

Designing Applied Research
PADM 552
Spring 2016

Uday Desai
Office Hours: T 12:00 – 2:00 pm

The purpose of this course is to prepare MPA students to design an applied research project. The course will emphasize individual work and class discussions. Fruitfulness of individual work depends on commitment to complete work without close instructor supervision. Usefulness of class discussion requires prepared and active participation of the members of the class. You are expected to **do the assigned reading for the week before the class** in order to participate meaningfully in the class discussion. Timely completion of assignments and regular attendance are therefore essential. **All assignments are to be submitted on UNM Learn.**

All students, including distance students, are expected to come to class on time and attend full class session.

One non-medical absence will be permitted. Additional absences will result in one-half letter per absence deducted from the class participation grade. Lack of preparation will be treated as an absence. Late submission of written assignments will result in loss of one-half letter grade per day.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated, and normally will result in a grade of F for the course. All students are expected to carefully read and follow the UNM Student Code of Conduct. Plagiarism, intentional or unintentional is unacceptable and is considered academic dishonesty. Contact the instructor if you have any questions.

Instructor will follow the UNM policy regarding students with special needs. The policy may be accessed at <http://www.unm.edu/~ubppm/ubppmanual/2310.htm>

Course Schedule may be modified by the instructor during the semester.

Grades will be based upon:

(1)	Research Paper Introduction	5%
(2)	Annotated Bibliography	10%
(3)	Research Paper Presentation	15%
(4)	Final Research Paper	50%
(6)	Certificate of Human Subjects protection training	5%
(7)	Class Participation including discussion posts on UNM Learn	15%

This course is designed to help you (1) develop a “good” question for research (2) identify relevant academic, professional and policy literature (3) learn to write a concise and integrative review of relevant literature that addresses your research question (4) understand appropriate research designs and methods for your research question, and (5) learn to effectively work and design research independently.

Required Books:

1. O'Leary, Zina. **The Essential Guide to Doing Your Research Project.** Paperback. ISBN: 1848600119.
2. In addition to the readings and assignments listed in the syll. below, additional readings and assignments will be added by the instructor throughout the semester.

Recommended (Optional) Books:

1. John W. Creswell, **Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches**, 4th Edition, (Sage Publications) ISBN-10: 1452226105; ISBN-13: 978-1452226101
2. David E. McNabb, **Research Methods in Public Administration and Nonprofit Management**, Third Edition, (Armonk, NY, M. E. Sharpe, Inc.) ISBN: 9780765631336
3. Howard S. Becker and Pamela Richards, **Writing for Social Scientists: How to Start and Finish Your Thesis, Book, or Article**, Second Edition, (University of Chicago Press) ISBN-10: 0226041328 ISBN-13: 978-0226041322

Course Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction and Review of Syllabus. (Jan. 19th)

- Discussion of your research and professional interests.
- Discussion of your research questions and why they are important and interesting.

Readings: O'Leary, Chpt. 1 and 2
Machi & McEvoy, Chpt. 1
Both readings are posted on Learn.unm.

Assignment: Write one (1) page narrative on your research interest and a research topic of interest to you and reasons for your interest in it. Submit it on our course's "Discussion" board on UNM Learn by noon, Tuesday, Jan. 19th.
Guidelines and details of the assignment are posted on UNM Learn.

Week 2: Resources for Research and Literature Search (Jan. 26th)

- Todd Quinn. SPA Library Ambassador. Bring your laptop (**NO iPad**) to follow Dr. Quinn's demonstration.

Readings: O'Leary, Chpts. 3 - 5
Check Learn for additional reading(s).

Week 3: Research Question (Feb. 2nd)

- Discussion: Finding and defining a “good” research question.

Readings: O’Leary, Chpt. 6.

Check Learn for additional reading(s).

Assignment: Submit your paper introduction including research question.

Week 4: Research Question (Feb. 9th)

Individual meetings with instructor to discuss your research question.

Please contact Ryan to schedule your meeting. Meetings will be scheduled on “first come first serve” basis. **No scheduled class meeting.**

Check Learn for reading(s).

Assignment: Find 20 scholarly, peer reviewed articles as an initial source for your literature review. Expect that you will drop several of these as your paper progresses.

Week 5: Research and Writing Workshop (Feb. 16th)

Class will meet with Todd Quinn to work on individual literature search. (4-6:30, Zimmerman 254).

Assignment: Submit revised introduction of your paper on Learn.

Week 6: Literature Review (Feb. 23rd)

Readings: A good 552 paper (on UNM Learn).

Articles relevant for your question that you have identified in your lit. search.

Assignment: Submit annotated bibliography and work on literature review.

Week 7: Research Methodologies (March 1st)

Individual meetings with instructor to discuss your research question.

Please contact Ryan to schedule your meeting. Meetings will be scheduled on “first come first serve” basis. **No scheduled class meeting.**

Readings: O’Leary, Chpt. 8-9

Assignment: continue to work on literature review.

Week 8: Ethics and Integrity in conducting Research (March 8th)

Readings: O'Leary, Chpt. 4

Assignment: 1. Complete on line CITI Basic course for Social and Behavioral Research Investigators. Submit the CITI certificate of completion with your name on it.
2. Submit draft lit. review.

Week 9: **Spring Break** (March 15th)

Week 10: Research Plan (March 22nd)

Readings: O'Leary, Chpts. 5 and 7
Check Learn for additional reading(s).

Assignments: Post at least one question or comment on the relevance/appropriateness of different research methods for your research question/project. What would be advantages and disadvantages of using different research methods for answering your research question? Which particular method you would select? Why?

Week 11: Data Collection (March 29th)

Readings: O'Leary, Chpts. 10-12

Week 12: Data Analysis (April 5th)

Reading: O'Leary, Chpts. 13-14
Check Learn for additional reading(s).

Assignment: Submit draft paper.

Week 13: Individual Appointments with the Instructor. (April 12th)

No scheduled class meeting. Contact Ryan to schedule an appointment for 15-30 mins. meeting with the instructor to discuss your paper.

Week 14: Paper Presentations (April 19th)

Week 15: Paper Presentations (April 26th)

Week 16: Wrap Up (May 3rd)

Week 17: Final Exam Week.

No scheduled class meeting.

Final Paper Due on Monday, May 9th.