

COURSE SYLLABUS

BASIC RESEARCH METHODS

Spring 2015
 Moravian College
 Dr. D. Wetcher-Hendricks

CONTACTING THE PROFESSOR

office: PPHAC 314
 voice mail: 610-861-1415
 e-mail: medwho2@moravian.edu

office hours: Tuesday 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
 Wednesday 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Required Readings

Babbie, Earl. *The Basics of Social Research*, 6th Edition. Wadsworth Publishing.
 2011. ISBN-13: 9781133936770
 Internet readings and handouts as assigned in class.



COURSE OUTCOMES

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

Evaluation

Throughout the term, students work on research projects. Three written summaries, due at designated times throughout the semester, should demonstrate understanding of the methodological processes involved in formulating and investigating a hypothesis. Specific information about the project appears in the "Semester Project Guidelines."

Four non-cumulative examinations are given in this course. Each examination consists of two equally-weighted parts and is conducted over portions of two class periods.

- an open-book, open-note, cooperative laboratory practical (lab) that will be begun during the last 20 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.

- a quiz, given during the first 30 minutes of the class in which labs are due (usually the class following the one during which labs are distributed). Quizzes consist of short-answer questions that address basic concepts discussed in class and in assigned readings.

Although attendance, itself, does not 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 (including consistently arriving to class late), and lack of effort lowers the grade.

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



examinations	48% (12% each)
project	40%
topic pitch – 4%	
phase 1 – 12%	
phase 2 – 12%	
phase 3 – 12%	
class activities/participation	12%

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

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


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

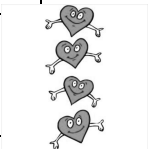
All policies listed in the college catalog that deal with withdrawal, cheating, plagiarism, and other pertinent policies apply to this class. **policies**


Please make every possible effort to take tests on the scheduled dates (see Course Schedule). All missed tests will be taken at the end of the term. Late project reports will be accepted with a five-point penalty for each day that they are late (including weekends and holidays). Attendance, itself, does not directly affect students' grades in this course. However, attendance is indirectly reflected in class participation grades. Students who do not attend class cannot earn participation credit. 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 Ms. Elaine Mara, Assistant Director of Academic & Disability Support, located on the first floor of Monocacy Hall (extension 1401). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic & Disability Support office.

COURSE SCHEDULE

assignment for this week	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Buy the book. ▪ Read pages 5-6, 8-12, 16-21, and 24-28. 	1/19	1/20 Introductions	1/21	1/22 sociological inquiry	1/23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Read Chapters 2 (beginning with page 43). 	1/26	1/27 research elements	1/28	1/29 LAB 1 research elements	1/30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Read handouts. 	2/2	2/3 QUIZ 1 the research plan	2/4	2/5 TOPIC PITCHES the research plan	2/6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Read Chapter 4. 	2/19	2/10 the research plan/literature reviews	2/11	2/12 literature reviews	2/13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Read Chapter 5. 	2/16	2/17 LAB 2 literature reviews	2/18	2/19 QUIZ 2 measurement	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Read Chapter 6. 	2/23	2/24 PHASE 1 REPORT DUE measurement	2/25	2/26 structuring questions	2/27
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Read Chapter 7. 	3/2	3/3 structuring questions	3/4	3/5 sampling	3/6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rest and relax! 	3/9	3/10 	3/11 SPRING BREAK!!!!	3/12	3/13



▪ Prepare for individual meetings.	3/16	3/17 sampling 	3/18	3/19 individual meetings	3/20
▪ Read Chapter 3 ▪ Prepare Phase 2. ▪ Prepare for individual meetings.	3/23	3/24 individual meetings	3/25	3/26 PHASE 2 REPORT DUE research ethics	3/27
▪ Read pages 243-266.	3/30	3/31 LAB 3 research ethics	4/1	4/2 QUIZ 3 questionnaires	4/3
▪ Read pages 221-227 and 239.	4/6	4/7 questionnaires	4/8	4/9 observations	4/10
▪ Read pages 314-324 and 332-338.	4/13	4/14 observations	4/15	4/16 experiments	4/17
▪ Read pages 283-309.	4/20	4/21 experiments/unobtrusive research	4/22	4/23 LAB 4 unobtrusive research	4/24
	4/27	4/28 QUIZ 4 phase 3 preparations	4/29	4/30 makeup/review day	5/1
▪ Prepare Phase 3.	5/4	5/5	5/6	5/7	5/8