

NRES 750: Human Dimensions Research Methods

Subtitle: Proposal Writing
Wednesdays, 8:00-8:50am
Spring 2024 Syllabus
Room: TNR 359

Course Instructors

Dr. Austin Holland

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Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 11:00am-12:00pm, or by appointment (zoom or in person)

Course Catalog Description

Discuss research methods, relevant literature, and current issues in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources.

Learning Objectives

This course guides graduate students through the process of developing a research question, reviewing the literature, exploring quantitative and qualitative approaches to data collection and analysis, and writing a preliminary thesis proposal.

At the end of the course, students will be able to

1. Write a clear research question and/or hypothesis.
2. Use the UWSP library and other resources to locate literature appropriate to their field of study.
3. Critically read primary literature.
4. Follow ethical guidelines for conducting human subjects research.
5. Explain quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods approaches to social science research.
6. Write a short research proposal.

Required Text

O'Leary, Z. (2017). *The essential guide to doing your research project (3rd ed)*. Los Angeles, CA: SAGE.

Learning Assessments

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Points</i>
Participation	10
Self-assessment	10
Research questions worksheet	5
IRB practice protocol	10
Article analysis	5
Journals in your field	5
Literature review	25
Research proposal (draft & final)	5+25
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>

All submissions should be submitted through Canvas unless otherwise specified. Professionally presented papers are clear and cohesive, have been checked for spelling and grammatical errors, and are submitted by the deadline to earn full credit.

Course grade calculation:

$$\frac{\text{Total Points Earned}}{100} \times 100 = \text{percentage}$$

Grading Scale

93-100% = A	83-86 = B	73-76 = C	60-66 = D
90-92 = A-	80-82 = B-	70-72 = C-	<59 = F
87-89 = B+	77-79 = C+	67-69 = D+	

UWSP Community Bill of Rights and Responsibilities

UWSP values a safe, honest, respectful, and inviting learning environment. In order to ensure that each student has the opportunity to succeed, we have developed a set of expectations for all students and instructors. More information on expectations and your rights and responsibilities as a student can be found on the Dean of Students page at <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos>.

Academic integrity is central to the mission of higher education in general and UWSP in particular. Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) is taken very seriously. Don't do it! The minimum penalty for a violation of academic integrity is a failure (zero) for the assignment. For more information, see <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx>.

COVID-19 and Health Precautions

We will follow university guidance (which includes CDC guidance) regarding COVID-19, monkeypox, and other health-related issues. Please reference the [UWSP's website related to COVID](#). The [CDC website](#) provides guidance on isolation and precautions related to COVID. As needed, we will announce policy changes that affect you in this class. It is expected that everyone will respect the needs and preferences of classmates and instructors.

Disability and Accommodations

In accordance with federal law and UW System policies, UWSP strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you need accommodations for a disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please visit with the [Disability Resource Center](#) to determine reasonable accommodations and notify faculty. After notification, please discuss your accommodations with me so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. DRC contact information: drc@uwsp.edu; (715) 346-3365; 108 Collins Classroom Center (CCC).

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Fall 2023 Tentative Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading Due	Assignment Due
1/24	Welcome		Introduction
2/7	Research process & timeline Research questions & variables	O'Leary Ch 2 O'Leary Ch 3	Self-assessment Research questions worksheet
2/21	Reviewing literature Methodologies & paradigms	O'Leary Ch 6, McGregor chapter, O'Leary Ch 8, Riddick & Russell chapter	Article analysis based on Kuyper article
3/6	Research ethics	UWSP IRB forms	CITI Training Certificate IRB (practice) Protocol
3/20	Published surveys Designing your own survey	O'Leary pp. 224-238, Patten chapter	Survey instruments from the literature
4/3	Interviews, focus groups, pictures, and other qualitative data	O'Leary pp. 239-250	Library consultation Journals in your field
4/17	Using theories & doing research		Literature review
5/1	Proposal writing workshop		Research Proposal draft
5/15	<i>No class. Submit proposal to Canvas.</i>		Research Proposal final

**** THE SYLLABUS, ASSIGNMENTS, GRADE WEIGHTS, AND COURSE SCHEDULE ARE ALL SUBJECT TO CHANGE. THE INSTRUCTOR WILL NOTIFY THE STUDENTS AS SOON AS ANY SUCH CHANGES ARE MADE AND WILL PROVIDE UPDATED COURSE MATERIALS AS APPROPRIATE. ****