

SSC284 Social Science Research



Pathways

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For the Acadeum Course Sharing Consortium



We're delighted to have you study at RMC! Please note the following policies:

We try our best to ensure you get the most from the courses in which you are enrolled and welcome your feedback!

Online Courtesy

As beings created in the image of God, we all deserve to be treated with the utmost respect whether we are a facilitator or a student. Online courses give us the opportunity to encourage social interaction, relationship building and trust between participants which befits our status as image-bearers. Failure to show respect in course interchange, through emails, announcements, discussion forums or instant chat, whether in the form of racism, chauvinism or simple unkindness is ungracious and inappropriate for the health of Christian community. Where mutual respect exists, the possibility of learning is enhanced for all.

Therefore, please remember that there is a person behind every comment on the course website – when you respond, be gracious, give the benefit of the doubt and ask for clarification. Review your comments in the discussion forums for tone before submitting them – sarcasm and jokes often do not translate well in the online environment. Be sure your messages are clear – it is tempting to quickly write a response and submit it but this can lead to confusion if your thoughts are a bit jumbled – take time to polish your remarks. Remember that your comments, whether in emails or discussion forums can become public so act accordingly.

RMC Grading Policy

Grade GradePoint

| | | |
|----|------|---|
| A+ | 4.0 | |
| A | 4.0 | A = Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter. |
| A– | 3.7 | |
| B+ | 3.3 | |
| B | 3.0 | B = Good - clearly above average performance with knowledge of the subject matter generally complete. |
| B– | 2.7 | |
| C+ | 2.3 | |
| C | 2.0 | C = Satisfactory — basic understanding of subject matter. |
| C– | 1.7 | |
| D+ | 1.3 | |
| D | 1.0 | D = Inferior work which falls below the expectations of the course but which is of passing quality. |
| D– | 0.7 | |
| F | 0.0 | F = Failure to meet the minimum standards required for a passing grade. |
| P | Pass | P = Represents satisfactory work. Given only in courses specially designated for Pass /Fail grading. |
| IN | | Incomplete |
| VW | | Voluntary Withdrawal from a course before the course withdrawal deadline. |

Grading Scale

| | | |
|-----------|---------|----------|
| A+ 97-100 | A 93-96 | A- 89-92 |
| B+ 85-88 | B 80-84 | B- 76-79 |
| C+ 72-75 | C 67-71 | C- 60-66 |
| D 55-59 | F 0-54 | |

Plagiarism & Academic Misconduct at Rocky Mountain College

A. Plagiarism Defined

Plagiarism - involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Plagiarism exists when:

1. the work submitted was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting the work,
2. parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
3. the whole work is copied from another source, and/or
4. a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence.

B. Penalties

1. **Failing Grade** - a student may be given a failing grade in either the assignment or course in which that student is found guilty of plagiarism. Except in circumstances in which leniency is warranted, this penalty will be applied in conjunction with one or other of the other penalties mentioned below.
2. **Disciplinary Probation** - when a student is placed on disciplinary probation, he or she is entitled to proceed with their academic program. If the student is found guilty of a further academic offence the student will be suspended or expelled.
3. **Suspension** - suspension takes place when a student is denied continuance at the college for a specified period of time. A student who has been placed under suspension is eligible to reapply for admission after the end of that specified period of time. Suspension does not imply automatic readmission; a student must satisfy the dean of his/her eligibility for readmission.
4. **Expulsion** - a student who is expelled is dismissed permanently from the college with no right to apply for readmission.

C. Penalties and Their Application

1. In cases in which the dean is satisfied that a student is guilty of a clear intention to deceive, the normal penalty will be either suspension or expulsion from the college.
2. In cases in which the dean is satisfied that an offence has been committed, but doubt is left as to the existence of a clear intention to deceive, the normal penalty will be disciplinary probation.
3. In cases where a student is found guilty of more than a single offence, the normal penalty will be expulsion from the college.

Copies of the official policy regarding Plagiarism and other academic offenses can be found on the RMC website. If charged with plagiarism, it would be wise for a student to familiarize themselves with the RMC policy, "Plagiarism, Cheating & Academic Misconduct."

This policy is based on the University of Calgary policy "Plagiarism, Cheating & Academic Misconduct - 1996-97" Copyright © 1998 University of Calgary

SSC284 Social Science Research (online)
Rocky Mountain College
Credits: 3

Course Description

This course introduces students to the basics of conducting and understanding research methodologies used throughout the social sciences. Using lecture based instruction and hands-on application of the course material, this course will enable students to understand, use, and conduct research across a multitude of disciplines.

Course Objectives

- Understand the basic research methodologies used within the social sciences
- Understand the research process and apply it to a relevant topic
- Utilize research findings found in everyday life
- Gain a practical understanding of research through hands-on activities

Required Text

Babbie E. The Basics of Social Research. (6th ed.) Wadsworth, Cengage Learning 2014.

Course Outline

| Module | Time (hours) | Textbook Reading | Assignment Due |
|--------|--------------|---|--|
| 1 | 5 | Chapter one: Human inquiry and science | Quiz review Discussion: Homelessness Discussion: Research Questions Short answer questions |
| 2 | 5 | Chapter two: Paradigms, theory and research | Quiz review Discussion: Inductive reasoning Short essay: Inductive and deductive reasoning |
| 3 | 5 | Chapter four: Research design | Quiz review Discussion: Variables Short essay: Time dimension Final paper hypothesis |
| 4 | 5 | Chapter five: Conceptualization, operationalization and measurement | Quiz review Discussion: Concepts of happiness Quiz: Levels of measurement |
| 5 | 5 | Chapter seven: The logic of sampling | Quiz review Discussion: Sample of homelessness Short essay: Sampling examples Final paper literature review |

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|----|---|--|---|
| 6 | 5 | Chapter eight: Experiments | Quiz review Discussion: Experiment validity Short essay: Designing an experiment |
| 7 | 5 | Chapter nine: Survey research | Quiz review Discussion: Survey design Assignment: Survey design |
| 8 | 5 | Chapter ten: Qualitative field research | Quiz review Discussion: Experiences of a field researcher Short answer questions Final paper survey distribution |
| 9 | 5 | Chapter eleven: Unobtrusive research | Quiz review Discussion: Content analysis in action Short essay: Using existing statistics |
| 10 | 5 | Chapter fourteen: Quantitative data analysis | Quiz review Discussion: Data analysis Assignment: Survey analysis Final paper |

Course Requirements and Grading

A. 10 Review Quizzes:

- Each module will begin with a short quiz covering the material from required reading in your textbook.

B. Module Assignments:

- Each module will contain an assignment related to the material covered in the module. Each assignment will be worth 3%

C. Research Paper (12-15 pages):

- Write a full research paper on a topic of your choice in the social sciences including the following sections:

- Abstract
- Introduction
- Literature Review
- Methods
- Findings
- Discussion
- References

Course Grade

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| 10 Quizzes (3% each) | 30% |
| Module assignments | 30% |

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Research Paper | 30% |
| Participation | 10% |

RMC uses APA style for all courses. Our latest style guidelines are available on our website (rockymountaincollege.ca under “Resources” – “RMC Writing Support”)