Course Description
This course is designed to provide students with a quick introduction to the methods, problems, and terminology of graduate research. Because the course is geared toward advanced undergraduate students and is interdisciplinary, we will only touch the surface of the research process and will provide students with a foundation on which to build during their graduate studies. Through the process of writing a research proposal and presenting preliminary research to the class, students will be exposed to the complex area of research, to the library and computer resources available, and to the critical thinking, computer, and writing skills necessary to succeed in graduate school.

Required Readings (PowerPoint slides)
Tayebi, Kandi/Fox, Lydia. Each PowerPoint presentation is available on the SHSU McNair Scholars Program website.
Course Requirements

1. **Research Proposal**: The proposal will include an abstract, statement of the hypothesis, research question or problem, literature review, methodology section, statement of the research problems, and an annotated reference page using appropriate document style sheet.

2. **PowerPoint Presentation**: A 12-minute PowerPoint presentation of preliminary research, including all elements of the research proposal, will be given at the end of the semester. See schedule for dates.

3. **In-Class and Homework Assignments**: You will be expected to complete exercises, including GRE practice tests, working with hypotheses and research questions, preparing IRB paperwork, inputting and manipulating SPSS data, and practicing other skills necessary to complete a research project.

4. **Graduate School Paperwork**: You will be expected to complete the paperwork (application, curriculum vitae, letter of application, etc.) necessary to apply to graduate school.

5. **Research Action Plan (RAP)**: A summary of the research you will be conducting, including a title and short timeline will be submitted to Dr. Fox for review.

6. **GRE Preparation**: You are strongly encouraged to participate in a workshop on GRE preparation (offered through the SAM Center) and GRE practice tests. In-class GRE practice will be provided for three weeks during the semester. Students will be required to take a pre-test, one practice test, and a post-test. Scores must be submitted throughout the semester (see schedule).

7. **Attendance and Class Participation**: Attendance and participation at all class sessions is mandatory. If you will miss a class for any reason, please notify Dr. Fox before class.

Student Absences and Religious Holidays

Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work.

Written Assignments

All written assignments should be typed and double-spaced. Papers should also adhere to the appropriate citation style for your discipline (e.g. MLA, APA). **Late papers will receive a “0”.** Papers that do not meet the minimum page allowance for the assignment will not be accepted.
**Plagiarism**
Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in either an “F” on the paper and/or an “F” in the course.

**Academic Dishonesty**
Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in their academic experiences both in and out of the classroom.

**Classroom Rules of Conduct**
Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. Students are to turn off all cell phones while in the classroom. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination. Students may tape record lectures provided they do not disturb other students in the process.

**Students With Disabilities Policy**
It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center.

**Classroom Visitors**
Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar’s Office.

**Conferences**
You may meet with the professor as many times as you wish. Call or e-mail to schedule an appointment.

**Grading**

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Action Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate Paperwork</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hypothesis and Research Questions</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literature Review</td>
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<td>Abstract</td>
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<td>Oral Presentation</td>
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<td>Proposal</td>
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# CLASS SCHEDULE

## Week One
01-19-17  
Introduction to Course, Research Action Plan

## Week Two
01-24-17  
GRE Pre Test (*Class meets in NGL 157*)
01-26-17  
GRE Prep

## Week Three
**Research Action Plan Due 02-02-17**  
**GRE Pre-test Scores Due 02-02-17**
01-31-17  
GRE Prep
02-02-17  
GRE Prep

## Week Four
02-07-17  
GRE Prep
02-09-17  
GRE Prep

## Week Five
02-14-17  
Applying to Grad School; Grad School Applications
02-16-17  
Grad School Politics; Selecting a Faculty Mentor

## Week Six
**Graduate School Paperwork Due 02-23-17**
02-21-17  
Quantitative/Qualitative Research; Ethics; Hypothesis & Research Questions
02-23-17  
Reading Scholarly Articles

## Week Seven
02-28-17  
Reliability and Validity: Measurement Modalities
03-02-17  
Writing a Proposal; Literature Reviews

## Week Eight
03-07-17  
Writing a Proposal; Literature Reviews
03-09-17  
Research Day (No class)

## Week Nine
**Spring Break**
03-14-17  
No Class
03-16-17  
No Class

## Week Ten
**Hypothesis/Research Question(s) Due 03-23-17**
03-21-17  
GRE Practice Tests (Each student will take one GRE practice test)
03-23-17  
GRE Practice Tests

## Week Eleven
**GRE Practice Test Scores Due 03-30-17**
03-28-17  
SPSS (*Class meets in TBA*)
03-30-17  
IRB Tutorial (*Class meets in TBA*)
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<tr>
<th>Week Twelve</th>
<th><strong>Literature Review Due 04-06-17</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04-04-17</td>
<td>Research Day (no class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>04-06-17</td>
<td>Data Analysis; Writing Abstracts; Presentation Skills</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week Thirteen</th>
<th><strong>Abstract Due 04-13-17</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>04-11-17</td>
<td>Research Day (no class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>04-13-17</td>
<td>Presentations: Poster board; Oral and PowerPoint Presentations</td>
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<th>Week Fourteen</th>
<th><strong>GRE Post-test Scores Due 04-20-17</strong></th>
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<td>04-18-17</td>
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<td>04-20-17</td>
<td>GRE Post Test <em>(Class meets in NGL 157)</em></td>
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<td>05-02-17</td>
<td>Presentations: Research Proposals</td>
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<tr>
<td>05-04-17</td>
<td>Presentations: Research Proposals</td>
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