

## **NRES 750 Human Dimensions Research Methods: Proposal Writing**

**Fall 2019**

### **Instructor:**

Dr. Brenda Lackey, Professor of Environmental Education/Interpretation  
Phone: (715) 346-2076; Email: [brenda.lackey@uwsp.edu](mailto:brenda.lackey@uwsp.edu)

### **Course Description:**

This course will help you understand more about social science research with an overview of research methods, examination of relevant literature, and the development of a research proposal related to human dimensions in natural resources.

### **Course Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will be able to identify and apply knowledge regarding research procedures, human dimensions in natural resources literature and the implications for non-formal environmental education and interpretation, and natural resource planning and policy.
2. Students will be able to prepare a prospectus describing a research project that may be completed for their M.S. degree.

### **Course Goal**

The goal of this course is to help students develop a research proposal that contains three chapters and bibliography.

**Text: The Essential Guide to Doing Your Research Project (2017), 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.** by Zina O'Leary  
**Companion Website:** <https://study.sagepub.com/oleary3e>

### **Participation & Attendance:**

Active participation will be weighed heavily when the instructor assigns a grade.  
Participation online will be evaluated based on consistent, timely and quality postings for discussion components of the course.

### **Grading:**

Grades will be determined on the following basis...

- A. Written Summary of Research 10%
- B. Assignments and Participation 40%
- C. Research Prospectus 50%

A	93-100%	C	73-76%
A-	90-92%	C-	70-72%
B+	87-89%	D+	67-69%
B	83-86%	D	60-66%
B-	80-82%	F	<60%
C+	77-79%		

### Course Expectations and Guidelines:

These guidelines will help you to succeed in this course:

1. This course is fully online so you will need a computer and access to a high speed internet connection.
2. Please read all of the introduction and orientation information in the Canvas program <https://uws.instructure.com/enroll/FNRAL8>. This is a helpful resource for familiarizing yourself with how to navigate through the course platform.
3. We will use Canvas to provide the organization for course content. Updated information will be posted in the “Announcements” section.
4. Email the course instructor when you have any questions or concerns about the course at [brenda.lackey@uwsp.edu](mailto:brenda.lackey@uwsp.edu)
5. Routine and consistent participation is very important throughout the course. Some assignments will require reading and reflecting, or will involve discussions with your colleagues, while other assignments will ask you to post a written assignment.
6. Assignments turned in beyond the DUE date (at midnight) will result in points deducted each day the assignment is late.

### Class Assignments:

#### Week 1 (Sept. 3 - 8)

- Read “Comments from Dr. Lackey” and look over the “Course Syllabus”
- View Video Blog – <https://studysites.sagepub.com/oleary2e/main.htm> an introduction from author Zina O’Leary (companion website)
- Text Reading Assignment: Chapters 1-3 in O’Leary textbook (Go to Companion Website and see summary for each chapter)
- Discussion #1A: - Get To Know Your Classmates
- Discussion #1B: - You and Research

**Week 2 (Sept. 9 - 15)**

- Text Reading Assignment Chapter 5 & 6 and view summaries
- Concept mapping to generate research project ideas
- Discussion #2: Share Your Project Ideas
- Become familiar with the library as a research tool  
<http://libraryguides.uwsp.edu/de?hs=a>
- Review literature related to project interests

**Week 3 (Sept. 16 - 22)**

- Research Question Assignment: Develop a research question
- Review guidelines for reporting about an article
- Annotated bibliography introduced

**Week 4 (Sept. 23 – 29)**

- Text Reading Assignment Chapter 4 and view summaries
- CITI IRB Training
- Share research question with advisor and others
- Continue reading related literature to include in proposal

**Week 5 (Sept. 30 – Oct. 6)**

- Draft Proposal: Begin draft of Chapter 1 of proposal (research question, objectives, hypothesis\*, limitations/delimitations, abbreviations, justification for project)
- Text Reading Assignment: Read Chapter 7 in textbook and view website companion summary

**Week 6 (Oct. 7 - 13)**

- Discussion #3: Research Reports
- Chapter 1 Draft Assignment: Draft of Chapter 1
- Text Reading Assignment: Read Chapter 8 in textbook and view website companion summary

**Week 7 (Oct. 14-20)**

- Discussion #4: Research Reports
- Literature Review Outline Assignment: Provide an outline with articles and sources for Literature Review (refereed and gray literature) for Chapter 2 of the proposal

**Week 8 (Oct. 21-27)**

- Discussion #5: Research Reports
- Discussion #6: Share Research Plans
- CITI IRB Training Completed

**Week 9 (Oct. 28 – Nov. 3)**

- Outline tasks needed to address research objectives in preparation
- Determine the research approach (more quant., qual., mixed)
- Chapter 3 Draft Assignment: Submit a draft of Chapter 3 Methods

**Week 10 (Nov. 4-10)**

- Annotated Bibliography Assignment DUE

**Week 11 (Nov. 11-17)**

- Review timeline in Companion Website
- Discussion #7: Share Draft Proposal
- Text Reading Assignment: Chapter 15

**Week 12 & 13 (Nov. 18- Dec. 6) – Work on Final Proposal Paper**

**(Dec. 6 Final Proposal Paper DUE)**

## ASSIGNMENTS

**Discussions on Canvas (10 pts/each)**: These assignments encourage interaction with other classmates. You will be graded on your initial response to the discussion question, as well as your thoughtful replies to other classmate's postings.

**Written Summary of Research (25 pts)** - Each participant will select a research article from a refereed journal related to environmental education, interpretation, wildlife education, or natural resource administration and policy which has implications for your research project. You will submit a one-page summary of the research reviewed which includes the complete citation, an abstract of the study and clearly stated implications. Please address the items in the attached "Research Report Recommendations" below. Place the written summary on the Discussion Board for classmates to view and comment on during the week you are assigned.

**Research Report Recommendations-  
Topics to Address:**

- \*1. What was the research problem? (Was it clearly stated?)
2. What were the research objectives? (Were they clear?)
- \*3. Describe the research plan/methodology. (Was it clearly stated?)
4. If there were hypotheses, what were they?

5. If there were hypotheses, were they related to the problem or sub-problem?
- \*6. What were the results?
- \*7. What conclusions were drawn and were they justified by the facts presented?
8. If there were hypotheses, were they supported or rejected?
- \*9. What are the implications of this study for residential EE, non-formal EE and interpretation, or natural resource policy?

\*Items that must be addressed

### **Other Assignments**

Developing a Research Question (20 pts)

Annotated Bibliography (20 pts)

CITI IRB Training (20 pts)

Chapter Drafts (25 pts each)

**Research Prospectus (100 pts)** – A 10-12 page typewritten prospectus will be completed. Copies should be provided both to Dr. Lackey and to your graduate advisor on Dec. 6, 2019. The prospectus should be organized as follows:

- I. Introduction
  - A. Research question
  - B. Research objectives
  - C. The hypotheses if applicable
  - D. The significance of the problem
  - E. The limitations
  - F. Definition of terms if necessary
  - G. Assumptions
- II. Brief Review of Prior Research and Work in this Area
- III. Methods to Be Used to Complete the Project  
(How you will collect data, treat data, and interpret the results)  
Include each of these that are relevant:
  - A. The Data
  - B. The Research Methodology
  - C. The Specific Projected Treatment of Each Objective
- IV. Bibliography