

COURSE SYLLABUS

ADVANCED SOCIAL RESEARCH

FALL 2015
MORAVIAN COLLEGE
DR. D. WETCHER-HENDRICKS

CONTACTING THE PROFESSOR

office: PPHAC 314

office hours: Monday 9:00-11:00

Thursday 11:30-1:30

voice mail: 610-861-1415

e-mail: wetcher-hendricksd@moravian.edu



REQUIRED READING

Available from the Moravian College Bookstore:

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



Available online:

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

Distributed in class:

various additional readings and handouts as assigned

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

Course Outcomes



EVALUATION

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. Please see the semester for scheduled dates. Labs are due at the BEGINNING of the classes after which they were distributed. Students may work cooperatively on the labs, 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 an HSIRB proposal and two written reports. The first report is due about midway through the semester. The second report, along with a revised first report, is due in a portfolio during final exam week. Detailed descriptions of these reports can be found in “Semester 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 each student’s course grade.



LABS	24% (6% each)
QUIZZES	24% (6% each)
HSIRB PROJECT PROPOSAL	6%
PROJECT PHASE 1	16%
PROJECT PHASE 2/PORTFOLIO	20%
CLASS PARTICIPATION	10%

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

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%

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 are given at the end of the semester. Project reports and labs must be submitted on time to receive full credit. Late reports and labs 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 the Academic Support Center, located on the lower level of Monocacy Hall or by calling 610-861-1401. 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 presents an anticipated schedule of topics and assignments. Be aware that changes may be made based upon the progression of the term.

