

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODS**

**SOC 346**

**SPRING 2008**

# Moravian College

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Office: PPHAC 314

Babbie, Earl. *The Practice of Social Research*, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition.

**REQUIRED**

## *Course Outcomes*

*Upon completion of this course, students should have gained the following.*

- 1. familiarity with the tools of data collection, organization and analysis, specifically using computer (Excel and SPSS) programs*

2. *skills for interpreting raw data, including recognition of appropriate basic statistical processes used to analyze data*
3. *the ability to draw conclusions that are useful to social service personnel, policymakers, future researchers, etc.*
4. *proficiency in presenting and explaining research findings in both written and oral forms*
5. *competence in objectively assessing the appropriateness of a research project, identifying any shortcomings and possible improvements*

## **evaluation**

Throughout the course, students must complete five laboratory practicals, which take the forms of 30-minute hands-on exercises. The practicals require students to organize and analyze provided data. Suggestions regarding preparation for each practical are provided prior to the class in which the practical is scheduled. Please see the course schedule for specific dates.

Each student must complete a research project involving organization of data and basic statistical analysis using SPSS software. This project involves the submission of two written reports. Detailed descriptions of these reports can be found in "Course Project Guidelines."

Two exams are given in this course. The exams assess students' understandings of the theoretical components of data analysis, their abilities to draw conclusions from data, and their skills of presenting these elements in written form. Please see the course schedule for exam dates.

Although attendance, itself, does not directly affect students' grades in this course, each student receives a class participation grade. IT IS NECESSARY TO ATTEND CLASS TO RECEIVE CLASS PARTICIPATION CREDIT. Contributions to class discussions and activities increase students' participation grades. Obvious inactivity (including sleeping), disruptions, or lack of effort lowers the grade.

To determine a course grade, the preceding factors are combined in the following manner.

The preceding factors will be combined in the following manner to determine students' course grades.

LAB PRACTICALS	20%(4% each)
PROJECT	30% (15% each phase)
EXAMS	40% (20% each)
CLASS PARTICIPATION	10%

Course grades follow the letter-grade system. Please consult the Moravian College Student Handbook for a description of the level of work characteristic of each grade. The numerical ranges used in assigning each letter grade in this course are as follows.

A	92%-100%
A-	90%-91.9%
B+	88%-89.9%
B	82%-87.9%
B-	80%-81.9%
C+	78%-79.9%
C	72%-77.9%
C-	70%-71.9%
D+	68%-69.9%
D	62%-67.9%



All standards listed in the college catalog that deal with attendance, withdrawal, cheating, plagiarism, and any other pertinent policies apply to this class.

It is the responsibility of the student to obtain information and distributed materials from any class that he or she misses. Please make every possible effort to take lab practicals and exams and to hand in papers on the scheduled dates. All missed practicals and exams are given on the make-up/review day at the end of the semester. Project reports must be submitted on time to receive full credit. Late reports are accepted with a five-point penalty for each overdue day (including weekends and holiday), beginning with the due date.

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PLEASE NOTE:  
THE COURSE SCHEDULE ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE PROVIDES AN ANTICIPATED CALENDAR OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS. PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED UPON THE PROGRESSION OF THE TERM.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

NOTE: "Chapters" can be found in *The Practice of Social Research* (Babbie).

"Lessons" can be found in *Using SPSS for Windows and Macintosh* (Green and Salkind).

assignment for this week	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Buy the books(s) Review handout	1/14	1/15 Introductions	1/16	1/17 data entry (EXCEL)	1/18
Read Chapter 13 (pages 377-390 only) and Chapter 14 (pages 404-416 only)	1/21	1/22 collection and organization of qualitative data	1/23	1/24 <b>PRACTICAL</b> data entry (SPSS)	1/25
Review Lessons 1.2.3.4.6 Read Chapter 14 (pages 416-425)	1/28	1/29 basic descriptive statistics	1/30	1/31 basic descriptive statistics	2/1
Read handout	2/4	2/5  GATHER DATA	2/6	2/7 basic descriptive statistics	2/8
Review Lessons 19, 20	2/11	2/12 <b>PRACTICAL</b> basic descriptive statistics	2/13	2/14  correlation and regression	2/15
Read Chapter 16 (pgs. 450-459 only) Read handout Write Phase 1 report	2/18	2/19 <b>PHASE 1 REPORT DUE</b> correlation and regression	2/20	2/21 <b>PRACTICAL</b> correlation and regression	2/22
Review Lessons 30,32,33 Read Chapter 16 (pgs. 459-466 only) STUDY FOR EXAM 1	2/25	2/26  <b>EXAM 1</b>	2/27	2/28  statistical significance	2/29
Rest and Relax	3/3	3/4	3/5	3/6	3/7
	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>				

Read Chapter 16 (pages 466-470 only)	3/10	3/11 chi-square	3/12	3/13 chi-square	3/14
Review Lessons 39,21	3/17	3/18 <b>PRACTICAL</b> t-tests	3/19	3/20 t-tests	3/21 <b>EASTER BREAK</b>
Review Lessons 22,23 Read Chapter 16 (pages 476-478 only)	3/24 <b>EASTER BREAK</b>	3/25 t-tests	3/26	3/27 ANOVAs	3/28
Review Lessons 24, 25	3/31	4/1 ANOVAs	4/2	4/3 <b>PRACTICAL</b> ANOVAs	4/4
STUDY FOR EXAM 2	4/7	4/8 “advanced” statistical analyses	4/9	4/10 <b>EXAM 2</b>	4/11
Re-review Lessons 39,22,23,24,25 RESULTS Read handout	4/14	4/15 work on projects	4/16	4/17 reporting results and conclusions	4/18
Work on data analysis and reports	4/21	4/22 work on projects	4/23	4/24 make-up/review day	4/25