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 and on Blackboard. (Under Resources)

Course Learning Outcomes

- Write a research proposal.
- Write a rigorous literature review as part of their proposal that includes reading, summarizing, and critically analyzing journal readings on their selected research topic and write a literature review.
- Understand and apply ethical issues related to research.
- Write problem and purpose statements relating to their research topic.
- Write research questions and hypotheses related to their planned research.
- Understand the overall and specific purposes of and differences between quantitative qualitative, and mixed methods approaches to research.
- Design and implement research methodology related to their research questions.
- Become familiar with MLA, APA, Chicago or other style guides for writing a research paper depending on the appropriate style for their discipline and apply the appropriate formatting for their discipline.

2nd year Learning Outcomes

- Write a final paper describing their research results and conclusions that is worthy of publication.
- Present research at a state/regional/national conference.
- Take the GRE and submit scores to the McNair Program.
- Make a plan for application to 5-7 graduate programs and submit applications by application deadlines. Submit copies to McNair Program
- Write a purpose statement for graduate school application.
- Write a curriculum vita for graduate school application.
- Develop collegiality with fellow scholars.

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 (APA, MLA, etc.).
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. 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.
5.
6. **GRE Preparation**: You are strongly encouraged to participate in a workshop on GRE preparation (offered through the Graduate Studies every semester) and GRE practice tests. In-class GRE practice will be provided for three weeks during the semester. Students will be required to take a pretest, one practice test, and a post-test. Scores must be submitted throughout the semester (see Course 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. If you miss a class session, it is your responsibility to make up any missed work. After you miss three classes, your grade will drop one letter grade for every absence after that. **BE PREPARED FOR CLASS!**

**Student Absences and Religious Holidays**

Students can 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Action Plan</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypothesis and Research Questions</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature Review</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposal</td>
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# MCNR 4301
## Class Schedule

### Week One
01-13-22  Introduction to Course, Research Action Plan  
Class location: Evans 212

### Week Two
01-18-22  **GRE Practice Tests Scores Due 01-20-22**  
Class location: Do from home
01-20-22  GRE Prep  
Class location: Evans 105

### Week Three
01-25-22  GRE Prep  
Class location: Evans 212
01-27-22  GRE Prep  
Class location: Evans 105

### Week Four
02-01-22  **Research Action Plan Due 02/01/22**  
Class location: Evans 212
02-03-22  GRE Prep  
Class location: Evans 212

### Week Five
02-08-22  Applying to Grad School; Grad School Applications  
Class location: Evans 212
02-10-22  Grad School Politics; Selecting a Faculty Mentor  
Class location: Evans 212

### Week Six
02-15-22  Grad School Politics; Selecting a Faculty Mentor  
Class location: Evans 212
02-17-22  Quantitative/Qualitative Research; Ethics; Hypothesis & Research Questions  
Class location: Evans 212

### Week Seven
02-22-22  Institutional Review Board (IRB)  
Class location: TBD
02-24-22  Reading Scholarly Articles; Measurement Modalities  
Class location: Evans 212

### Week Eight
03-01-22  Literature Reviews  
Class location: Evans 212
03-03-22  Literature Reviews  
Class location: Evans 212
Week Nine  ** Hypothesis/Research Question(s) Due 03-10-22**
03-08-22  GRE Practice Tests (Each student will take one GRE practice test)
          Class location: Do from home
03-10-22  GRE Practice Tests
          Class location: Do from home

Week Ten  ** Spring Break**
03-15-22  No Class
03-17-22  No Class

Week Eleven
03-22-22  Research day (no class)
03-24-22  SPSS
          Class location: TBD

Week Twelve
03-29-22  Data Analysis; Writing Abstracts; Presentation Skills
          Class location: Evans 212
03-31-22  Presentations: Poster board; Oral and PowerPoint Presentations
          Class location: Evans 212

Week Thirteen  ** Abstract Due 04-07-22 **
04-05-22  Research Day (no class)
04-07-22  Research Day (no class)

Week Fourteen  ** Literature Review Due 04-14-22**
04-12-22  Research Day (no class)
04-14-22  Research Day (no class)

Week Fifteen  ** GRE Practice Tests Scores Due 04-21-22**
04-19-22  GRE Post Test
          Class location: Do from home
04-21-22  Research Day (meet to practice research proposal presentations)

Week Sixteen
04-26-22  Presentations: Research Proposals
          Class location: Evans 212
04-28-22  Presentations: Research Proposals
          Class location: Evans 212

Week Seventeen
05-03-22  Presentations: Research Proposals
          Class location: Evans 212
05-05-22  Presentations: Research Proposals
          Class location: Evans 212

Week Eighteen  ** Research Proposal Due 05-12-22**
05-12-22  Research Proposal Due (Last day of class)