BUS 680
Foundations of Research
3 Credit Hours

Instructor: Randy Blair
Contact Information: Email – randy.blair@doane.edu
Phone (mobile) 308-380-4566

Required texts:
ISBN: 1433805596

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 goals: Course content, discussions, activities and assignments will result in the student achieving a clear understanding of:

1) The purposes of scholarly research and the nature of data
2) Qualitative and quantitative assumptions/characteristics
3) Online library search tools
4) How to write a research-based review of the literature on a potential research topic
5) Quantitative research designs (primarily non-experimental-survey design)
6) Qualitative research designs (case study, grounded theory, ethnography, phenomenology, biography, narrative inquiry)
7) Quantitative and qualitative data collection strategies
8) Qualitative and quantitative data analysis strategies (key statistical analysis strategies vs. coding/thematic analysis for narrative data)
9) The process of writing scholarly research
10) The ethical issues in research

Grading:
Literature map (due sixth week) 20%
Review of literature 80%

Requirements for Review of Literature
- Minimum 20 pages
- Minimum 25 references
- References must be research-based
- APA style, most recent edition

Incompletes will not be given for this course except in extreme personal or medical emergencies. Missing more than two classes will result in a failing grade for the course.
Grading Scale:
100 – 90 = A
89 – 80 = B
79 – 70 = C
69 – 60 = D
59 & below = F

Course Schedule:

Week 1 – Class Meeting
● The Problems with Research
● How to Select and Read Research Reports

Week 2 – Research Lab (6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.)

Week 3 – Class Meeting
● The Lit Map – Recording What You Find in Research Reports
● Quantitative Research Designs
● Analyzing Quantitative Research Reports

Week 4 – Research Lab (6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.)

Week 5 – Class Meeting
● Lit Map Due
● Qualitative Research Designs
● APA Refresher
● The Review of the Literature
● The 12 Step Map for Reading Lit Reviews
● How to Prepare a Research Proposal

Week 6 – Research Lab (6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.)

Week 7 – Class Meeting
● Brief presentation of Lit Reviews

Research lab sessions – During weeks 2, 4, and 6 research lab sessions will be held in the Doane Computer Lab from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. I will be available to assist anyone who needs help with the use of the research tools, APA format, or writing skills. These lab sessions are completely voluntary. If you are going to participate in the lab sessions, please be in the lab promptly at 6:00 p.m.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY:
This class follows the policies of student academic integrity as outlined in the Lincoln/G.I. Student Handbook. This handbook can be found online at the Doane College website. 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”.