

COURSE SYLLABUS
ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODS

SOC 346

Moravian College

D. Wetcher-Hendricks

Fall 2011

CONTACTING THE PROFESSOR:

Office: PPHAC 314

Office Hours: Tuesday 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Wednesday 9:00 a.m.-10:30 p.m.

Office Phone: 610-861-1415

e-mail: medwh02@moravian.edu



REQUIRED COURSE READINGS:

Wetcher-Hendricks, Debra. (2011) *Analyzing Quantitative Data: An Introduction for Social Scientists*. Wiley and Sons.



Wetcher-Hendricks, Debra (2001) "SPSS Instruction,"
Analyzing Quantitative Data: An Introduction for Social Scientists Companion Website. www.moravian.edu/aqd

Additional Internet readings and handouts as assigned in class

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

1. familiarity with the tools of data collection, organization and analysis, specifically using the SPSS computer program
2. skills for interpreting raw data, including recognition of appropriate basic statistical processes used for analysis.
3. the ability to draw conclusions that are useful to those involved in the social sciences and related careers.
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

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EVALUATION
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Throughout the semester (Please see the course schedule for relevant dates), students complete four quizzes, four laboratories, and a semester project.

The quizzes consist of short-answer questions based upon recently-covered material. Quizzes are given at the beginning of class on scheduled dates.

For each laboratory exercise, students apply data-analysis techniques in a hands-on exercise at the end of class on the scheduled dates. Students may work cooperatively on the lab exercises, but each must submit his or her own completed lab sheet and relevant output.

The semester project requires the organization of data and basic statistical analysis using SPSS software. Students must submit two written reports. The first is due about midway through the semester. The second, along with a revised first report, is due in a portfolio during final exam week. Detailed descriptions of these reports can be found in "Course Project Guidelines."

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 (such as consistently arriving late to class), or lack of effort lowers the grade.

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

LABS	28% (7% each)
QUIZZES	28% (7% each)
PROJECT PHASE 1	14%
PROJECT PHASE 2/PORTFOLIO	20%
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%	B-	80%-81.9%	D+	68%-69.9%
A-	90%-91.9%	C+	78%-79.9%	D	62%-67.9%
B+	88%-89.9%	C	72%-77.9%	D-	60%-61.9%
B	82%-87.9%	C-	60%-61.9%	F	0%-59.9%

Policies

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 attend class on the dates for which quizzes and labs are scheduled. All missed quizzes and labs are given at the end of the semester. Project reports must be submitted on time to receive full credit. Late reports are accepted with a ten point penalty for each overdue day (including weekends and holidays), beginning with the due date.


Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services. Also, the Writing Center is located in a building that is not accessible to persons with mobility impairments. Those who need the services of the Writing Center should call 610-861-1392.





PLEASE NOTE: The "Course Schedule" on the following page provides an anticipated agenda of topics and assignments. Please be aware that this schedule is subject to change based upon the progression of the term.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Chapters can be found in the course textbook. SPSS Instruction can be found on the book's companion website.

assignment for this week	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Buy the book Skim Chapter 1	8/29	8/30 introductions	8/31	9/1 data manipulation	9/2
Skim Chapter 1 SPSS Instruction Read Chapter 2	9/5  LABOR DAY	9/6 data manipulation	9/7	9/8 descriptive analyses	9/9
Skim Chapter 2 SPSS Instruction Read Sections 3.1-3.4	9/12	9/13 descriptive analyses	9/14	9/15 CONVOCATION	9/16
Skim Chapter 3 SPSS Instruction	9/19	9/20 LAB 1 descriptive analyses	9/21	9/22 descriptive analyses	9/23
Study for quiz Read Sections 8.1 and 8.2 Skim Chapter 8 SPSS Instruction (relevant parts)	9/26	9/27 QUIZ 1 regression and correlation	9/28	9/29 regression and correlation	10/30
Read Sections 8.3 – end of chapter Skim Chapter 8 SPSS Instruction (relevant parts) Write Phase 1 report	10/3	10/4 Phase 1 report due regression and correlation	10/5	10/6 LAB 2 regression and correlation	10/7
Study for quiz Read sections 4.1, 4.3-end of chapter	10/10	10/11 FALL BREAK	10/12	10/13 QUIZ 2 statistical significance	10/14
Skim Chapter 4 SPSS Instruction Read sections 5.1, 5.3, 5.4 Skim Chapter 5 SPSS Instruction (relevant parts)	10/17	10/18 statistical significance	10/19	10/20 chi-square tests	10/21

assignment for this week	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Read sections 5.6-end of chapter Skim Chapter 5 SPSS Instruction (relevant parts)	10/24	10/25 chi-square tests	10/26	10/27 LAB 3 chi-square tests	10/28
Study for quiz Read sections 6.1, 6.3, 6.5 – end of chapter. Skim Chapter 6 SPSS Instruction (relevant parts)	10/31 	11/1 QUIZ 3 t-tests	11/2	11/3 t-tests	11/4
Read sections 7.1, 7.3.1, 7.4.1 Skim Chapter 7 SPSS Instruction (relevant parts)	11/7	11/8 t-tests/ANOVAS	11/9	11/10 ANOVAS	11/11
Read sections 7.3.3, 7.4.2, 7.6 – end of chapter Skim Chapter 7 SPSS Instruction (relevant parts)	11/14	11/15 ANOVAS	11/16	11/17 LAB 4 ANOVAS	11/18
Read sections 9.1-9.3 Skim Chapter 9 SPSS Instruction (relevant parts)	11/21	11/22 QUIZ 4 advanced analyses	11/23	11/24  11/25	
Read sections 11.1, 11.3 to end of chapter	11/28	11/29 workshop	12/30	12/1 writing research reports	12/2
Perform analyses for Phase 2 report. Begin writing phase 2 report.	12/5	12/6 workshop	12/7	12/8 workshop/ make-ups	12/9
Revise Phase 1 report. Write Phase 2 report.	12/12	12/13 Portfolio due	12/14	12/15	12/16