

PAD 4704-5644 Tues 7:10 – 10:00 p.m.
Fall 2002 Davie Campus; MOD 38M

RESEARCH METHODS IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

Instructor: Jeff Stevens, MPH, MPA

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Course Description:

This course provides a basic overview of the philosophy, methodology, and application of research methods used in public management. Areas covered include the study of the research process, sampling procedures; observation; research design (experimentation); the application and interpretation of appropriate statistics, and the analysis and construction and analysis of surveys (questionnaires).

Required Text: Donald R. Cooper & Pamela S. Schindler, Business Research Methods 8th ed. Burr Ridge, IL: Irwin/McGraw-Hill Publishers, 2003.

Course Objectives:

- Introduce students to research methods in public management
- Provide and understanding of research and its relationship to social issues
- Enhance familiarization with writing and reporting issues in public administration research
- Improve students' writing skills, especially in regards to accurate communication of information and rational arguments

Major Assignments and Grades:

Assignments for the course are listed below. Discussion of requirements and a description of the evaluation procedures will be provided during the course overview and at the time of assignment.

Exams (2)	40%
Assignments	
Article/Selection Summaries and Presentations (2)	20%
Research Technique Report & Presentation	20%
Homework Questions	20%

The grading scale is:

A	95.0	B	85.0	C	75.0	D	65.0
A-	92.5	B-	82.5	C-	72.5	D-	62.5
B+	90.0	C+	80.0	D+	70.0	F	< 62.5

Exams: There will be two in-class exams. The Mid-term exam will cover material assigned and presented during the first half of the semester. The Final Exam will cover material assigned and presented during the second half of the semester. Each exam is worth 20% of the final grade.

Article/Selection Summaries and Presentations: Students will be assigned two research-related articles or textbook selections to summarize and present. Summaries should be 3-5 pages in length and formatted using a style manual. Summary presentations should be not more than 10 minutes in length. Additional presentation guidelines will be provided in class.

Research Technique Report & Presentation: The text has many real life applications of techniques including examples in journal articles or annotated journal articles. Their tone is mostly behavioral science and private sector. The Research Technique Report & Presentation is intended to bring a similar set of public management examples to the class making the topic relevant to your work or other courses. The content and outline of this assignment will be discussed in class.

Course Requirements:

- **Participation:** This includes involvement in class activities and group exercises, indisputable evidence of reading, and attentive listening. We will spend significant amounts of class time on case-study discussion and the application of concepts from the reading. Accordingly, thorough and regular preparation for class is essential if we are to have productive and focused conversations/activities.
- **Attendance:** Students having positions requiring travel should be aware of the following policies. Students missing in excess of three full class sessions (20% of the semester) will be asked to voluntarily withdraw from the course or will be involuntarily dropped from the class roster.
- **Written Assignments:** All out of class assignments must be typewritten or word-processed. Handwritten work is not acceptable. Papers should have a cover page with your name and pertinent information. Papers of more than one page in length should be bound with a staple or paperclip. Do not use folders or plastic report covers. Late work will be penalized. Neither photocopied papers, nor photocopied tables in papers, will be accepted. Use the most recent edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* or another style guide.

Tentative Assignment Schedule:

			Text Chapters
1	Aug 27	Intro to Research in Public Management	1
2	Sept 3	Addressing Management Problems with Scientific Thinking	2
3	Sept 10	The Research Process	3
4	Sept 17	The Research Proposal	4
5	Sept 24	Ethics in Public Administration Research Article Summary I Due	5
6	Oct 1	Design Strategies	6
7	Oct 8	Sampling Design	7
8	Oct 15	Mid Term	
9	Oct 22	Measurement & Measurement Scales	8-9
10	Oct 29	Exploring Secondary Data Article Summary 2 Due	10
11	Nov 5	Survey Methods	11
12	Nov 12	Observational Studies	13
13	Nov 19	Experimentation Research Technique Report Due	14
14	Nov 26	Data Description & Properties/Exploring, Displaying & Examining Data	15-16
15	Dec 3	Presenting Results: Written and Oral Reports	20
16	Dec 10	Final Exam	

Homework for each week consists of the discussion questions for the chapter assigned, beginning with Chapter 2. Homework is due at the beginning of class on the night the topic is discussed. For example, the discussion questions for Chapter 2 are due Sept 3. The Discussion Questions for Chapter 1 will be covered on the first night of class.

Due dates for assignments are subject to change, depending on the pace of the class.

Advice:

Please take time to consult with me out of class when you need assistance with any aspect of the course or are uncertain about your performance. I am available to you through phone consultation, email, and in-person after class or by appointment. My contact information is at the top of the syllabus.