

Quantitative Methods and Research SS 221 Fall 2020

August 31, 2020 - December 18, 2020

EMAIL ADDRESS: Beth.Kornreich@dc.edu

REQUIRED COURSE CONTENT: A paper textbook is not required for this course. The McGraw Hill Connect Platform has been integrated into this course on Blackboard and students are required to purchase access to McGraw Hill Connect the first week of the course. McGraw Hill Connect is a web-based assignment and assessment platform and includes access to the e-book: Paul C. Cozby (2020). *Methods in Behavioral Research*, 14th Edition. NY: McGraw-Hill.

The first time you access the McGraw Hill Connect site follow the prompts to register. After registering you can pay for access to the site using a credit card, debit card, or PayPal. If you are unable to pay at the start of the semester you can choose to access McGraw Hill Connect during the free trial period. Please note: At the end of the free trial period, your course access will be suspended until your payment has been made. All your scores and course activity will be saved and will be available to you after you pay for access.

All the readings in this e-book use a technology called LearnSmart. LearnSmart is a program designed to help you learn faster, study smarter and retain more knowledge for greater success. This program will continually adapt to your needs by building an individual learning path. A portion of your grade will be based on your answers to questions in LearnSmart.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES: This course is a survey in elementary research and quantitative methods and provides students with an entry-level preparation in communication and analytical skills in empirical research for courses taken later in social sciences or in other related discipline/professional areas. Emphasis is on the history of scientific methods; skills in literature research, writing, and interpretation; hypothesis formulation; experimental and non-experimental research designs; field and laboratory observations; validity; and ethical issues.

As a course in GEC I, SS221 focuses on providing students with general skills in the areas of communication and analysis needed as a foundation for successfully completing higher stages of baccalaureate-level course work. If this class is required of you, it is because your major recognizes that, for you to interpret and apply the findings in your field, you need to have a basic understanding of the mechanics of research.

When you are finished with this course you should have a general understanding of different ways to collect research, ethics issues, and the many complexities involved in conducting research such as sampling procedures and potential internal validity problems. You should also be able to perform scientific literature searches using library resources such as online databases. Importantly, you should have improved critical thinking skills and possess the ability to interpret, at a basic level, the primary elements in published social science research (e.g., hypotheses, rationale, & results).

LEARNSMART:

All chapter reading assignments will be read via McGraw Hill Connect LearnSmart program. As you read through the chapters there will be questions to test your comprehension and enhance your retention. You will receive a grade for each chapter reading assignment.

QUIZZES:

Chapter Quizzes are multiple choice and are due by 11:00 pm Saturday.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Weekly discussion questions are intended to encourage you to engage in dialogue with your classmates. Provide thoughtful and thorough responses to the discussion question/activity by Wednesday at 11:00 pm. To contribute to the process of learning, you must post a comment on one other student's post. These responses must be posted by Saturday at 11:00 pm. (Except when otherwise indicated). Your grade will be based on the following dimensions of effective in-class participation:

- Cognitive (logic, knowledge, creativity)
 - Have you integrated the weekly readings or course material into your response?
 - Is your response logical?
 - Is your response written creatively in a way that captures the reader's attention?
- Expressive (clarity, fluency, conciseness)
 - Does your response have spelling or grammatical errors?
 - Is your response concise? Have you used the least amount of words possible to express your thoughts?
 - Is your response understandable?
- Affective (enthusiasm, attention, and demonstrated interest)
 - Does your response demonstrate your personal interest in the question?
 - Have you applied the course material to observations outside of the course?
 - Do you seem enthusiastic about learning something new?
- Contribution to the process of learning (relevance, insight, thoughtfulness of participation)
 - This component is based on your response to a classmate's post (Due by Saturday at 11:00 pm)
 - Simply agreeing or telling your classmate that it is a good post isn't enough to get points for this category.
 - Have you demonstrated critical thinking?
 - Have you found a flaw in the logic? A mistake in how the classmate applied the material.
 - Can you provide an additional example or an additional clarification (this cannot be the same as your original post)
 - Can you pose an additional thoughtful question that will encourage others to continue this discussion?

HOMEWORK:

The weekly homework assignments are designed to relate key points in the chapter to information in a published journal article. Be sure to integrate the course material into your submission. **DO NOT EMAIL ME YOUR ASSIGNMENTS.** All assignments must be uploaded via the Turnitin link provided. Be sure to get a confirmation receipt indicating you uploaded your assignment prior to the due date.

FINAL PAPER: CRITICAL CONSUMER OF RESEARCH

You will be required to read and critique 2 news article with provocative headlines using the 4 components of Validity (External, Internal, Construct and Statistical). Your paper should be 5-7 pages long and will be evaluated based on both writing style and your ability to demonstrate an understanding of the main components of validity and ability to apply them. Additional information about this paper can be found in the week 16 content folder on Blackboard.

FINAL GRADES:

6 Homework Assignments: 5 points each (10% of final grade)

14 Chapter Quizzes: 10 points each (30% of final grade)

14 LearnSmart Reading Assignments: 10 points each (40% of final grade)

7 Discussion Questions: 4 points each (10% of final grade)

Final Paper: 10 points (10% of final grade)

GRADING POLICY:

Percentage	Equivalent Grade
96-100	A
92-95	A -
88-91	B +
84-87	B
80-83	B -
76-79	C +
72-75	C
68-71	C -
64-67	D +
60-63	D

Less than 60	F
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ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

It is against the academic rules of the college to cheat or plagiarize. Any requirement for this class that is found in violation of this rule will be given a 0 (there will be no extra credit, nor will you be given the chance to redo the assignment). Both plagiarism and cheating will go on your permanent record in the Office of the Academic Dean.

Plagiarism includes copying and pasting or typing directly from any source, rewriting information found in another source without proper citation, using a paper you used in another class, or copying any other student's work.

All assignments are processed through plagiarism detection software. A student who has been found to cheat on an exam or plagiarize a source for an assignment will receive an F for that assignment.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

Individuals who have disabilities, either permanent or temporary, affecting their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to speak the Offices of Special Services (845-848-4035) or the Learning Resource Center and inform the professor PRIOR TO THE start of the semester. Accommodations will be made. It is student's responsibility to remind the professor before every assignment requiring accommodations that such actions are necessary.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
Week 1	Scientific Understanding of Behavior	Post on the Icebreaker forum Read Chapter 1 Chapter 1 Quiz Discussion Question: Scientific Skepticism
Week 2	Studying and Measuring Behavior	Read Chapter 2 Chapter 2 Quiz Social Science Palooza HW
Week 3	Ethics in Behavioral Research	Read Chapter 3 Chapter 3 Quiz Discussion Question: Research Ethics
Week 4	Fundamental Research Issues	Read Chapter 4 Chapter 4 Quiz Negative Expectations HW
Week 5	Measurement Concepts	Read Chapter 5 Chapter 5 Quiz Student Perceptions of Teaching Evaluations HW
Week 6	Observational Methods	Read Chapter 6 Chapter 6 Quiz Discussion Question: Qualitative vs Quantitative Research Questions
Week 7	Survey Research	Read Chapter 7 Chapter 7 Quiz I got your back HW
Week 8	Experimental Design	Read Chapter 8 Chapter 8 Quiz Discussion Question: Between Subjects Designs vs. Repeated Measures Designs

Week 9	Conducting Experiments	Read Chapter 9 Chapter 9 Quiz Does Superstition Improve Performance HW
Week 10	Complex Experimental Design	Read Chapter 10 Chapter 10 Quiz Discussion Question: Factorial Designs
Week 11	Single Case, Quasi Experimental and Developmental Research	Read Chapter 11 Chapter 11 Quiz Discussion Question: Quasi Experimental Designs
Week 12	Understanding Research: Description and Correlation	Read Chapter 12 Chapter 12 Quiz Reducing Sexual Violence on Campus HW
Week 13	Thanksgiving Break	
Week 14	Understanding Research Results: Statistical Inference	Read Chapter 13 Chapter 13 Quiz Discussion Question: Type 1 and Type II errors
Week 15	Generalization	Read Chapter 14 Chapter 14 Quiz
December 18	Final Paper Due by 5:00 pm	No Late Papers Accepted!