ITCC500

Course Summary

Description

Course Description: This course focuses on the research methods, tools, instruments, and devices used in Information Sciences and Information Technology; it appraises the logic of the scientific method, research design, qualitative and quantitative analysis of data for the purpose of conducting and reporting basic research in a scholarly and academic setting. Through concentration-based case studies, it investigates current trends, legal and ethical issues, global and societal impact, policies, and applications in the fields of information technology, information security, cyberlaw, digital forensics, and media management. This course evaluates methods to collect, classify, categorize, evaluate, assess, and report research data, to formulate valid research questions, and to derive logical conclusions. The principles, practices, tools, and methodologies presented in this course are applicable throughout the program of graduate studies.

Course Scope:

REQUIRED AS FIRST PROGRAM COURSE; MAY TAKE ANOTHER COURSE WITH IT. This course focuses on the research methods, tools, instruments, and devices used in Information Sciences and Information Technology; it appraises the logic of the scientific method, research design, qualitative and quantitative analysis of data for the purpose of conducting and reporting basic research in a scholarly and academic setting. Through concentration-based case studies, it investigates current trends, legal and ethical issues, global and societal impact, policies, and applications in the fields of information technology, information security, cyberlaw, digital forensics, and media management. This course evaluates methods to collect, classify, categorize, evaluate, assess, and report research data, to formulate valid research questions, and to derive logical conclusions. The principles, practices, tools, and methodologies presented in this course are applicable throughout the program of graduate studies.

Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to

- Analyze selected research methods and tools
- Develop a coherent plan for IT research that includes: problem analysis, purpose, valid research questions, hypothesis construction, literature review, data collection, critical analysis, and research design methodology
- Identify primary and secondary sources to critically assess sources to recognize scholarly and academic material
- Apply accurate language mechanics and APA style guidelines to develop research reports and other academic papers

- Utilize graduate level critical thinking, reasoning, and writing to defend the logic and the conclusions in scholarly research

Outline

Week 1:

Topics

Research: what is it, its process, why we do it, and why we read it?

Learning Objectives

- Analyze selected research methods and tools

Reading

Week 1 Reading Assignment:

1. Hughes/Hayhoe: Chapter 1 (pp. 3-17)
2. Kumar: Chapters 1, 2, & 13
3. Capstone Manual
4. Course Overview
5. Getting Started
6. Lesson 1

Assignments

Week 1 Forum

Start your Graduate Student Orientation due in WK2

Week 2:

Topics

Literary review, the research problem, and getting started with the research phases

Learning Objectives

- Analyze selected research methods and tools
- Develop a coherent plan for IT research that includes: problem analysis, purpose, valid research questions, hypothesis construction, literature review, data collection, critical analysis, and research design methodology

Reading

Week 2 Reading Assignment:

1. Hughes/Hayhoe: Chapters 2 & 3
2. Kumar: Chapters 3, 4 & 13
3. **Capstone Manual**
4. Lesson 2

Assignments

Week 2 Forum
Complete your Graduate Student Orientation

Week 3:

Topics

Research problem question and designing hypotheses.

Learning Objectives

- Analyze selected research methods and tools
- Develop a coherent plan for IT research that includes: problem analysis, purpose, valid research questions, hypothesis construction, literature review, data collection, critical analysis, and research design methodology

Reading

Week 3 Reading Assignment:

1. Hughes/Hayhoe: Chapters 2 & 3
2. Kumar: Chapters 3, 4, 5 & 6
3. **Capstone Manual**
4. Lesson 3

Assignments

Week 3 Forum

Assignment 1: WK3 Topic Proposal and Table of Contents (Outline)

Week 4:

Topics

Research and Study Design. Refining the research statement.

Learning Objectives

- Analyze selected research methods and tools
- Develop a coherent plan for IT research that includes: problem analysis, purpose, valid research questions, hypothesis construction, literature review, data collection, critical analysis, and research design methodology
- Identify primary and secondary sources to critically assess sources to recognize scholarly and academic material

Reading

Week 4 Reading Assignment:

1. Hughes/Hayhoe: Chapters 5 & 6 (pp. 77-106)
2. Kumar: Chapter 11
3. **Capstone Manual**
4. Lesson 4

Assignments

Week 4 Forum

Week 5:

Topics

Data collection. Strengthening the hypothesis via detailed literature review.

Learning Objectives

- Analyze selected research methods and tools
- Develop a coherent plan for IT research that includes: problem analysis, purpose, valid research questions, hypothesis construction, literature review, data collection, critical analysis, and research design methodology
- Identify primary and secondary sources to critically assess sources to recognize scholarly and academic material
- Apply accurate language mechanics and APA style guidelines to develop research reports and other academic papers
- Utilize graduate level critical thinking, reasoning, and writing to defend the logic and the conclusions in scholarly research

Reading

Week 5 Reading Assignment:

1. Hughes/Hayhoe: Chapters 4, 5, & 6
2. Kumar: Chapters 7, 8, 9 10 , & 12
3. **Capstone Manual**
4. Lesson 5

Assignments

Week 5 Forum

Assignment 2:WK5 Outline, Introduction and Literature Review

Week 6:

Topics

Quantitative research report analysis. Establishing validity and reliability.

Learning Objectives

- Analyze selected research methods and tools
- Develop a coherent plan for IT research that includes: problem analysis, purpose, valid research questions, hypothesis construction, literature review, data collection, critical analysis, and research design methodology
- Apply accurate language mechanics and APA style guidelines to develop research reports and other academic papers
- Utilize graduate level critical thinking, reasoning, and writing to defend the logic and the conclusions in scholarly research

Reading

Week 6 Reading Assignment:

1. Hughes/Hayhoe: Chapter 7
2. Kumar: Chapters 11 & 12
3. **Capstone Manual**

4. Lesson 6

Assignments

Week 6 Forum

Assignment 3: WK6 Hypothesis and Research Design

Week 7:

Topics

Qualitative research report analysis. Writing a research proposal. Collecting the data.

Learning Objectives

Utilize graduate level critical thinking, reasoning, and writing to defend the logic and the conclusions in scholarly research

Reading

Week 7 Reading Assignment:

1. Hughes/Hayhoe: Chapter 8 & 9
2. Kumar: Chapters 13 & 14
3. Lesson 7

Assignments

Week 7 Forum

Recommended Media

Week 8:

Topics

Analyzing a research report based on results of a survey.

Processing and displaying the research data.

Creating the research paper.

Learning Objectives

- Apply accurate language mechanics and APA style guidelines to develop research reports and other academic papers
- Utilize graduate level critical thinking, reasoning, and writing to defend the logic and the conclusions in scholarly research

Reading

Week 8 Reading Assignment:

1. Hughes/Hayhoe: Chapter 10
2. Kumar: Chapters 15, 16, & 17
3. Lesson 8

Assignments

Week 8 Forum

Assignment 4: WK8 Abstract and Final Research Paper

Evaluation

This course has a strong writing component. The goal is to organize, synthesize, and demonstrate your comprehension of core concepts investigated during this course by applying a combination of the terms, concepts, and details you have learned in a systematic way. As important as "the details" that you analyze and arrange in your writing, however, are the conclusions you draw from those details, and your predictions, responses to, and ultimate interpretation of those details.

Students are expected to maintain routine contact with the instructor throughout the course. While the number of contacts may vary according to the specific course and individual student need, the University requires periodic weekly contacts during the semester. Contact will consist of professor notes, forum interaction, and email feedback. The method of discussion will be on-line related to issues concerning forum assignments, quizzes, assignments, the midterm project and final project.

TEXTBOOK READINGS

Review the assigned textbook and support materials for this course! Review the table at the end of the syllabus to see assigned readings for each week.

ASSIGNMENTS

The projects for this course are located throughout each Lesson. The projects that are required for grading with this course are created from scratch.

FORUM

The Forum assignments for this course are designed to promote interactivity among students and enhance the online learning process. The Forum provides maximum flexibility because you do not have to be online at the same time as another person and you can read what other students have written.

Forum Timing: For the forum, you must post your work by midnight on Thursday, continue to follow your classmates' posts for the remainder of the week, and post the follow-up peer responses prior to midnight on Sunday, *except for week one*. Your follow-up posts can add additional insight to a classmate's opinions or can challenge their opinions. Use examples from the readings, or from your own research, to support your views, as appropriate. Be sure to read the follow-up posts to your own posts and reply to any questions or requests for clarification. You are encouraged to conduct research and use other sources to support your answers.

Required Participation: Please keep in mind that the forum assignments require you to make at least 1 post to the forum with at least 500 words about the topic and also respond to at least 2 peers' posts with at least 200 words. Please be advised that there will be point deductions if you do not comply with these requirements of the assignment. Each one of you will have a different and unique experience that we can all learn from. Your participation in the Forums unleashes the power of synergy in our classroom. To facilitate this interaction, please be prompt when posting your forum work for each week; this provides time for the others to actively engage in the dialogue. For practical reasons, when you respond to other learners' posts, please start your response by referencing their name. I will read and grade your participation by reading the forum. There is no need to also post your forum work in the assignments area of the classroom. Refer to the forum and the syllabus for more details on grading.

Grading:

Name	Grade %
Forums	24.00 %
Week 1 Forum	3.00 %
Week 2 Forum	3.00 %
Week 3 Forum	3.00 %
Week 4 Forum	3.00 %
Week 5 Forum	3.00 %
Week 6 Forum	3.00 %
Week 7 Forum	3.00 %
Week 8 Forum	3.00 %
Topic Proposal and Outline	10.00 %
Assignment 1: WK3 TOPIC PROPOSAL AND TABLE OF CONTENTS	10.00 %
Papers	40.00 %
Assignment 2:WK5 OUTLINE, INTRODUCTION AND LITERATURE REVIEW	20.00 %
Assignment 3: WK6 HYPOTHESIS AND RESEARCH DESIGN	20.00 %
Final Project/Assignment	26.00 %
Assignment 4: WK8 ABSTRACT AND FINAL RESEARCH PAPER	26.00 %

Materials

Book Title: Research Primer for Technical Communication

Author: Hughes

Publication Info: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc

ISBN: 9780805863352

Book Title: Research Methodology: A Step-by-Step Guide for Beginners, 4th ed.

Author: Ranjit Kumar

Publication Info: Sage

ISBN: 9781446269978

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.