

RESEARCH METHODS II

Conflict 611

Spring 2006

Th: 4.30- 7.10

Room 666; Truland building

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This course is a continuation of the CONF 610 and designed as a research project aimed to explore the issues connected with the research interest of students. Students will go through the different stages of research, identifying problem and literature, formulating research questions and hypothesis, operationalizing theoretical questions, developing research procedures and methods, conducting pilot study in form of focus interview, conducting survey in form of “social experiment”, and analyzing data using statistical methods. In addition, students will learn how to write empirical paper.

ASSESSMENT:

Students participating in the full course will be graded based on the following:

1. Active participation in the class activities is worth 50 % of the final grade.
2. Students are required to prepare data analysis paper due 5/4. The paper should be 20 pages in length (double- spaced, 12) and is worth 50% of the final grade.

IMPORTANT DATES

March 30: Due date for the collection of the Interview Data (3 interviews).
April 27: Due Date for the collection of the Data of Social Experiment Survey (10 surveys)
May 11: Paper Due

SOURCES FOR READING

1. Marshall, C. & Rossman G. B. (1998). *Designing Qualitative Research*. Sage publications.
2. Czaja, R. & Blair, J. (2004). *Designing Surveys: A Guide to Decisions and Procedures* (Undergraduate Research Methods & Statistics in the Social Sciences). Sage publications.
3. Salkind, N. J. (2005). *Statistics for People Who (Think They) Hate Statistics*. Sage publications.
4. Campbell, D. T. and Russo M. J. (1998). *Social Experimentation*. Sage publications
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WEEKLY SCHEDULE

January 26: Introduction to Course

February 2: Defining Research Problem
Reading: Ashmore: 3-42, 71-133; Marshall:22-38, 43-54

February 9: Formulating Research Questions and Hypothesis
Reading: Marshall: 38-43

- February 16: Operationalization
Reading: Campbell:
- February 23: Planning Research: Methods and Samples
Reading: Marshall: 55-85; Czaja: 11-59;125-190
- March 4: Designing Focus Interview
Reading: Marshall: 108-116, 120-123
- March 9: Basic statistics
Reading: Salkind: 19-53;147-169
- March 16: Break
- March 23: Analyzing Interview Data (I)
Reading: Marshall: 147-165
- March 30: Analyzing Interview Data (II). Designing Social Experiment Survey (I).
Reading: Czaja: 59-125; Campbell:
- April 6: Designing Social Experiment Survey (II).
- April 13: Statistical Analysis (I)
Reading: Salkind: 169-220
- April 20: Statistical Analysis (II)
Reading: Salkind:85-129; 220-255
- April 27: Analyzing and Interpreting Data of Social Experiment Survey (I)
- May 4: Analyzing and Interpreting Data of Research Project
- May 11: Paper Due

PAPERS REQUIREMENTS

In your final paper you have to demonstrate skills and knowledge you received during CONF 610 and 611, including writing research design, conducting statistical analyses, interpretation of the results. Your research design has to include analyses of interrelations between dependent and independent variables. Together with descriptive statistics, your analysis has to examine direct and interactions effects of variables. Each statistical method has to answer specific proposition, based on your model.

Components of the paper:

1. Research design model, including problem, purpose, research question, theoretical analysis, hypothesis, variables, model and propositions. In theoretical analysis you have to introduce main tendencies in scholarly research connected with your topic, provide main references and show the place of your research.
2. Methods and sampling
3. Data description: source, sampling, variables.
3. Statistical analysis: explain the choice of method and present results of your analysis.

4. Discussion: show how results confirm/differ from your hypotheses, discuss future implication for research