

Spring 2015
PADM 596
ANALYTICAL RESEARCH METHODS FOR PUBLIC MANAGERS
Wednesday 4 - 6:30 pm
Social Sciences 3030

Instructor: Roli Varma

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Objectives

This course presents basic concepts and methods in quantitative and qualitative research used in social sciences/public administration. Research is a form of problem solving. The astute researcher matches problems with methods. This course will start you on the track to eventually becoming a sophisticated producer and reader of research. Your major goals in this course are:

1. Appreciate the role of scientific inquiry in social sciences
2. Learn the vocabulary and concepts of research
3. Understand the complexities of data collection
4. Examine ethical issues and standards of conduct concerning research
5. Match research methods to research questions
6. Assess the pros and cons of different research techniques
7. Learn to work with different types of data
8. Research a particular issue

Readings

- Frankfort-Nachmias, Chava., Nachmias, David., & DeWaard, Jack. (2008). *Research methods in the social sciences*. New York: Worth Publishers.
- Additional readings will be distributed electronically.

Course Policies

- As a graduate student, you are expected to take considerable responsibility for the direction and quality of your own learning. You are expected to complete assignments on time, to speak up in class when you have questions and ideas, to contribute to a spirit of cooperative learning, and to demonstrate significant investment in your work. You should not miss classes, arrive late, or come unprepared for the class.
- **Academic dishonesty**, such as plagiarism or cheating on a paper, will result in an automatic F for the paper. It is acceptable to discuss the work with other students in the class. It is also acceptable to receive a limited amount of help from another student in the class. But, the work you turn in should be your own.

- Use gender-free language in your papers and class discussion. Unbiased language is as much a matter of accuracy as it is of fairness.
- As a matter of courtesy, please turn off cell phones, pagers, and other communication and entertainment devices prior to the beginning of class. Notify me in advance if you are monitoring an emergency, for which cell phone ringers should be switched to vibrate.
- **Accessibility Services** (Mesa Vista Hall 2021, 277-3506) provides academic support to students who have disabilities. If you think you need alternative accessible formats for undertaking and completing coursework, you should contact this service right away to assure your needs are met in a timely manner. If you need local assistance in contacting Accessibility Services, see the Bachelor and Graduate Programs office.

Course Evaluation/Outcomes

Students' learning outcomes will be reflected in weekly quizzes/assignments and final research proposal.

Take Home Weekly Assignments (50 Points)

There are 10 weekly assignments (5 points each), based on the readings and lectures.

Research Proposal (50 Points)

Students will select a research topic of their choice. They are to write a research proposal, which should be typed, double-spaced, spell checked, proof read, and stapled together. It will be done in two parts:

(I) Literature Review Paper (20 Points):

It should include: (i) Title; (ii) Abstract; (iii) Introduction; (iv) Literature Review; and (v) References in the APA style. The maximum length of the paper is about 1,000 words (4-5 pages).

(II) Methodology Paper (30 Points):

It should include: (i) Tractable research question; (ii) Well developed research design; (iii) Identifiable the types of data that will be used; (iv) Specification of the research methods that will be employed; and (v) Justification of why the research design and methods identified are preferable to alternative approaches. The length of the paper is about 2,000 words (8 to 10 pages).

Course Grades

- A+ (96 – 100 Points)
- A (93 – 95 Points)
- A- (90 – 92 Points)
- B+ (86 – 89 Points)
- B (83 – 85 Points)
- B- (80 – 82 Points)
- C (70 – 79 Points)

Course Outline

August 19

Topics: Introduction, Syllabus. Using APA.

Readings: <http://www.apastyle.org/> (optional); <http://library.nmu.edu/apastyle.htm>

August 26

Topic: Research Ethics.

Readings: Frankfort-Nachmias et al, Chapter 4 on Ethics in Social Sciences Research

No Credit Assignment: Complete IRB Training via CITI. Go to the following link:

<http://hsc.unm.edu/som/research/hrrc/training.shtml>, and click on "CITI". After completing all required modules and quizzes for Social and Behavioral Research, print out your curriculum Completion Report and bring to class next week.

September 2

Topic: Principles of Scientific Inquiry & Literature Review.

Readings: Frankfort-Nachmias et al, Chapter 1 on the Scientific Approach; *Conducting a Literature Review*

Assignment 1: Pick the topic for your final research proposal and do a literature search. Bring the list of references in APA style in the next class. It should include some books and some peer reviewed journal articles. Minimum 10 references.

September 9

Topic: Building Blocks.

Readings: Frankfort-Nachmias et al, Chapter 2 on Conceptual Foundations of Research, and Chapter 3 on Elements of Research

Assignment 2: To be given in class.

September 16

Topic: Measurements

Readings: Frankfort-Nachmias et al, Chapter 7 on Measurement

Assignment 3: To be given in class.

September 23

Topic: Sampling

Readings: Frankfort-Nachmias et al, Chapter 8 on Sampling and Sample Design

Assignment 4: To be given in class.

September 30

Topics: Using Secondary Data

Readings: Frankfort-Nachmias et al, Chapter 13 on Secondary Data and Content Analysis; *Illustrative Examples; Using the Manuscript Census in Social Research*

October 7: Fall Break

LITERATURE REVIEW PAPER DUE

October 14:

Topic: Qualitative Research, Ethnography, Case Studies

Readings: Frankfort-Nachmias et al, Chapter 9 on Observational Methods and Chapter 12 on Qualitative Research; *Origin of Field Research*; *Anthropological Study of Brady Bar*

Assignment 5: To be given in class.

October 21

Topics: Survey

Readings: Frankfort-Nachmias et al, Chapter 10 on Survey Research; *An Illustrative Example*

Assignment 6: To be given in class.

October 28

Topics: Interview, Focus Group

Readings: Frankfort-Nachmias et al, Chapter 11 on Questionnaire Construction; *An Experimental Comparison of Open and Closed Questions*; *Interview Flow Chart*

Assignment 7: To be given in class.

November 4

Topic: Experiments

Readings: Frankfort-Nachmias et al, Chapter 5 on Research Designs: Experiments, and Chapter 6 on Research Designs: Cross-Sectional and Quasi-Experimental Designs

Assignment 8: To be given in class.

November 11

Topic: Writing Proposal

Readings: Frankfort-Nachmias et al, Appendix A on Writing Research Reports

November 18

Topic: Data Analysis

Readings: Frankfort-Nachmias et al, Chapter 14 on Data Preparation and Analysis

Assignment 9: To be given in class.

November 25 Thanks Giving

December 2

Topic: Data Analysis

Readings: Frankfort-Nachmias et al, Chapter 15 on The Univariate Distribution & Chapter 16 on Bivariate Analysis

Assignment 10: To be given in class.

METHOD PAPER DUE