

SYLLABUS

BASIC RESEARCH METHODS

SPRING 2013

MORAVIAN COLLEGE

DR. DEBRA WETCHER-HENDRICKS

CONTACTING THE PROFESSOR

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phone: 610-861-1415

office: PPHAC 314

office hours:

Tuesday 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.



Required Course Readings

Babbie, Earl. *The Basics of Social Research*, 5th Edition.

Wadsworth Publishing. 2011. ISBN-13: 9780495094685

Assorted handouts (distributed by professor)

Successful completion of this course should produce the following outcomes.

1. understanding of the basic scientific research process
2. competence in identifying components of a study and recognizing their relationships to one another
3. appreciation for the influences that previously conducted research and established theories have upon new research
4. familiarity with methods of sociological research and related issues, such as validity, reliability, and research ethics
5. skills to comprehend and assess research reports as well as to write summaries of new research

Course
Outcomes

EVALUATION

Five elements contribute to course grades.

ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION	% OF COURSE GRADE
exams	Four non-cumulative examinations are given in this course. Each examination consists of two parts. -a quiz given during the first 40 minutes of class. Quizzes consist of short-answer questions that address basic concepts discussed in class and in assigned readings. -an open-book, open-note, cooperative laboratory practical (lab) that will be begun during the last 30 minutes of class and completed as a "take home assignment," due at the BEGINNING of the following class. The labs require application of information from class and readings to various research scenarios	48% (12% each)

project	Throughout the term, each student works on a research project. Three written summaries, due at designated times throughout the semester (Summary 3 will be part of a final portfolio.), should demonstrate the methodological processes involved in formulating and investigating a hypothesis. Specific information about the project appears in the "Semester Project Guidelines."	40% (summary 1 – 12% summary 2 – 12% summary 3/portfolio – 16%)
class participation	This grade pertains to interactions within the classroom. IT IS NECESSARY TO ATTEND CLASS TO RECEIVE CLASS PARTICIPATION CREDIT. Contributions to class discussions and in-class exercises increase this grade. Obvious inactivity (including sleeping), disruptions (such as consistently arriving late to class), or obvious lack of effort lowers the grade.	12%

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



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

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

Policies

Please make every possible effort to take exams and submit project reports on the scheduled dates. (See the course schedule.) All missed exams are completed at the end of the semester. Late reports will be accepted with a five point penalty for each day that they are late, including weekends and holidays. Also, it is the responsibility of the student to obtain information and distributed materials from any class that he or she misses.

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.

PLEASE NOTE:

The calendar on the following pages provides an anticipated schedule of topics and assignments. Please be aware that it may to change based upon the progression of the term.



COURSE SCHEDULE

assignment for this week	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Buy the books. Read pages 5-6, 8-12, 16-21, and 24-28.	1/14	1/15 Introductions	1/16	1/17 Sociological Inquiry	1/18
Read Chapter 2 (beginning with page 43).	1/21	1/22 Research Elements	1/23	1/24 Research Elements	1/25
Read Chapter 4.	1/28	1/29 The Research Plan	1/30	1/31 The Research Plan	2/1
STUDY! Read handouts.	2/4	2/5 EXAM 1	2/6	2/7 Literature Reviews	2/8
WRITE PHASE 1 REPORT! Read handouts.	2/11	2/12 REPORT 1 DUE Literature Reviews	2/13	2/14 Literature Reviews/ Research Ethics 	2/15
Read Chapter 3.	2/18	2/19 Research Ethics	2/20	2/21 Research Ethics	2/22
STUDY! Read Chapter 5	2/25	2/26 EXAM 2	2/27	2/28 Measurement	3/1
Rest and relax.	3/4	3/5  SPRING BREAK	3/6	3/7	3/8

Read Chapter 6	3/11	3/12 Measurement/Developing Questions	3/13	3/14 Developing Questions	3/15
WRITE PHASE 2 REPORT! Read Chapter 7	3/18	3/19 Sampling	3/20	3/21 REPORT 2 DUE Sampling	3/22
STUDY! Read Chapter 9 (pages 269-283 and 286-296)	3/25	3/26 EXAM 3	3/27	3/28 Surveys	3/29
Read Chapter 10 (pages 314-323 and 348 – 350) Prepare for meeting?	4/1	4/2 Surveys/Observations	4/3	4/4 Individual Meetings	4/5
Read Chapter 10 (pages 323-348) Prepare for meeting?	4/8	4/9 Individual Meetings	4/10	4/11 Observations	4/12
Read Chapter 8 (pages 246-261) Skim Chapter 11.	4/15	4/16 Experiments	4/17	4/18 Unobtrusive Research	4/19
STUDY!	4/22	4/23 EXAM 4	4/24	4/25 make-up/review day	4/26
WRITE PHASE 3 REPORT AND ORGANIZE PORTFOLIO!	4/29 PORTFOLIO DUE	4/30	5/1	5/2	5/3

