

## **Bus 680 Foundations of Research 3 Credits 8-Week Syllabus Autumn 2008**

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**This class meets over an 8-week period. In Lincoln, on Wednesdays from August 20—October 08, 2008.**

**In Grand Island, on Thursdays from August 21—October 09, 2008.**

**On both campuses classes begin at 6:00 PM sharp, and end not later than 10:30 PM.**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course gives students a basic foundation in qualitative and quantitative research methods. It provides a conceptual understanding to research methods and terminology. Course content includes an introduction to: research and the nature of data, qualitative and quantitative methods and procedures, research design, sampling, data collections, data analysis, ethical issues and the treatment of human subjects, writing a literature review, the use of the APA style manual, and scholarly writing.

### **Required Texts and Reading**

1. **Reading and Understanding Research**, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Locke, Silverman, and Spirduso 2004 (printed on acid-free paper) **Second Edition, SAGE publications, 2004, ISBN 9780761927686**
2. **Class notebook provided by professor at beginning of course, along with additional handouts during the course.**

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

At the conclusion of this course, students will:

1. have significantly improved their abilities to read, understand, and critique qualitative and quantitative research reports and research reviews, demonstrated by group exercises and assigned reading.
2. have developed research skills, demonstrated by the selection of articles appropriate for the literature review, with competency in accessing scholarly research databases particularly relevant to the topic chosen for the review of literature paper.
3. have a clear understanding of the assumptions, characteristics, designs and data collection strategies of qualitative and quantitative research, demonstrated in class discussions and research question development;
4. demonstrate the ability to write a scholarly, research-based review of the literature on a potential research topic, by the completion of such a review;
5. show awareness of the ethical issues involved in research, learned through the presentation of research ethical standards and case studies.

## **ATTENDANCE**

This is a labor intensive course in terms of reading, assignments, and in-class activities. To do well in understanding the basics of research, students need to attend every class. Understanding the concepts in this course requires a step-by-step process, all designed to understand and conduct research.

## **GRADING**

Class attendance and class preparation of assignments      400 points  
Literature Map..... 200 points  
Review of Literature Paper (using APA standards).....400 points  
Total points: 1000

Note: Every class is needed to do well in order to learn the research process. Participation in classes, reading, and writing are essential to learning the foundations of doing research.

**Letter grade numerical values listed in table below.**

<b>A+ = 98-100</b>	<b>B+ = 89-91</b>	<b>C+ = 80-82</b>	<b>D+ = 71-73</b>	<b>F=64 and below</b>
<b>A = 95-97</b>	<b>B = 86-88</b>	<b>C = 77-79</b>	<b>D = 68-70</b>	
<b>A- = 92-94</b>	<b>B- = 83-85</b>	<b>C- = 74-76</b>	<b>D- = 65-67</b>	

→ While this is a labor intensive course, there is a good deal of stimulation in it. Students, while learning the foundations of research, will also learn how to become good consumers of research, know how to sort what's worthy of noticing, the credibility of sources, when to believe what's read, what's essential to authentic research, and reasons to suspend trust in research.

Note: Should you have any questions, e-mail or call the professor.

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