Advanced Research Methods
Spring 2005

Professors: G. Alfred Hess, Jr. & Solomon Cytrynbaum

School of Education & Social Policy
SESP 391-0: Advanced Research Methods

Time: Thursdays, 3:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Place: Annenberg 345; Breakout: G-08 & G-14; Except 4/28 in Room 303

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OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

This course is designed to introduce potential honors students to the central issues in social science methods as they relate to independent research. The goal is to have students understand how to link the questions they want to answer to techniques for answering those questions well. Particular attention will be paid to how broad design issues connect to the practical problems of getting the work done. It is expected that each student will learn how to formulate criteria for evaluating social science methods so he or she can do research. It is also expected that students will learn how to design and complete a research project.

EVALUATION

The student's grade for this course will be based on attendance, class participation, oral presentation, several papers, and a take-home final (research proposal). The final is due June 2 (10 pages). Late work will not be accepted. The textbook is available at Norris Center Book Store. All reading should be done prior to class. Do not come unprepared. Bring the assigned materials to class. All written work must be typed if it is not done in class.

While this course is required for admission to the SESP Honors Program during the following year, participants who complete the course will not be automatically admitted to the program.

SESP ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

Students in this course are expected to comply with the policies found in the booklet, “Academic Integrity at Northwestern University: A Basic Guide.”
SYLLABUS

March 31  Introduction, discussion of course.  
Goals – overview – course requirements

April 7  What is good research?  
Assignment*:  Critique an honors thesis (5 pages); Present in class  
Assignment:  Read Chapter 1 and 2 of Shaddish, Cook, and Campbell

April 14  Constructing a Research Question  
Assignment:  Read S,C,&C, Chapters 3 & 4  
Assignment:  Articulate a Research Question & articulate its significance;  
Present in class

April 21  Do some research and report on It.  
Assignment:  S,C,&C, Chapters 5 & 6  
Assignment:  Interview 3 experts about your Research Question  
Present in class

April 28  Do some research and report on It.  
Meet in  Assignment:  S,C,&C, Chapters 7 & 8  
Rm 303  Assignment:  Interview 2 more experts about Research Question  
Write up summary of learnings from interviews – 5 pages  
Assignment:  Submit a Bibliography of Related Research

May 5  Do some data analysis  
Assignment:  Read S,C,&C, Chapters 9 & 10  
Assignment:  Analyze a data set

May 12  Protection of Human Subjects: The IRB process  
Assignment:  Read S,C,&C, Chapters 11 & 12

May 19  Generating a project – Refining Research Question  
Assignment:  Read S,C,&C, Chapter 13  
Assignment:  Complete and turn in Literature Review

May 26  Preparing a proposal.  
Assignment:  Read S,C,&C, Chapter 14

June 2  Conclusion:  Present your Proposal in Class  
Assignment:  Write up Research Proposal – 10 pages
Assignments are to be completed prior to the class on this date, to be discussed in class on the date for which the assignment is listed.

**Required Text**
Available at Norris Book Store


Hand-outs

Data Sets
Articles

Resource

Website with research reports by Hess & Cytrynbaum:
www.sesp.northwestern.edu/CUSP/

**Course Assignments**
**SESP – 391**
**Spring 2005**

1. Critique an Honors Thesis (5 pages); Present in class and turn in, April 7th

2. Do sample research: Interview 5 “experts” on your subject
   Present results of first three interviews in class, April 21
   Turn in Summary of Findings from interviews, April 28

3. Analyze a data set; discuss results in class May 5th

4. Create a Bibliography for your Literature review; turn in May 5th

5. Write a review of the literature (5 pages) re: your research question; turn in May 19th

6. Write a research proposal (10 pages), including lit review; turn in June 2nd