

SYLLABUS
PUA 723
Research Methods
Monday 5:30-8:15
CBC C125
Fall 2016

Textbook

Babbie, E. (2011). *The basics of social research* (7th Ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Additional readings as required.

Course Goals

This course is designed to cover quantitative and qualitative research methods. The pedagogical methods used to obtain this knowledge are outlined below, but essentially they're based on lecture and discussion. Your participation in class and diligent attention to the readings are important. The ability to conduct academic research, write in formal academic research style, and properly cite sources as a basis for your writing are assumed and built upon during this course.

Examines quantitative and qualitative research methods used to answer questions and test hypotheses in public and non-profit settings. Includes identifying and reviewing scholarly literature; formulating research questions; selecting appropriate design, data collection and data analysis. Topics include causal and descriptive designs, interview and survey methods, and descriptive and inferential statistics.

Research methodology is the root upon which you explore avenues of social inquiry and for obtaining social knowledge, particularly that related to public and non-profit settings. This course lays the groundwork here for doing research properly. There are so many ways to obtain public, community, and social knowledge—hopefully we can explore a few and come to understand our world, culture, nation, family, friends, and even ourselves in interesting new ways.

Assignments

There will be a series of mini-projects of varying point value, a midterm, and a final.

Mini-Projects (from 10-25 points)

These projects will be assigned in class from week to week and will include such projects as doing a frequencies analysis of a data set, doing a crosstabulation, doing a t-test, doing an ANOVA analysis, doing a regression analysis, designing a survey questionnaire, designing a field study, and others.

Midterm (100 points)

Short answer and essay style exam about lecture and reading material up to the midterm point of the semester.

Final (100 points)

Short answer and essay style exam about lecture and reading material since the midterm exam.

Grading

A standard averaging method is used to calculate your grade using the "+" "-" system.

Policies

Academic Misconduct – “Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s function as an educational institution.”

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism: “Using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources.” See the “Student Academic Misconduct Policy” (approved December 9, 2005) located at:

<http://studentlife.unlv.edu/judicial/misconductPolicy.html>.

Copyright – The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. To familiarize yourself with copyright and fair use policies, you are encouraged to visit the following website: <http://www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright/>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC) – It is important to know that over two-thirds of the students in the DRC reported that this syllabus statement, often read aloud by the faculty during class, directed them to the DRC office.

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The DRC is the official office to review and house disability documentation for students, and to provide them with an official Academic Accommodation Plan to present to the faculty if an accommodation is warranted. Faculty should not provide students accommodations without being in receipt of this plan.

UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, offering reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137, and the contact numbers are: Voice (702) 895-0866, TDD (702) 895-0652, fax (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit: <http://drc.unlv.edu/>.

Religious Holidays Policy -- Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor no later than the last day at late registration of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. This policy shall not apply in the event that administering the test or examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the university which could not be avoided.

For additional information, please visit:

<http://catalog.unlv.acalog.com/content.php?catoid=1&navoid=44&bc=1>.

Tutoring -- The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring and academic assistance for all UNLV students taking UNLV courses. Students are encouraged to stop by the ASC to learn more about subjects offered, tutoring times and other academic resources. The ASC is located across from the Student Services Complex, #22 on the current UNLV map. Students may learn more about tutoring services by calling (702) 895-3177 or visiting the tutoring web site at:

<http://academicsuccess.unlv.edu/tutoring/>.

UNLV Writing Center – *The following statement is recommended for inclusion in course syllabi:*

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance.

Appointments may be made in person or by calling 895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>

Rebelmail – By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV's Official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students' e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always @unlv.nevada.edu.

Recordings: Lectures may not be recorded without instructor permission.

Missing Assignments/Exams: If you have to miss a class for some reason, please notify the instructor ahead of time. You are then responsible to make up any assignments you miss before the end of that week it was missed (by Friday of that week). Missing the midterm or final exam will require a legitimate written excuse and must be made up within 24 hours of the missed exam.

Phone Use: Do not take calls during class. Do not engage in other smart phone use that distracts other students. Use of a phone during an exam for any reason is grounds for immediate failure of that exam with a grade of zero.

Disclaimer: Changes to the syllabus and the class schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.