

COURSE SYLLABUS

ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODS

FALL 2012

MORAVIAN COLLEGE

DR. D. WETCHER-HENDRICKS

CONTACTING THE PROFESSOR

office: PPHAC 314

office hours: by appointment

voice mail: 610-861-1415

e-mail: medwh02@moravian.edu



REQUIRED READING



AVAILABLE AT THE MORAVIAN COLLEGE BOOKSTORE

Wetcher-Hendricks, D. (2011). *Analyzing Quantitative Data: An Introduction for Social Researchers*. Wiley & Sons.

AVAILABLE ONLINE

Wetcher-Hendricks, D. (2011). "SPSS Instruction," *Analyzing Quantitative Data: An Introduction for Social Researchers Companion Website*. Wiley & Sons. www.moravian.edu/aqd

VARIOUS 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



Throughout the semester, students complete four quizzes, four laboratory exercises, 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 work session at the end of class on the scheduled dates. Students may work cooperatively during the lab, 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	24% (6% each)
	QUIZZES	24% (6% each)
	PROJECT PHASE 1	18%
	PROJECT PHASE 2/PORTFOLIO	24%
	CLASS PARTICIPATION	10%

The numerical ranges used in assigning each letter grade in this course are as follows.

A	92%-100%	B	82%-87.9%	C	72%-77.9%	D	62%-67.9%
A-	90%-91.9%	B-	80%-81.9%	C-	70%-71.9%	D-	60%-61.9%
B+	88%-89.9%	C+	78%-79.9%	D+	68%-69.9%	F	0%-59.9%

Please consult the Moravian College Student Handbook for description of the requirements for attaining each grade.

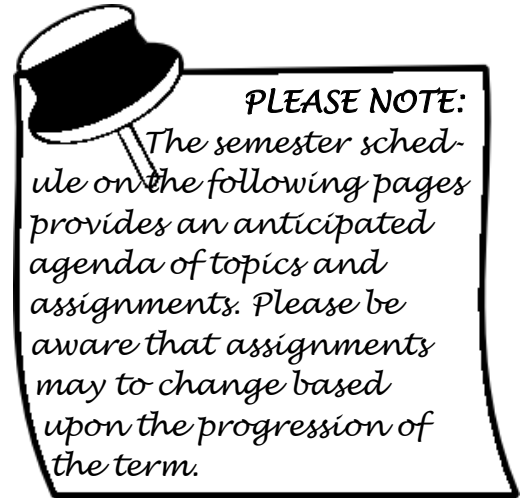
Policies

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 five 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 Elaine Mara, assistant director of learning services for academic and disability support at 1307 Main Street, or by calling 610-861-1510. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center. 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.



COURSE SCHEDULE

assignment for this week	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Buy the books Skim Chapter 1	8/27	8/28 Introductions	8/29	8/30 data manipulation	8/31
Skim Chapter 1 SPSS Instruction Read Chapter 2	9/3  LABOR DAY	9/4 data manipulation	9/5	9/6 descriptive analyses	9/7
Skim Chapter 2 SPSS Instruction Read Sections 3.1-3.4	9/10	9/11 descriptive analyses	9/12	9/13 CONVOCATION	9/14
Skim Chapter 3 SPSS Instruction	9/17	9/18 LAB 1 descriptive analyses	9/19	9/20 descriptive analyses	9/21
Study for quiz Read Sections 8.1 and 8.2 Skim Chapter 8 SPSS Instruction (relevant parts)	9/24	9/25 QUIZ 1 regression and correlation	9/26	9/27 regression and correlation	9/28
Read Sections 8.3 – end of chapter Skim Chapter 8 SPSS Instruction (relevant parts) Write Phase 1 report	10/1	10/2 PHASE 1 REPORT DUE regression and correlation	10/3	10/4 LAB 2 regression and correlation	10/5
Study for Quiz Read Sections 4.1, 4.3 – end of chapter	10/8	10/9 FALL BREAK	10/10	10/11 QUIZ 2 statistical significance	10/12
Skim Chapter 4 SPSS Instruction Read Sections 5.1, 5.3, 5.4 Skim Chapter 5 SPSS Instruction (relevant parts)	10/15	10/16 statistical significance	10/17	10/18 chi-square tests	10/19

assignment for this week	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Read Sections 5.6 – end of chapter Skim Chapter 5 SPSS Instruction (relevant parts)	10/22	10/23 chi-square tests	10/24	10/25 LAB 3 chi-square tests	10/26
Study for Quiz Read Sections 6.1, 6.3, 6.5 – end of chapter Skim Chapter 6 SPSS Instruction (relevant parts)	10/29	10/30 QUIZ 3 t-tests	10/31 	11/1 t-tests	11/2
Read Sections 7.1, 7.3.1, 7.4.1 Skim Chapter 7 SPSS Instruction (relevant parts)	11/5	11/6 t-tests/ANOVAs	11/7	11/8 ANOVAs	11/9
Read Sections 7.3.3, 7.4.2, 7.6 – end of chapter Skim Chapter 7 SPSS Instruction (relevant parts)	11/12	11/13 ANOVAs	11/14	11/15 LAB 4 ANOVAs	11/16
Read Sections 9.1-9.3 Skim Chapter 9 SPSS Instruction (relevant parts)	11/19	11/20 QUIZ 4 advanced analyses	11/21	11/22  11/23 THANKSGIVING BREAK	
Read Sections 11.1, 11.3 – end of chapter	11/26	11/27 workshop	11/28	11/29 writing research reports	11/30
Perform analyses for Phase 2 report Begin writing Phase 2 report	12/3	12/4 workshop	12/5	12/6 workshop/make-ups	12/7
Revise Phase 1 report Write Phase 2 report	12/10	12/11	12/12	12/13	12/14 PORTFOLIO DUE