BUS 680—Foundations of Research
3 Credit Hours
Omaha Campus—Summer 2015

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Required Texts and Readings:
  ISBN: 1433805618
- Additional articles handed out in class.

Course description:
A course which provides students with a basic foundation in qualitative and quantitative research methods. It is a conceptual introduction to research methods and terminology, and is the first of three required courses that prepare students to complete the project or thesis requirement. Course content includes an introduction to: research and the nature of data, qualitative and quantitative assumptions, research design, sampling, data collection, data analysis, ethical issues in the treatment of human subjects, writing a literature review, the use of an appropriate style manual, and scholarly writing.

Course Objectives:
At the conclusion of this course, students will:
1) have significantly improved their abilities to read critically, understand, and assess scholarly research reports and research reviews, including determining the significance of the studies reviewed, analyzing the limitations of research reports.
2) further develop research skills, demonstrate competency in accessing scholarly research databases, and apply these techniques to research as professionals and consumers of information.
3) comprehend the characteristics of data collection, including the ability to analyze both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods.
4) demonstrate the ability to write and evaluate a scholarly, research-based review of literature.
5) comprehend the ethical issues involved in research.
Course Policies:

Attendance
This is a labor-intensive course in terms of reading, assignments, in-class activities and a scholarly, research-based written review of literature on a selected research topic. To do well in understanding the basics of research, which is a step-by-step process, students need to attend each of the class meetings as well as remain diligent in completing assignments on time.

Grading
Class Attendance and Participation 100 points
Literature Map 100 points (due week 4)
Draft of Literature Review 200 points (due week 6)
Literature Review 400 points (due week 8)

Late Work
The dates provided are designed to reach the completion of all work within the eight-week time frame, including revisions of all work. Failure to meet any deadline will jeopardize the completion of the course within the allotted time frame. Assignments received one week late will accepted at a 25% deduction of total points possible. Assignments will not be accepted more than one week late. This policy may only be waived for extreme cases.

Academic Integrity
Showing respect for the ideas and words of others is vital to this course. The Doane College policy on Academic Integrity states:

The Doane College Academic Integrity Policy will be adhered to in this class. All projects and tests will represent your own work. Any use of others’ ideas and words without proper citation of sources is plagiarism and will result in penalties to be determined by the instructor and/or the dean of graduate studies.

The penalty for violation of this policy is an “F” in the course.