

Designing Applied Research
PADM 552
Fall 2016

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

Course Description

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. 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.

Participation

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

You may miss one class without effecting your grade participation grade. 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 Integrity

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.

Students With Special Needs

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>

Title IX Compliance

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>

Note: There may be changes to the syllabus 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%

All assignments are to be submitted to UNM Learn.

Required Books:

1. 1. O’Leary, Zina. **The Essential Guide to Doing Your Research Project**. Paperback. ISBN: 1848600119.
1. 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. 1. John W. Creswell, **Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches**, 4th Edition, (Sage Publications) ISBN-10: 1452226105; ISBN-13: 978- 1452226101
1. 2. David E. McNabb, **Research Methods in Public Administration and Nonprofit Management**, Third Edition, (Armonk, NY, M. E. Sharpe, Inc.) ISBN: 9780765631336
1. 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. 24th)

- Discussion of your research and professional interests.

Readings: O’Leary, Chpt. 1 and 2

Machi & McEvoy, Chpt. 1
Both readings are posted on UNM Learn.

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, Wednesday, Aug. 24th.

Guidelines and details of the assignment are posted on UNM Learn.

Week 2: Resources for Research and Literature Search (Aug. 31st)

- Todd Quinn, SPA Library Ambassador. Bring your laptop (**NO iPad**) to follow Dr. Quinn's demonstration. Class will meet in Zimmerman Lib. Room 254

Readings: Check Learn for reading(s).

Week 3: Developing Research Question and Proposal (Sept. 7th)

- Discussion: Finding and defining a "good" research question.

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

Week 4: Library Research Workshop (Sept. 14th)

Readings: O'Leary, Chpts. 6.

Assignment: Find and submit 20 scholarly, peer reviewed articles to help develop your research question and literature review. Expect that you will drop several of these as your paper progresses.

Class will meet with Todd Quinn to work on individual literature search. Class will meet in Zimmerman Room 254.

Week 5: Research Question (Sept. 21st)

Readings: O'Leary, Chapter 7.

Assignment: Submit Paper introduction on Learn.

Individual meetings with instructor to discuss progress on your paper.

Please contact Ryan to schedule your meeting. Meetings will be scheduled on "first come first serve" basis.

No scheduled class meeting.

Week 6: Literature Review (Sept. 28th)

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

Assignment: Submit Annotated Bibliography.

Week 7: Ethics in conducting Research (Oct. 5th)

Readings: O’Leary, Chpt. 4.
Assignment: Work on literature review.

Week 8: Research Plan (Oct. 12th)

Readings: O’Leary, Chpts. 5 and 7
Assignment: Pl. write a post, before noon, Oct. 12th, discussing ethical considerations that might be relevant to your research project. You are encouraged to comment on colleagues' posts.
Individual meetings with instructor to discuss progress on your paper.
Please contact Ryan to schedule your meeting. Meetings will be scheduled on “first come first serve” basis. **No scheduled class meeting.**

Week 9: Research Methodologies (Oct. 19th)

Readings: O’Leary, Chpts. 8 and 9.
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.

Week 10: Data Collection (Oct. 26th)

Readings: O’Leary, Chpts. 10-12
Check Learn for additional reading(s).
Assignment: 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 Analysis (Nov. 2nd)

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

Week 12: Individual Appointments with the Instructor. (Nov. 9th)

Reading: O’Leary, Chpt. 15
Contact Ryan to schedule an appointment for 15-30 mins. meeting with the instructor to discuss your paper. **No scheduled class meeting.**
Assignment: Submit draft paper.

Week 13: Paper Presentations (Nov. 16th)

Week 14: Thanksgiving (Nov. 23rd)
No scheduled class.

Week 15: Paper Presentations (Nov. 30th)

Week 16: Wrap Up (Dec. 7th)

Week 17: Final Exam Week.

No scheduled class meeting.

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. 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 page)
2. 2.Definition of your research question/issue statement. Clear statement of the 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 page)
3. 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 different scholars 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. 4.Research Methods: This section should cover three broad issues: (1)What data you would need to answer your question(s) (2) How would you collect these data? (3) How would you analyze the data you have collected? What statistical or other methods you would use to analyze the data you have collected? How your analyses would help answer your question(s)? (4) Your method section should tie back to your question(s). (1-2 pages)
5. 5.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? (1/2 page)

The final paper is due on Monday, Dec. 12th.