COURSE TITLE: HSP 2218 08 Social Research Methods

DESCRIPTION: This online course is an introduction to Social Research Methods

PREREQUISITES: None.

SEMESTER: Summer, 2020, Term I – 2019-2020

COURSE START: Thursday, May 14, 2020

CLASS HOURS: 6:00-10:15 p.m.


Assigned reading from text for the first night of class: Part 1, Topics 1 through 5.

TELEPHONE: (415) 225-0115

EMAIL: pabox@comcast.net

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment – just email/text/voicemail.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Patrick Arbore is a Senior Lecturer at Notre Dame de Namur University. He has been with NDNU since the creation of the Intensive Human Services Department in 1989. Dr. Arbore is also the Founder and the Director of the Center for Elderly Suicide Prevention & Grief Related Services, which is a program of Institute on Aging in San Francisco. Dr. Arbore has worked in the field of aging, suicide prevention, and traumatic loss for approximately 47 years. He is a sought after speaker on a variety of topics relevant to the field of Human Services both locally and nationally.
COURSE OBJECTIVE: The main objective is to demystify the research process by encouraging the student’s ability to systematically investigate interesting ideas. Through a series of written assignments, an exam, a paper, and in-class discussions, proficiency in the subject matter will be demonstrated.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Academic honesty is a cornerstone of our values at NDNU. If any words or ideas used in an assignment submission do not represent your original words or ideas, you must cite all relevant sources and make clear the extent to which such sources were used. Words or ideas that require citation include, but are not limited to, all hard copy or electronic publications, whether copyrighted or not, and all verbal or visual communication when the content of such communication clearly originates from an identifiable source. Consult the NDNU Student Handbook regarding consequences of misrepresenting your work.

PRIVACY and CONFIDENTIALITY: One of the highlights of the NDNU academic experience is that students often use real-world examples from their organizations in class discussions and in their written work. However, it is imperative that students not share information that is confidential, privileged, or proprietary in nature. Students must be mindful of any contracts they have agreed to with their companies.

LEARNING and OTHER DISABILITIES: If you have a learning disability or other circumstance that requires accommodations in this class, you must bring it to the attention of Program for Academic Support and Services (PASS) to arrange for possible accommodations (650-508-3670).

SYLLABUS UPDATES: Refer to this syllabus for course assignments. However, the course syllabus and schedule are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances. You will be notified of any changes made to the syllabus. In all circumstances University policies will be strictly adhered to.

CLASS ATTENDANCE: Intensive courses have a maximum of 28 contact hours as opposed to the traditional 45 to 48 contact hours in a 15-week course. Therefore, all in-class time is utilized. A student who misses more than one class period or the equivalent (four accumulated hours) must withdraw from the class. The nature of accelerated classes requires a stringent absence policy since even one absence may significantly affect achievement of course learning objectives. A student who misses more than one class period or the equivalent (four accumulated hours) must withdraw from the class and will be assigned a failing grade for the course unless officially dropping the class. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate the drop or withdrawal. There are no exceptions.

Notice regarding a missed class should be communicated to the instructor in advance whenever possible. Make arrangements to have a colleague collect the materials for the night that you missed. There is also make-up work for the four hours that were missed.
WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS: The School of Business and Management requires the use of the American Psychology Association (APA) publication guidelines as a standard for all papers.

PARTICIPATION: Your participation in this online course is welcomed. I encourage you to reach out for support from your professor or your fellow classmates. Research is not done in a vacuum; it is a collaborative process.

WORKLOAD: In addition to class attendance, every Intensive class at NDNU includes assignments estimated to take approximately three (or more) hours per week per unit outside of class (14 hours). The distribution of average weekly hours of instruction/study for this class will follow that norm, equating a total of 18 hours a week generally in accordance with the following:

\[
\text{Average Weekly Hours of Instruction/Study for this class} = \text{Total of 18 per week}
\]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Contact Hours:</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Text Readings and Note Taking</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and Writing Assignments</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Projects Research</td>
<td>4</td>
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**TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS PER COURSE** 126

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS: The School of Business and Management requires the use of the American Psychology Association (APA) publication guidelines as a standard for all papers. This style uses parenthetical reference citations within the text of the paper and a list of references at the end of the paper; both are required. Papers must be typed with a 12-point font, double-spaced. Please do not use a cover sheet. In the upper right hand corner of the first page, type your name, assignment identification, course number, and date.

Paragraphs are to be indented with a tab or by indenting five spaces (not less or more). Do not add additional space between paragraphs. Please review your grammar and punctuation throughout your paper. Points may be deducted for not following these instructions. If you need help with your writing or need more information about writing in the APA format, please make an appointment at the NDNU Writing Center. You can also visit the APA Style webpage at [www.apastyle.org/previoustitips.html](http://www.apastyle.org/previoustitips.html).
GRADING FOR PAPERS: All assignments will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- The student demonstrates a solid comprehension of the concepts described in the text and discussed in class and integrates these concepts with his or her own ideas and experiences.
- The written documents are appropriately sourced, integrating source material smoothly into the paper while maintaining the writer's critical voice rather than being overpowered by source material.
- The paper has a central point that is sustained and developed throughout the paper.
- The paper has a logical, clear organization and transitions between sections help the reader follow the writer's logic.
- **Grammar and spelling do count. Please proofread your papers carefully. Points will be deducted for poor grammar and misspellings.**

LATE HOMEWORK: All assignments are due on time. I prefer hard/paper copies of assignments, but will accept assignments as attachments via email. Late assignments will incur a reduction of 10% of point value. This policy is not intended to be punitive, but to facilitate your success within an intensive schedule, which allows little room for procrastination.

CLASS FORMAT: Because this is an online course, there will be some limitations in our format. One of the highlights of the NDNU academic experience is that students often use real world examples from their organizations in class discussions and in their written work. However, it is imperative that students not share information that is confidential, privileged, or proprietary in nature. Online lectures and online classroom activities are organized to maximize student involvement in the learning process. You will be evaluated on your comprehension of the material as well as your ability to discuss the relevancy (i.e., research pros and cons) of what was noteworthy with the professor. **Active participation is essential.** The textbook, lectures, and assigned articles or other readings will be the framework for the class.

GRADING CRITERIA: Each student will be graded individually. The grading criteria for any presentation will include:

- Organization of material presented and use of time.
- Logical thought process, in-depth analysis, and persuasiveness.

EXTRA CREDIT: None specified, though the opportunity to introduce it will be at the discretion of the instructor.

COURSE MATERIAL: Published Textbook Information in accordance with the federal Higher Education Opportunity Act, to the extent practicable, NDNU
makes textbook information available as part of its class schedule. NDNU makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of the textbook information provided. Due to issues such as textbook availability, errors, and academic reasons, NDNU may need to change textbook information that has been published. NDNU cannot take financial responsibility when a student purchases a non-refundable textbook and a change occurs to published textbook information. Students wishing to avoid this risk should purchase textbooks from sources that allow returns for refunds.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Students will:

- recognize the importance of ethical codes as they relate to research
- learn time management skills in order to complete the assignment
- identify research articles that investigate the behaviors of diverse populations
- choose research topics that are meaningful to them (with Instructor’s permission)
- learn skills to clearly discuss their research topics and write their reports

HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Students will develop the ability to understand and demonstrate adherence to ethical principles.
2. Students will demonstrate analytical, problem solving, and project management skills.
3. Students will develop critical thinking abilities and a foundation of ethical understanding that will allow them to serve people of diverse ethnic, cultural, gender, and other backgrounds.
4. Students will demonstrate a love of the pursuit of continuous learning and an ability to inspire others with that love.
5. Students will be able to communicate effectively, in writing and orally, and will be able to do so with clarity, correctness, and conviction.

Grading System:

The course grade will be based upon the following distribution:

1. Attendance/Participation 10%
2. Homework Assignments 20%
3. Exam 25%
4. Final Paper 45%
An “A” grade is attained when the student demonstrates **outstanding** comprehension of the issues studied in the course. A+ 100-97; A 96-94; A- 93-90

A “B” grade is attained when the student demonstrates a **good understanding** of the issues studied in the course. B+ 89-87; B 86-84; B- 83-80

A “C” grade is attained when the student demonstrates an **adequate understanding** of the issues studied in the course. C+ 79-77; C 76-74; C- 73-70

A “D” grade represents a **minimal (but passing) understanding** of the issues studied in the course. D+ 69-67; D 66-64; D- 63-60

A “F” grade represents a failure to meet even minimal understanding of the issues studied in the course. F 59 or<

**Assigned reading from text for the first night of class:**
Part 1, Topics 1 through 5.

**OTHER:**
Class content will vary depending upon the number of students and the research topics. **Begin the assigned reading now.** The **paper:** will be a 10 page **proposal** for a survey research paper on an area of interest that you select with the approval of the instructor. You will be investigating the **attitudes** of a target sample from a population. The instructor reserves the right to assign a topic if the student is experiencing difficulty with this process. The purpose of survey research is to describe the attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors of a population. Start thinking of issues that interest you, e.g., adolescents and self-esteem; people’s attitudes about firearms; career choice and parental support; people’s attitudes about euthanasia; etc., attitudes about covid-19, pet owners and loneliness  The **APA format** will be used in the writing of the paper. Five points will be **subtracted** from the score on the paper each day that the paper is late. All papers must be submitted to the instructor a minimum of one week prior to the grade due date at the Registrar’s Office. Papers can be sent electronically or papers can be sent through US mail to an address that will be given to you in class. **Do not send papers certified return receipt requested or any way other than general US mail.** **PAPERS ARE DUE: SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2020.** Student’s wishing to have their papers returned must send the professor their **mailing address.**

**SCHEDULE:** The weekly schedule may be changed depending upon the numbers of students who are enrolled in this class

**Class 1, May 14, 2020:**

**Introduction to the Course:** Review of the Syllabus; Expectations—Students are expected to have read Part 1, **only topics 1 through 5.**

**Lecture:** Learning the language of research – Identify and define terms – Describe the parts of the research proposal. Emphasis will be on **survey research** (see Topic 6, page 19)
Homework for class 2: Students will be prepared to discuss and have available at least one example of a scientific article and one example of a theory article. Details will be discussed in class.

Class 2, May 21, 2020:

Prior to class, continue reading Part 1, topics 6 through 11 -- Students will describe why the article they chose is a good example of a scientific article or a good example of a theory article. How do we identify a scientific article? What are the key components? If you have a scientific article: How do we cite the article? Author(s)? Date? Title? Publication? Volume? Number? Pages? What is the General Research Topic? What is the Hypothesis? Is there more than one Hypotheses? What is the dependent variable? The independent variable? How did the author(s) measure the dependent variable? Describe the results. What did you learn from this article? Is the dependent variable studied by the author(s) of interest to you? Would you like to study this variable? Homework: Write a 1-2 page paper on the above questions. You will send this assignment to my email address pabox@comcast.net. Send this as an attachment; a word document. Do not send as google doc. Send this assignment to me no later than Wednesday, May 27, 2020.

Class 3, May 28, 2020

Prior to class, read Part 2, topics 12 - 19. Please review and be prepared to discuss. During the online class we will identify the elements that must be included in your Introduction. Students will have made a commitment to the survey research that they will develop into their introduction. Homework: Students will prepare a draft of their introduction. Each student should have at least 3 scientific articles on their topic by this date.

Class 4, June 4, 2020

Prior to class, read Part 3 and Part 5. Students will share their drafts of the introduction. Each introduction will be analyzed. Students will have citations prepared for at least 3 scientific articles. During class students will summarize important parts of their 3 articles. These summarizes will be essential in the development of the review of the literature.

Class 5, June 11, 2020

Read Part 7, topics 52 – 57 and Part 8, topics 58, 59, 62, 63, 65, 66, 67, 68, and 74. Our work will be the development of the review of the literature. Based upon the work from class 4, we will continue developing the literature review. Students will describe the information that a reader of research has a right to know. This section is the heart of the paper. A review of the literature is the learning section. How do I learn about a dependent variable? It is through the process of
choosing scientific articles that have been published by researchers who are studying the dependent variable about which I have an interest. Each article will be **exploring the same dependent variable that you indeed are choosing to study**. The professor will introduce the Methodology Section of the proposal. Students will continue with their literature review. Also, students will write a **draft** of the literature Section and the Methodology Section of the paper to the professor by May 17th. By class 6, students will have a total of five scientific articles.

**Class 6, June 18, 2020**

Continue the reading of Part 10, topics 81, 83, 84, 85, 86, and 87. You should now have a minimum of 5 scientific articles that reflect your interest in a dependent variable. Each of the articles will be focused on the dependent variable which is of interest to you. These are the articles that are summarized in your Review of the literature.

**Class 7, June 25, 2020**

Students will briefly present their proposals. Your assignment is to pull together the Introduction, Review of the Literature and the Methodology Sections into your full proposal to be submitted on **Sunday, June 28, 2020**. (Grades are due on Thursday, July 2nd).

The exam will be primary task of class 7. You will complete the exam during class 7 and submit to the Professor by 10:00 p.m. on **Thursday, June 25, 2020**. You can use your notes and your text as you complete the exam.


Please remember that I am your ally. I will do all that I can to make this online research class an exciting and stimulating experience for you.

REVISED: 4.19.2020