

MCNR 4301-01 Syllabus

CRN 24021

Intro to Research and Grad Studies

Sam Houston State University

McNair Scholars Program

Spring 2023

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Professor	Office	Office Phone	Office Hours	Email
Dr. Kandi Tayebi	EV 406	936-294-1439	By appointment	eng_kat@shsu.edu

Professor	Office	Office Phone	Office Hours	Email
Dr. Lydia C. Fox	FAR 116-G	936-294-3264	By appointment	lcruzfox@shsu.edu

GENERAL INFORMATION

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. Credit Hours: 3. Prerequisites: McNair Scholar.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

1. Write a research proposal.
2. 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.
3. Understand and apply ethical issues related to research.
4. Write problem and purpose statements relating to their research topic.
5. Write research questions and hypotheses related to their planned research.
6. Understand the overall and specific purposes of and differences between quantitative qualitative, and mixed methods approaches to research.
7. Design and implement research methodology related to their research questions.

- Utilize 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.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Tayebi, Kandi/Fox, Lydia. Powerpoint Slides. Each PowerPoint presentation is available on the SHSU McNair Scholars Program website and on Blackboard. (Under Resources).

Kaplan GRE Prep Plus (2023). Kaplan Publishing, New York, NY. ISBN: 978-1506282039

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COURSE

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.).

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 class schedule for dates.

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.

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.

GRE Preparation

You are strongly encouraged to participate in a workshop on GRE preparation (offered through the Graduate School every semester) and to take 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. Test scores must be submitted throughout the semester (see Course Schedule).

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!**

GRADING

Research Action Plan	5 points
Hypothesis and Research Questions	10 points
Literature Review	25 points
Abstract	5 points
Oral Presentation	25 points
Proposal	<u>30 points</u>
Total	100 points

EXTRA CREDIT

There will be no extra credit.

PLAGIARISM

Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. **Please be aware that plagiarized work and any form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will result in either an "F" on the assignment and possible university disciplinary action.**

SHSU Academic Policy 810213 outlines the definition of academic honesty and the related disciplinary procedures. You should also familiarize yourself with Academic Policy Statement 900823, which outlines the procedures for students to file an academic grievance should you wish to appeal your grade for reasons other than academic dishonesty. Please read over these policies. Many of your written assignments are turned into a plagiarism detection program.

WRITTEN WORK

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.

CONFERENCES

You may meet with Dr. Tayebi or Dr. Fox as often as you wish. Our doors are always open. Call or email to schedule an appointment.

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT

Please always show respect for your classmates and instructors, including in discussions.

CHECKING EMAIL

It is essential that you check your email everyday. This way you will know if anything changes and will receive important communication from the McNair program.

INSTRUCTOR EVALUATIONS

You will be asked to fill out a program evaluation at the end of the course.

OTHER POLICIES

Be sure to check out the information on Academic Dishonesty, Student Absences on Religious Holy Days, Students with Disabilities Policy, and Visitors in the Classroom Policy at the following URL: www.shsu.edu/syllabus

We look forward to a terrific semester. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us. You can drop by the office, leave an email, or call. Good Luck!

“To make a dream come true, you must first dream.” –Ronald E. McNair

Class Schedule

IMPORTANT DATES

February 1—Last Date to Drop Without a Q

March 29--Last Date to Drop With a Q

March 13-17—Spring Break

Week One—

1/17

- Introduction to Course
 - Class Location: ABIV 205

1/19

- Research Action Plan Assignment
 - Class Location: ABIV 205

Week Two—*GRE Practice Tests Scores Due 01-26-23*****

1/24

- GRE Prep Test
 - Class Location: Complete at home.

1/26

- GRE Prep
 - Class Location: ABIV 205

Week Three--*Research Action Plan Due 01-31-23*****

1/31

- GRE Prep
 - Class Location: ABIV 205

2/02

- GRE Prep
 - Class Location: ABIV 205

Week Four

2/07

- GRE Prep
 - Class Location: ABIV 205

2/09

- GRE Prep
 - Class Location: ABIV 205

Week Five

2/14

- Applying to Grad School
 - Class Location Evans 212

2/16

- Grad School Politics or How to Survive Graduate School
 - Class Location Evans 212

Week Six

2/21

- Selecting a Faculty Mentor
 - Class Location Evans 212

2/23

- Quantitative/Qualitative Research; Ethics; Hypothesis & Research Questions
 - Class Location: ABIV 205

Week Seven

2/28

- Institutional Review Board (IRB)
 - Class Location: TBD

3/02

- Reading Scholarly Articles; Measurement Modalities
 - Class Location: ABIV 205

Week Eight

3/07

- Literature Reviews
 - Class Location: ABIV 205

3/09

- Literature Reviews
 - Class Location: ABIV 205

Week Nine

3/13-3/19—Spring Break

Week Ten--***Hypothesis/Research Question(s) Due 3/21/23***

3/21

- GRE Practice Tests—Each student will take one practice test.
 - Class Location: Complete from home.

3/23

- GRE Practice Tests
 - Class Location: Complete from home.

Week Eleven

3/28

- Research Day (No Class)

3/30

- SPSS
 - Class Location: TBD

Week Twelve

4/04

- Data Analysis; Writing Abstracts; Presentation Skills
 - Class Location: ABIV 205

4/06

- Presentations; Poster board; Oral and PowerPoint Presentations

- Class Location: ABIV 205

Week Thirteen—*Abstract Due 4/13/23**

4/11

- Research Day (No Class)

4/13

- Research Day (No Class)

Week Fourteen—*Literature Review Due 4/20/23**

4/18

- Research Day (No Class). Practice Presentation.

4/20

- GRE Post Test
 - Class Location: Complete at home.

Week Fifteen--*GRE Practice Test Scores Due 4/27/23**

4/25

- Presentations: Research Proposals
 - Class Location: ABIV 205

4/27

- Presentations: Research Proposals
 - Class Location: ABIV 205

Week Sixteen

5/2

- Presentations: Research Proposals
 - Class Location: ABIV 205

5/4

- Presentations: Research Proposals
 - Class Location: ABIV 205

FINALS Week—*Research Proposals Due 5/11/23*** No Class.**

******This Schedule is subject to change at any time during the semester. Be sure to check your email for any changes.***