Course Number:  RADS 3503 x11  3 credits  Fall 2010
Course Title:  Research
Faculty:
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Course Overview:
An introduction to methods and techniques of research in the radiologic sciences and the
application of the APA format. Topics include basic terminology of research, qualitative and
quantitative methods, basic research designs, data analysis techniques, and definition of a
literature review.

Please note that the research question you use for this course, RADS 3503, is the question that
you must write your literature review on for RADS 4913, Applied Research!

Course Objectives:  Upon completion of this course, students will:
- Describe quantitative and qualitative research, as well as literature reviews;
- Critically analyze research; and
- Construct components of research in correct APA format.

Textbooks:


Teaching Strategies:
Independent reading assignments for each unit, application assignments, and WebCT open book
unit quizzes.
Attendance:
This is an online course and there are no mandatory sessions. However, the student should be vigilant in logging onto WebCT. Regular checks will insure that messages from the instructor are received in a timely manner. This course is on a schedule that will be strictly adhered to; See the Course Schedule for specific information about activities and due dates.

The instructor will be available to meet face-to-face with any interested students on August 24 at 7pm. This meeting is optional and must be confirmed by email ahead of time with the instructor.

Special Needs:
In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable adjustments in its policies, practices, services, and facilities to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational programs and activities.

The Office of Disability Services (ODS) provides information and assistance, arranges accommodations, and serves as a liaison for students, instructors, and staff. The ODS has assistive devices such as books on tape, recorders, and adaptive software which can be loaned to qualified individuals. A student/employee who seeks accommodations on the basis of disability must register with the Office of Disability Services in the Counseling Center, Clark Student Center Room 108. Documentation of disability from a competent professional is required.

Individuals with grievances related to discrimination or lack of accommodation on the basis of a disability are encouraged to resolve the problem directly with the area involved. If the matter remains unresolved, advice and/or assistance will be provided by the Office of Disability Services for resolution. The grievance procedure may be found in the Student Handbook and Activities Calendar.

The Director of the Counseling Center serves as the ADA Coordinator and may be contacted at (940)397-4618, TDD (940)397-4515, or 3410 Taft Blvd., Clark Student Center Room 108.

Evaluation:

U.1: Research Question (AD & DB) 10%
U.1: Article Critiques (AD) 10%
U.2: Reference List (DB) 20%
U.2: Methodology Section (AD) 10%
U.3: Quantitative v Qualitative (DB) 10%
U.3: Quant. v Qual. Quiz 10%
U.4: Article Critiques 20%
U.4: Publication (DB) 10%

Discussion board activity = (DB)   Assignment dropbox = (AD)

Grade Scale:
A = 100 - 90
B = 89 - 80
C = 79 - 70
D = 69 – 60
F = 59 and below

The last opportunity to drop this course with a grade of “W” is 4:00pm October 18, 2010. Refer to the Undergraduate Bulletin for details about receiving a grade of “Incomplete” in a course. In an emergency or extenuating circumstance, a student may request a grade of “Incomplete” in a course before grades are submitted. If the instructor grants the “Incomplete,” the student has until thirty (30) days after the beginning of the next long semester to complete the course requirements. If the student does not complete the course requirements within the deadline, the grade of “Incomplete” will automatically convert into a grade of “F.”
Administrative Process:

Unresolved issues related to this course should be first addressed between the student and the course instructor. If there is no resolution, students must follow this sequence:
Department Chair – Dr. Donna Wright (940-397-4615)
College Dean – Dr. Susan Sportsman (940-397-4594)
Dean of Students – Dail Neely (940-397-6273)

Honor System:

RADS 3503 adheres to the MSU Code of Conduct. In particular, academic dishonesty, however small, creates a breach in academic integrity. A student’s participation in this course comes with the expectation that his or her work will be completed in full observance of the MSU Code of Student Conduct. A student should consult the current Student Handbook for answers to any questions about the code.

Many components of RADS 3503 are designed to be highly interactive with students helping each other learn. Students are encouraged to take full advantage of many resources available including online WebCT course resources, Internet sites, other textbooks and journals, faculty, and peers when answering objectives. This interactive collegial learning environment is conducive for life-long learning.

All components of RADS 3503 are designed to represent the efforts of each student INDIVIDUALLY and are NOT to be shared or copied (plagiarized) from other sources. When students submit their efforts for grading, they are attesting they abided by this rule.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to, (1) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (2) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or completing other assignments; or (3) the acquisition of tests or other academic materials belonging to the university faculty or staff without permission.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the use of, by paraphrase or direct quotation without correct citation in the text and on the reference list, the published or unpublished works of another person. Students may NOT submit papers and assignments that they have previously submitted for this or other courses. The use of materials generated by agencies engaged in "selling" term papers is also plagiarism. Students are encouraged to review the tutorials and suggested websites for more information about plagiarism. Papers and other assignments may be submitted to an external agency for verification of originality and authenticity.

Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) will not be tolerated in this class. Whenever a student is unsure of whether a particular situation will be interpreted as academic dishonesty, he/she should ask the instructor for clarification. If students are guilty of academic dishonesty, a grade of zero (0) will be given for the quiz, assignment, etc. Cases may also be referred to the Dean of Students for possible dismissal from the university.

PLEASE NOTE

By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a “limited right” in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The “limited right” shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student’s work product in order to verify originality and authenticity, and for educational purposes. Specifically, faculty may submit student papers and assignments to an external agency to verify originality and authenticity, and to detect for plagiarism.
Communication with Instructor:
Contact information for the instructor is listed at the beginning of this syllabus. Email is the preferred mode of communication. **Students must use their standardized MSU Student email for correspondence about this course.** Students are responsible for updating their WebWorld information with this email address. Students must indicate the preferred email in WebWorld as well.

Faculty members will not be responsible for keeping up with other email addresses for students.

The instructor will respond or at least acknowledge email messages from students within a maximum of five (5) business days when MSU is in session. Beyond standard university holidays and breaks, the instructor will notify students of any extended periods of time when email contact is not practical (professional meetings, etc).

When emailing the instructor, you must use the following subject header:

\[3503\_your\_last\_name\_topic\_of\_message\]

**Example:** 3503_Smith_Quiz 4

The instructor will post announcements on Blackboard. It is imperative that students log on weekly so that important announcements are not missed.

When there is a need to contact students, the instructor will use the students’ “students.mwsu.edu” email account. The instructor is not responsible for sending emails to any other email account.

**CLASS ACTIVITIES AND ASSIGNMENTS**

The overall goal of this course is to teach you the basic methods of research that will enable you to evaluate the quality of research studies found in professional scholarly journals. In order to accomplish this goal, you must be familiar with the technical jargon of research and have some understanding of how the researcher carried out the study, analyzed the data, and arrived at the published results. You will not be required to do an actual research project, but you will be developing a reference list, evaluating published research, and learning the content associated with research methods.

**Independent Reading Assignments**

Students should complete the reading assignments as outlined in the Unit Notes, answer the chapter worksheets, and review the Internet resources before attempting the unit activities. See the Course Schedule at the end of this syllabus for specific information about unit activity due dates.
Unit Assignments

Unit 1:

- Research and formulate a research question. Complete the Research Question Development worksheet. Post your proposed research question to the appropriate discussion board. Also, provide a valuable, constructive critique of two other submitted research questions. Based on feedback provided by your peers, complete the Research Question Development worksheet and submit it to the appropriate assignment dropbox.
- Locate and evaluate the three identified research articles (full text) applying the principles covered in Bailey’s Chapter 3 & 4 and Sections 2 & 5 of the APA manual. Complete the (U1) article critique form for each article and submit as a single Word Document to the appropriate assignment dropbox.

Unit 2:

- Develop a reference list in APA (6th ed.) format. Post the list to the appropriate discussion board for peer review and provide a valuable, constructive response to two other submitted reference lists.
  - Based on peer feedback (if applicable), review the reference list and submit the final version to the appropriate assignment dropbox.
- Based on your approved research question and your reference list, construct a methodology section to include the following: databases used, search terms, methods for article inclusion, and limiters. Provide your written response in the submission box of the assignment dropbox.

Unit 3:

- Complete the open-book quiz. The quiz may be attempted twice before the deadline and the highest grade will be recorded.
- Prepare a written response to a provide scenario located in the discussion board. Also, provide a valuable, constructive response to two other submitted answers.
Unit 4:

- Evaluate two articles identified on the reference list submitted in Unit 2. Complete the (U4) article critique form for each article and submit as a single Word Document to the appropriate assignment dropbox.
- Identify a peer-reviewed journal that would be a fit for the manuscript that would result from your study. Provide a written response addressing the following: your approved research question, outline of your proposed manuscript, the journal title you would submit to, the writing style required by that journal, the submission requirements, and a brief explanation of why you think this journal would be a good fit for your study manuscript. Provide your written response in the submission box of the assignment dropbox.

Activity Notes

Any assignments submitted electronically as a Word document attachment must follow these guidelines:

- IBM compatible format (not MAC)
- Word 97 or newer version (Microsoft WORKS or WordPerfect is not acceptable)
- Times New Roman (12 point for bulk of text)
- Double spaced
- 1” margins on all sides

If a student cannot meet these requirements for electronic submission, he or she should meet individually with the faculty member to make other suitable arrangements.

All assignments must reflect baccalaureate level effort. Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments must be submitted as a single Word document attachment to the appropriate assignment dropbox. Assignments must be submitted by the due dates indicated at the end of the syllabus. Due to the nature of the course, late assignment submissions will not be accepted. **Students who do not submit assignments before the deadlines listed on the Course Schedule at the end of this syllabus will receive a grade of zero for the missed assignment.**

Students must use the following format as the title of assignment when saving the document.

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Lastname_assignment
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**Example: Jones_Unit1**

If students have technical difficulties during a quiz (or assignment submission), they should use the “Help” link at the top toolbar in WebCT, contact the MSU Information Systems Support Staff, and send an email to the course instructor explaining what happened. If a student finds a faulty quiz test item or believes that a quiz question has been scored incorrectly, he or she should send an email to the course instructor that includes the following:

- Unit Quiz Number (I –VI)
- Question Stem
- Answer Scored as Correct by the Computer
- Answer the Student Thinks Should be Correct
- Rationale Supporting Why the Student’s Answer is Correct
- Page numbers must be included when referencing the textbook in a rationale
For example, a student cannot send the message “I think question number ten is wrong on quiz four” because each student gets a quiz of randomly generated test items. The instructor has to know the question stem to find the question in the database.

After reviewing the case, if the course instructor thinks a revision is justified, the student’s quiz score will be revised to reflect the additional points and the test bank will be updated. It may take several weeks for the student to receive a response because the instructor works on batches of questions for a particular quiz at a time.
## Fall 2010 COURSE DUE DATES

*Note: These are Central Times and are due by 11:00pm on the indicated date, unless otherwise noted.*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 21</td>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 30</td>
<td>Post Research Question to Discussion Board (DB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 6</td>
<td>Research Questions Peer Responses on DB</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 13</td>
<td>Research Question Development Worksheet (AD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 20</td>
<td>Submit Article Critiques to Assignment Dropbox (AD)</td>
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<td>September 27</td>
<td>Submit Methodology Assignment to AD</td>
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<td>Submit Reference List to DB</td>
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<td>October 4</td>
<td>Reference List Peer Responses on DB</td>
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<td>October 11</td>
<td>Final Reference List to AD</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 18</td>
<td>Submit Quantitative/Qualitative Quiz (40 questions, 1 hour)</td>
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<td>October 25</td>
<td>Post Quantitative/Qualitative Assignment to DB</td>
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<td>November 1</td>
<td>Quant/Qual Peer Responses on DB</td>
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<td>November 8</td>
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<td>November 15</td>
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<td>November 22</td>
<td>Submit Article Critiques to AD</td>
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<td>November 29</td>
<td>Post Publication Assignment to DB</td>
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<td>December 6</td>
<td>Post Publication Peer Responses on DB</td>
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