Materials section below. The websites are required and explain the concepts you will be using in the class so please make sure to access and explore all the tabs!

**Week 6: Quantitative Research Methods**

Learning Outcomes:

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

Assignments:

Complete week 6 forum posts and CITI assignment.

Required Readings:

Please see the weekly reading and websites under the Materials section below. The websites are required and explain the concepts you will be using in the class so please make sure to access and explore all the tabs!
Week 7: Data Processing, Analysis, and Interpretation

Learning Outcomes:

CO-2: Produce the components of a research paper.
CO-4: Assess various research approaches, data collection methods and their relative merits in accordance with ethical practices and standards.
CO-5: Construct an empirically based qualitative research paper.

Assignments:

Complete week 7 forum posts.

Required Readings:

Please see the weekly reading and websites under the Materials section below. The websites are required and explain the concepts you will be using in the class so please make sure to access and explore all the tabs!

Week 8: Preparing Your Final Research Paper

Learning Outcomes

CO-2: Produce the components of a research paper.
CO-5: Construct an empirically based qualitative research paper.

Assignments:

Complete week 8 forum posts and submit research paper.

Required Readings:

Please see the weekly reading and websites under the Materials section below. The websites are required and explain the concepts you will be using in the class so please make sure to access and explore all the tabs!


Evaluation

Grading:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade %</th>
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Materials

Book Title: The New Public Service: Serving, Not Steering, 4th ed. (this title will be required in PADM500, PADM505, PADM520, PADM530, PADM610, PADM612, PADM697 and PADM699. Only one purchase required)
Required Readings: Please search the APUS library articles database by author or title to find all journals in your required readings. They will soon be conveniently located in the lessons via an Intellus link (currently under construction). You should be able to access the APUS library websites through the links below but if there is an issue, simply search the title in the library and they will be available.

**Week One Introduction to Social Research**


Getting Started with Research, APUS Library, [https://www.apus.edu/apus-library/online-research/search/getting-started.html](https://www.apus.edu/apus-library/online-research/search/getting-started.html)

APUS Library Video Tutorials [https://master.apus.edu/apus-library/online-research/search/library-video-tutorials.html](https://master.apus.edu/apus-library/online-research/search/library-video-tutorials.html)

- Please view all videos

Finally, please familiarize yourself with our Graduate Studies Resource Center and all it offers [https://www.apus.edu/apus-library/resources-services/resources/graduate-studies-resource-center.html](https://www.apus.edu/apus-library/resources-services/resources/graduate-studies-resource-center.html)

You should also review our Public Administration Program Guide at [http://apus.libguides.com/pubadmin](http://apus.libguides.com/pubadmin)

The Public Policy Program Guide at [http://apus.libguides.com/PublicPolicy](http://apus.libguides.com/PublicPolicy)


You should refer to these throughout your Programs

Finally, please familiarize yourself with Sage Research Methods at [http://apus.libguides.com/research_methods_guide/SAGEResearchmethods](http://apus.libguides.com/research_methods_guide/SAGEResearchmethods) and the PPT and PDFs in the Resources section of the classroom. You can use the planning links in the weekly readings or access specific topics by reviewing the reading lists. You may also find the Methods Map at [http://methods.sagepub.com.ezproxy1.apus.edu/methods-map](http://methods.sagepub.com.ezproxy1.apus.edu/methods-map) helpful! Don’t forget about these as you work through the course.

**Week Two Research Design**

Week Three Professional Research and Writing


Week Four Theory and Its Role in Research


Week Five Qualitative Research Methods

APUS Library, Research Methods: Empirical Research
http://apus.libguides.com/research_methods_guide/empiricalresearch

APUS Library, Research Methods: Action Research
http://apus.libguides.com/research_methods_guide/action_research

APUS Library, Presenting Data https://www.apus.edu/apus-library/resources-services/Writing/writing-center/graduate-writing/presenting-data.html

APUS Library, Research Methods: Qualitative Research
http://apus.libguides.com/research_methods_guide/research_methods_qualitative
Week Six Quantitative Research Methods

APUS Library, Research Methods: Quantitative Research
http://apus.libguides.com/research_methods_guide/research_methods_quantitative

APUS Library, Research Methods: Mixed Methods Research
http://apus.libguides.com/research_methods_guide/research_methods_mixed

APUS Library, Research Methods: Statistics
http://apus.libguides.com/research_methods_guide/research_methods_statistics


Week Seven Data Processing, Analysis and Interpretation

Sage Research Methods, Project Planner: Data Collection (can be reached via http://apus.libguides.com/research_methods_guide/SAGEResearchmethods) but if you are signed in you can go directly there at http://methods.sagepub.com.ezproxy1.apus.edu/project-planner/data-collection

Sage Research Methods, Project Planner: Data Analysis and Interpretation (can be reached via http://apus.libguides.com/research_methods_guide/SAGEResearchmethods) but if you are signed in you can go directly there at http://methods.sagepub.com.ezproxy1.apus.edu/project-planner/data-analysis-and-interpretation


Week Eight Preparing Your Final Research Paper

APUS Library, Writing the Conclusion https://www.apus.edu/apus-library/resources-services/Writing/writing-center/graduate-writing/writing-about-results-and-your-conclusions.html


Course Guidelines

Citation and Reference Style

- Attention Please: Students will follow the APA Format as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University. Assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow the citation style cited in the APA Format.

Tutoring

- Tutor.com offers online homework help and learning resources by connecting students to certified tutors for one-on-one help. AMU and APU students are eligible for 10 free hours* of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutors are available 24/7 unless otherwise noted. Tutor.com also has a SkillCenter Resource Library offering educational resources, worksheets, videos, websites and career help. Accessing these resources does not count against tutoring hours and is also available 24/7. Please visit the APUS Library and search for 'Tutor' to create an account.

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. The due date for each assignment is listed under each Assignment.
- Generally speaking, late work may result in a deduction up to 20% of the grade for each day late, not to exceed 5 days.
- As a working adult I know your time is limited and often out of your control. Faculty may be more flexible if they know ahead of time of any potential late assignments.

Turn It In

- Faculty may require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. In some cases professors may require students to use Turnitin.com. This is automatically processed through the Assignments area of the course.

Academic Dishonesty

- Academic Dishonesty incorporates more than plagiarism, which is using the work of others without citation. Academic dishonesty includes any use of content purchased or retrieved from web services such as CourseHero.com. Additionally, allowing your work to be placed on such web services is academic dishonesty, as it is enabling the dishonesty of others. The copy and pasting of content from any web page, without citation as a direct quote, is academic dishonesty. When in doubt, do not copy/paste, and always cite.

Submission Guidelines

- Some assignments may have very specific requirements for formatting (such as font, margins, etc) and submission file type (such as .docx, .pdf, etc) See the assignment instructions for details. In general, standard file types such as those associated with Microsoft Office are preferred, unless otherwise specified.

Disclaimer Statement
• Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

Communicating on the Forum

• Forums are the heart of the interaction in this course. The more engaged and lively the exchanges, the more interesting and fun the course will be. Only substantive comments will receive credit. Although there is a final posting time after which the instructor will grade comments, it is not sufficient to wait until the last day to contribute your comments/questions on the forum. The purpose of the forums is to actively participate in an on-going discussion about the assigned content.
• “Substantive” means comments that contribute something new and hopefully important to the discussion. Thus a message that simply says “I agree” is not substantive. A substantive comment contributes a new idea or perspective, a good follow-up question to a point made, offers a response to a question, provides an example or illustration of a key point, points out an inconsistency in an argument, etc.
• As a class, if we run into conflicting view points, we must respect each individual's own opinion. Hateful and hurtful comments towards other individuals, students, groups, peoples, and/or societies will not be tolerated.

University Policies

Student Handbook

• Drop/Withdrawal policy
• Extension Requests
• Academic Probation
• Appeals
• Disability Accommodations

The mission of American Public University System is to provide high quality higher education with emphasis on educating the nation's military and public service communities by offering respected, relevant, accessible, affordable, and student-focused online programs that prepare students for service and leadership in a diverse, global society.

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.