

Fall 2016
PADM 596
ANALYTICAL RESEARCH METHODS FOR PUBLIC MANAGERS
Wednesday 4 - 6:30 pm
Dane Smith 132

Instructor: Roli Varma

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Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 1 pm to 3 pm and by appointment.

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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. (2015). *Research Methods in the Social Sciences*. New York: Worth Publishers.
- Additional readings will be distributed electronically.

Course Policies & Academic Integrity

- 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.
- Use **gender-free language** in your papers and class discussion. Unbiased language is as much a matter of accuracy as it is of fairness.

- The University of New Mexico believes that **academic honesty** is a foundation principle for personal and academic development. All University policies regarding academic honesty apply to this course. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating or copying, plagiarism (claiming credit for the words or works of another from any type of source such as print, Internet or electronic database, or failing to cite the source), fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. The University's full statement on academic honesty and the consequences for failure to comply is available in the college catalog and in the *Pathfinder*.
- **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.
- 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.

Accommodation Statement

Accessibility Services (Mesa Vista Hall 2021, 277-3506) provides academic support to students who have special needs. 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.

Title IX Statement

- In an effort to meet obligations under Title IX, UNM faculty, Teaching Assistants, and Graduate Assistants are considered “responsible employees” by the Department of Education (see pg 15 -<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-201404-title-ix.pdf>). This designation requires that any report of gender discrimination which includes sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence made to a faculty member, TA, or GA must be reported to the Title IX Coordinator at the Office of Equal Opportunity (oeo.unm.edu). For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>

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+ (91 – 100 Points)

A (86 – 90 Points)

A- (81 – 85 Points)

B+ (76 – 80 Points)

B (71 – 75 Points)

B- (66 – 70 Points)

C (60 – 65 Points)

Course Outline

August 24

Topics: Introduction, Syllabus. Using APA.

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

August 31

Topic: Research Ethics.

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

No Credit Assignment: Complete IRB Training via 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: Last day to ADD sections and CHANGE credit hours & grade mode on LoboWEB

September 7

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: Last day to DROP without “W” grade and 100% tuition refund on LoboWeb

September 14

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 21

Topic: Measurements

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

Assignment 3: To be given in class.

September 28

Topic: Sampling

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

Assignment 4: To be given in class.

October 5

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 12: Fall Break

LITERATURE REVIEW PAPER DUE OCT. 19

October 19:

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 26

Topics: Survey

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

Assignment 6: To be given in class.

November 2

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 9

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: Last day to DROP without Dean's Permission on LoboWEB

November 16

Topic: Writing Proposal

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

November 23

Topic: Data Analysis

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

Assignment 9: To be given in class.

November 30

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.

December 7

Topic: Data Analysis

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

METHOD PAPER DUE DEC 7 ELECTRONICALLY