

ARIZONA WESTERN COLLEGE
SYLLABUS

PSY 290 INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

Credit Hours: 4 Lec 4 Lab 1

PREREQUISITE: SOC 101 and PSY 101

PREREQUISITE OR COREQUISITE PSY 230/MAT 270

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course serves as an introduction to the scientific methods most often used in the social sciences. It includes both lecture and hands-on laboratory experiences. This course requires significant writing and uses the SPSS statistical package.

1. COURSE GOALS

- 1.1 Think critically about the research encountered in everyday life.
- 1.2 Develop research questions and testable hypotheses in order to plan, execute, analyze, and write about social science research.

2. OUTCOMES

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 2.1 develop testable research questions and hypotheses.
- 2.2 find reliable research information about a topic.
- 2.3 demonstrate understanding about which design is best suited to each particular research problem and why by applying their knowledge of design in evaluating a variety of research problems.
- 2.4 critique research methods encountered in the text and in life.
- 2.5 collect data, enter it into a statistical program, choose analyses, interpret results, and create reports.
- 2.6 identify and apply important concepts in research such as ethics, representative sampling, validity, and reliability.
- 2.7 appraise the cultural context of samples, research hypotheses and designs.
- 2.8 demonstrate an awareness of the historical context of social science research by creating and evaluating presentations of unethical experiments
- 2.9 think critically about research ethics and apply their thoughts to real life ethical dilemmas
- 2.10 employ the statistical package.
- 2.11 demonstrate their knowledge of the Belmont and Nuremburg codes by critiquing or analyzing unethical experiments and correctly answering test questions about the codes.

3. AWC GENERAL EDUCATION (GE) CATEGORY & CRITERIA

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

- The importance of understanding and respecting cultures through social, family, historical, political events and/or processes using social scientific theories, methods, principles, and/or perspectives
- How to apply social scientific methods of inquiry to generate knowledge about human behavior within individuals, societies, and across cultural groups
- The diversity of human development for individuals and/or social groups, including behaviors across time, culture, and historic/social/political/economic contexts
- The interactions among human thought, behavior, relationships, and actions through the lens of social scientific analytic frameworks
- The challenges of understanding the diverse natures of individuals and cultural groups who live together in a complex and evolving world

- How to think critically to better understand the range of human experience through time and to navigate stressful challenges inherent in the human condition
- How to investigate social consequences or large-scale and group economic, technological, scientific, political, ecological, and cultural change
- The importance of global awareness, intercultural knowledge, and intellectual humility, objectivity, and/or curiosity, by situating cultural, social, and/or intellectual artifacts in a diverse range of cultural, historical, and intellectual contexts

4. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- 4.1 Lecture and readings
- 4.2 Instructional technology
- 4.3 Group laboratory experiments
- 4.4 Use of statistical package
- 4.5 Library and internet searches related to research methodology

5. LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 5.1 Assignments
- 5.2 Lectures
- 5.3 Discussions
- 5.4 Laboratories
- 5.5 Research project and class presentation
- 5.6 Collection, entry and analysis of data using a computer statistical package such as SPSS for Windows.
- 5.7 Computer generated essays and spreadsheets (revised)
- 5.8 Use of computer programs such as Blackboard, SPSS, MS Word, PowerPoint

6. EVALUATIONS

- 6.1 Learning activities
- 6.2 Exams
- 6.3 Assignments

7. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- 7.1 Under AWC Policy, students are expected to attend every session of class in which they are enrolled.
- 7.2 If a student is unable to attend the course or must drop the course for any reason, it will be the responsibility of the student to withdraw from the course. Students who are not attending as of the 45th day of the course may be withdrawn by the instructor. If the student does not withdraw from the course and fails to complete the requirements of the course, the student will receive a failing grade.
- 7.3 Americans with Disabilities Act Accommodations: Arizona Western College provides academic accommodations to students with disabilities through AccessABILITY Resource Services (ARS). ARS provides reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students who have documented disabilities. It is the responsibility of the student to make the ARS Coordinator aware of the need for accommodations in the classroom prior to the beginning of the semester. Students should follow up with their instructors once the semester begins. To make an appointment call the ARS front desk at (928) 344-7674 or ARS Coordinator at (928) 344-7629, in the College Community Center (3C) building, next to Advising.
- 7.4 Academic Integrity: Any student participating in acts of academic dishonesty—including, but not limited to, copying the work of other students, using unauthorized “crib notes”, plagiarism, stealing tests, or forging an instructor’s signature—will be subject to the procedures and consequences outlined in AWC’s Student Code of Conduct.
- 7.5 Texts and Notebooks: Students are required to obtain the class materials for the course.

- 7.6 Arizona Western College students are expected to attend every class session in which they are enrolled. To comply with Federal Financial Aid regulations (34 CFR 668.21), Arizona Western College (AWC) has established an Attendance Verification process for "No Show" reporting during the first 10 days of each semester.
- Students who have enrolled but have never attended class may be issued a "No Show" (NS) grade by the professor or instructor and receive a final grade of "NS" on their official academic record. An NS grade may result in a student losing their federal financial aid.
- For online classes, *student attendance in an online class is defined as the following* (FSA Handbook, 2012, 5-90):
- Submitting an academic assignment
 - Taking an exam, an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction
 - Attending a study group that is assigned by the school
 - Participating in an online discussion about academic matters
 - Initiating contact with a faculty member to ask a question about the academic subject studied in the course