

IDS 206 Introduction to Research

Instructor: Janet Dodson
Phone #: Janet (402) 479-6809
Janetd@nslp.org

This course is required for everyone except ParaLegal Studies majors.

IDS 206 is a course included in “Writing Across the Curriculum.” Therefore, the quality of writing is a grading component of each assignment.

TEXT: Practical Research: Planning and Design, 8th ed., Paul D. Leedy, Prentice Hall, 2005.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a general introduction to research methods for the social sciences. Students will learn the essential concepts in contemporary research and will begin to develop their ability to critique and construct their own research. The basic steps involved in conducting any research project are explained. The theory of validity in research is presented as an overarching framework that can be used to design original research and critique existing studies. The major methodologies in applied social research, both quantitative and qualitative, are considered. Students are introduced to the essential ideas in contemporary research including: how to conceptualize a study and review relevant literature; sampling methods and options; measurement methods (questionnaires, scales, interviews) and how to determine their quality (reliability and validity); experimental and quasi-experimental research designs; basic data analysis methods; and ethical issues in applied social research.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

At the conclusion of this course, students will:

- 1) Know the characteristics of research and have the skills to evaluate research.
- 2) Have a better understanding of the library, the computer and its software, the Internet, and selected databases as tools for research.
- 3) Have a knowledge and understanding of basic research language and concepts.
- 4) Have a knowledge and understanding of both quantitative and qualitative methodologies.
- 5) Have a knowledge and understanding of research designs.
- 6) Have knowledge and understanding of measurement methods and their quality.
- 7) Have the skills to conduct and report a review of the literature.
- 8) Have improved skills for gathering and analyzing data.
- 9) Have improved written communication skills.

For this course, students will complete several assignments. Some will be completed in class and others will be assigned as homework.

Individual assignments are valued at 5 points each, two tests for a total of 50 points and 10 points for participation and attendance.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY:

This policy requires that you immediately and cheerfully offer the benefit of your knowledge and skills to any fellow student who needs your help. If someone helps you, whether a fellow student, the author of a book/article, a family member, a pastor or priest, a coworker, a child, a pet, or anyone else, say that they helped you. That’s called citing a source. Always show respect for the ideas or words of others by giving them the credit. Failure to show respect will result in an “F”.