

Designing Applied Research
PADM 552
Fall 2015

Uday Desai
Office Hours: W 10:30 am – 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>

Grades will be based upon:

(1)	Draft Research Paper Introduction	10%
(2)	Annotated Bibliography and Literature Review Outline	10%
(3)	Research Paper Presentation	10%
(4)	Final Research Paper	45%
(6)	Certificate of Human Subjects protection training	5%
(7)	Class Participation including discussion posts on UNM Learn	20%

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. (Aug. 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, Monday Aug. 24th. Guidelines and details of the assignment are posted on UNM Learn.

Week 2: Research Question. (Aug. 26th)

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

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

Week 3: Resources for Research and Literature Search. (Sept. 2nd)

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

Assignment: Submit your paper introduction including revised research question.

Readings: O’Leary, Chpt. 6.
Check Learn for additional reading(s).

Week 4: Research Plan and Proposal (Sept. 9th)

Readings: Read articles relevant for your question that you have identified in your lit. search.
Read propapers of interest to you that have received “distinction” in the past. They are posted on Learn.
O’Leary, Chpts. 5 and 7

Week 5: Research Question and Plan (Sept. 16th)

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.**

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 6: Ethics and Integrity in Conducting Research. (Sept. 23rd)

- Assignments: 1. Take the Institutional Research Board (IRB) Training course. Go to UNM IRB home page and log on to training course for social sciences.
http://research.unm.edu/IRBmaincampus/irb_training_outreach.cfm
2. Complete on line CITI Basic Course for Social and Behavioral Research Investigators. Submit the certificate of completion with your name on it.

Readings: O’Leary, Chpt. 4

Week 7: Research and Writing Workshop (Sept. 30th)

Class will meet with Todd Quinn to work on individual literature search. (Location of the meeting to be determined).

Assignments: Submit revised draft introduction of your paper on Learn.

Week 8: Drafting Lit. Review (Oct. 7th)

Assignment: Begin a draft of lit. review.

Week 9: Research Methodologies (Oct. 14th)

- Assignments:
1. Submit revised annotated Bib. for your paper.
 2. 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?

Readings: O'Leary, Chpt. 8-9

Week 10: Data Collection (Oct. 21st)

Assignment: Submit revised lit. review on Learn.

Readings: O'Leary, Chpts. 10-12

Week 11: Individual Appointments with the Instructor. (Oct. 28th)

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

Assignment: Submit draft lit. review.

Week 12: Data Analysis (Nov. 4th)

Reading: O'Leary, Chpts. 13-14

Assignment: Submit draft paper.

Week 13: Paper Presentations (Nov. 11th)

Week 14: Paper Presentations (Nov 18th)

Week 15: No Scheduled class meeting (Nov. 25th)

Week 16: Wrap Up. (Dec. 2nd)

Week 17: Final Exam Week.

No scheduled class meeting.

Assignment: Final Paper Due on Monday, Dec. 5th.

Final Paper for 552:

A final paper of 12-15 pages, excluding the title page and the list of references, is required for this course.

The paper will have the following sections:

1. Introduction: Statement and discussion of the general topic of your paper. Why is it of interest to you? Why is it important (significance)? Who would be especially interested in the topic and Why? (1 -1 1/2 pages)
2. Definition of your question/issue statement. Clear statement of your question, problem or issue you would address in the paper. How does the question follow from, or relate to your general topic discussed in (1). Why is the question/issue important to address? (1-1 1/2 pages)
3. Literature Review: First, discussion of how you selected the scholarly, professional and policy literature on the specific question/issue addressed in the paper, and why they are appropriate and relevant to your research question. Second, a review and analysis of the literature. Third, a synthesis of the “findings” from the lit. How does the existing lit. address the question you have asked/issue you are interested in? What methodologies do they employ? How appropriate and adequate are these methods? What answers/solutions to your question/issue, if any, does the existing lit. provide? How adequate are these answers/solutions? (8-10pages)
4. Conclusion: Based on the lit. you have reviewed, what conclusions may be drawn about the adequacy and quality of the existing knowledge about the answers to the question you have raised? What are the important solutions/approaches reported in the lit. about the policy/program issues you have raised? What lessons may learned from the studies and research reported in the lit.? What recommendations you would make for future research? (2 pages)

The final paper is due on Monday, Dec. 5th.