

**Instructor**

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Office Hours: Tu/Th 12:00pm-2:00pm, or by appointment

**Prerequisite:**

Graduate level classification

**Course Meeting Schedule:**

All course content and assignments will be accessed through Blackboard via weekly electronic modules. Supplemental interface time will occur once per week, either via a face-to-face class (for on-campus students) or a Blackboard Collaborate session (for off-campus students). Those that are not available during the times listed below may view the recordings for full participation credit.

*On-campus students* - Thursdays, 2pm-4pm, AGNX 210

*Off-campus students* - Thursdays, 5:30pm-7:30pm, Blackboard Collaborate **A webcam with visual and audio support is required for all collaborate sessions.** Your experience will be pretty lame without a webcam, and your text-based communication will slow the conversation down...so make it happen!

**Course Communication and Assignment Submissions:** <http://learn.uark.edu>

**Purpose**

To prepare graduate students to be better producers and consumers of research in the social sciences.

**Required Texts** (Available at the UofA Bookstore or other approved vendor)

Cozby, P. C., & Bates, S. C. (2015). *Methods in Behavioral Research*. 12<sup>th</sup>. Ed. McGraw Hill Education. (ISBN 978-0-07-786189-6)

*Additional readings will be available through Blackboard*

**Course Objectives**

1. Identify appropriate components of social science research works.
2. Explain the necessity of appropriate research procedures, including IRB approval processes, data collection, analysis, and reporting.
3. Compare and contrast the epistemologies, purposes, assumptions, and methods of qualitative and quantitative research methods.
4. Create research projects which display coherence throughout the research problem, methods and analysis.
5. Evaluate social science research in academic, government, and/or private arenas.

## **Assignment Summaries**

### Human Subjects Training

Students are required to complete the course “Protecting Human Research Participants” provided by NIH. The due date for completing the training is the last day of class, but it can be completed any time. Submit the certification of completion to the instructor via email. To take the course, go to <http://phrp.nihtraining.com>.

### Weekly Article Critiques

Each week, students will be offered a selection of research manuscripts from which they will select one to critique. Each critique will require student responses to specific questions pertaining to the week’s lesson. Therefore, it’s helpful if you critique the article AFTER you complete the module’s informative components. Critiques will be posted in the weekly discussion board on Blackboard by Thursday at 11:59pm each week. Within the critique, students are to post three questions regarding the article’s contents, specifically focusing on methods and data analysis. Students must then respond to a minimum of three questions posted by other students by Sunday at 11:59pm each week. This is to be an opportunity for open, yet focused, dialogue to enhance learning, so don’t be afraid to be wrong, and don’t worry about getting hung up in overly formal jargon. Just be yourself!

### Weekly Visual Reflections

Each week, you will be required to submit an image (found via Google or other search engine) that portrays your feelings about the topic at hand. Along with the image, you will submit one paragraph that describes how the image portrays your feelings. These will be discussed each week during our class meetings.

### Research Program Prezi or PowerPoint

Throughout the semester, students will create a Prezi or PowerPoint displaying their intended research program for the next 5-10 years. Research projects aligning with a consistent theme but utilizing different research methods will make up the intended research program. The goal is for each student to leave with a plan to embark on a research program that is of interest, valid in methodology, and manageable. Prezi is a free internet-based presentation tool – create an account using your uark email address to receive all Prezi

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features for free. Students not comfortable with Prezi are welcome to use PowerPoint instead. Templates will be provided for both platforms. Students will be given weekly instructions for the components to add to their programs. A total of 8-9 components will be added to the programs.

Research Prospectus

After the research program is complete, the student will create a two-page proposal outlining the study he/she intends to complete for his/her thesis or major project. The proposal should include a brief, yet powerful, statement regarding the need for the study, the purpose and objectives or research questions to be addressed, the population and sample, dependent and independent variables to be studied, treatment(s), instrumentation, validity and reliability of the instruments and validity of the study's design, methods of data collection, and methods of data analysis. Any limitations the study may contain should also be acknowledged. Oftentimes, students complete the research program and say, "Now that I know all this, I would have done something completely different. But I sure don't want to go back and change it all now!" This assignment gives you an opportunity to move forward with a study you're sure is valid and reliable, now that you've learned about all components of research methods. It also should be used as a starting point for your thesis, should you choose to pursue the study. Be sure share it with your advisor.

Exams

There will be two exams for the purpose of objective assessments of your knowledge and understanding of the content discussed in the course. All questions will be essay format. The final exam will be comprehensive of the entire course.

Attendance

Class meetings (either face-to-face or via Collaborate) are mandatory, and each week's attendance is worth 10 points. Should you be unable to meet during the scheduled time, you have the opportunity to view the recorded Collaborate session in order to make up your week's attendance points. In order to receive the attendance points, you must submit via email to the instructor a ½ page summary of the session you watched, including at least one question you have that you would have asked if you had been present. This summary must be submitted before the next scheduled Thursday meeting in order for you to receive attendance points. NO late work will be accepted, so please either submit the summary or accept that you will not receive attendance points for the week.

**Grading Scale**

A	93 - 100%	C	73 - 76%
A-	90 - 92%	C-	70 - 72%
B+	87 - 89%	D+	67 - 69%
B	83 - 86%	D	63 - 66%
B-	80 - 82%	D-	60 - 62%
C+	77 - 79%	F	< 60%

**Late Assignments**

Due to the comprehensive nature of the course, late assignments will not be accepted. Because assignments build upon one another, missing an assignment when it is due can be detrimental to one's understanding of the research process. To accommodate busy schedules, each week's assignments will be made available to students one week before the week's assignments. If an emergency arises that will require an assignment to be turned in late, the student should contact the instructor immediately ([cshoulde@uark.edu](mailto:cshoulde@uark.edu) or 479-575-3977). **Failed technology and busy work schedules are not considered legitimate excuses for late assignments;** please save your work in multiple places, and don't

procrastinate!

**Importance of Writing:**

The ability to write clearly and effectively is an essential characteristic of an educated person. Great ideas, poorly expressed, are of little benefit to society or to you. Because of the importance of effective writing, ALL AECT courses include formal writing assignments. These assignments are graded for grammar, punctuation, organization, clarity of expression, and content. All assignments in this course are subject to this expectation.

**Americans with Disabilities Policy**

The American Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation. All services, programs, and activities at the University are accessible to students with disabilities. If you have a disability that interferes with your potential success in this course, please inform the instructor during the first week of class so special arrangements can be made. To receive special services, you must be registered with the Center for Students with Disabilities. Please contact 479-575-3104 or visit <http://cea.uark.edu> for more information.

**Academic Honesty**

As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own ideas, work, writing, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with the definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you should have the permission of that person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarist destroys the trust among colleagues. As a professional in any communications field plagiarism harms the profession as a whole.

Students are required to comply with all University policies regarding scholastic dishonesty and other issues outlined in the official student rules. Your work on individual assignments and exams must be your own work, but collaborative learning with peers is encouraged in group projects. Appropriate citations for sources used in written assignments are required.

“As a core part of its mission, the University of Arkansas provides students with the opportunity to further their educational goals through programs of study and research in an environment that promotes freedom of inquiry and academic responsibility. Accomplishing this mission is only possible when intellectual honesty and individual integrity prevail.”

“Each University of Arkansas student is required to be familiar with and abide by the University's ‘Academic Integrity Policy’ which may be found at <http://provost.uark.edu>. Students with questions about how these policies apply to a particular course or assignment should immediately contact their instructor.”

**Syllabus Content and Schedule Changes**

The syllabus schedule and content may change at the discretion of the instructor. Such changes will be announced in class.