

CAPILANO UNIVERSITY COURSE OUTLINE			
TERM: Fall 2015		COURSE NO: LBST 330	
INSTRUCTORS: TBA		COURSE NAME: Methods of Inquiry	
OFFICE: See MOODLE E-MAIL:	LOCAL:	SECTION NO(S):	CREDITS: 3

COURSE FORMAT:

Three hours of class time, with an additional hour delivered through on-line or other activities, for 15 weeks which includes two weeks for final exams.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: 45 credits of 100 level or higher coursework.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This research methods course introduces students to the design, implementation and analysis of single and mixed method research commonly used in the Humanities and Social Sciences with a particular emphasis on cross- and multi-disciplinary research projects. In particular, the course is designed to prepare students for upper-level undergraduate research as is required in the Liberal Studies Tutorials and Graduating Projects. In addition to developing their own research skills, students will cultivate a working understanding as to how research is conducted and analyzed in order for them to be able to think critically about and evaluate research and statistical claims made by sources such as the media, advertisers, business interests and politicians.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Successful students will be able to:

- Demonstrate (in exams, written assignments and original research) a breadth of knowledge of the current quantitative and qualitative research methods and statistics used in a variety of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences; concepts from the philosophy of science and the nature of scientific reasoning; an understanding of sampling and sampling error; how to appropriately use the various research methods and statistics and the limitations of each method; and how statistics can be used and interpreted.
- Apply their understanding to develop a research question; conduct a literature review; prepare and present a proposal of research; and conduct and present a pilot study using one or more of the Humanities and Social Sciences methods introduced in the course.
- Demonstrate research skills, critical thinking, quantitative reasoning and analytical and synthesis skills in evaluating the limits of interpretations of research in their course assignments, including the research assignment.
- Communicate their critical analyses and applications in correct written research report formats and in an oral presentation of their research.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Battersby, M. (2010). *Is that a fact?* Toronto, ON: Broadview Press.

Price, P. C. & Jhangiani, R. (2013). *Research methods in psychology: Core concepts and skills* (1st Cdn. ed.). BC

Campus.

All other required readings will be posted on Moodle.

WEB SUPPORT: Please check the course website on Moodle for links to readings, handouts, assignments, etc. Access from the Capilano moodle site: <http://moodle.capilano.ca>

ENROLMENT KEY: research

COURSE CONTENT:

Week	Content and Assignment Due Dates
W1	Introduction
W2	Philosophy of Science: Knowledge and Method
W3	Philosophy of Science: Scientific Methods
W4	Developing your Research Question; Conducting a Lit Review Research Ethics
W5	Survey Research: Questionnaires; Sampling; Analyzing surveys; Descriptive statistics & distributions; Correlational research Computer lab following class
W6	Correlational research; Experiments; Inferential statistics Computer lab following class In-class writing: Quantitative Response Paper (5%) DUE: Quantitative Assignment (10%)
W7	Group Presentations of research proposals DUE: Research Proposals and Presentations (15%) Qualitative research: An Introduction
W8	Qualitative research: Interviews and Observations
W9	Qualitative research: Content analysis DUE: Interview assignment (10%) In-class writing: Qualitative Response Paper (5%)
W10	Archival Studies & Primary Sources: Methods and Considerations
W11	Book History and Interdisciplinary Studies
W12	Archival & Book History Case Study Workshop DUE: Archive & Book History Case Study (10%) Group work on Pilot Study Report
W13	Group Presentations of student pilot studies DUE: Pilot Study Report and Presentations (20%)
W14-15	Final exam period

EVALUATION PROFILE:

Response Papers (2 x 500 words; 5% each)	10%
Interview Assignment	10%
Statistical Assignment	10%
Archive & Book History Case Study	10%
Research Proposal & Presentation	15%
Pilot Study Report & Presentation	20%
Final Exam	25%
Total:	100%

GRADING PROFILE:

A+ = 90 - 100%	B+ = 77 - 79%	C+ = 67 - 69	D = 50 - 59
A = 85 - 89	B = 73 - 76	C = 63 - 66	F = 0 - 49
A- = 80 - 84	B- = 70 - 72	C- = 60 - 62	

ASSIGNMENTS:

<u>Exams:</u>	The final exam (25%) may contain short answer and short essay questions.
<u>Assignments:</u>	Methods assignments will enable students to practice a variety of research methods in the Humanities and Social Sciences. This will include a mix of in- and out-of-class assignments.
<u>Research Project:</u>	<p>Part 1 – Proposal & Presentation (15%) and Part 2 – Pilot Study & Presentation (20%)</p> <p>For the Research Project assignment, students may work individually or in small groups. Each student or group will choose a research topic relevant to current studies in one or more of the disciplines associated with the Humanities and/or Social Sciences and, in turn, select an appropriate method or mixed methods of inquiry to further investigate the topic. Students are encouraged to consider projects that engage with the Liberal Studies term theme for the given term.</p> <p>For Part 1, students will complete a literature review and research proposal, which will be presented to the class, and to the course instructors for approval. The proposal will include an explanation of their choice of method of inquiry for the topic. If the proposal entails research with human participants, the research proposal will also include an ethics checklist and informed consent form.</p> <p>In Part 2, once their proposal is approved, students will conduct a pilot study of their proposal, and present their findings in a presentation on the last day of classes. Each individual student will submit a research report in the citation style approved by the course instructor during the proposal phase of the project – e.g. APA, MLA, or CMS. Within the research report or paper, students will include a critical analysis of their proposed research study and its limitations, based on their experience with the pilot study. The research report is to be uploaded onto the moodle site on the day of the presentations.</p>

OPERATIONAL DETAILS:

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Cheating and Plagiarism, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

<u>Attendance:</u>	<p>Regular attendance is essential. Students are responsible for all announcements made in class and for all material on the course outline. Although the instructor may discuss only portions of assigned readings in class, the student is responsible for studying all assigned reading materials – e.g. journal articles and/or chapters from assigned texts.</p> <p>Appropriate university level behaviour is expected (see the University Calendar).</p>
<u>Missed Exams:</u>	Make-up exams are given only in exceptional circumstances and with prior notice to the instructor.

- Late Assignments: Due dates for papers and assignments will be announced and guidelines will be distributed in class. All papers must be submitted directly to the instructor at the beginning of the class period. Late penalties will be 5% per day to a maximum penalty of 25%, with no assignments or papers accepted after one week, except in the case of a documented emergency.
- Incomplete Grades: Incomplete grades will be given only in exceptional circumstances.
- English Usage: University-level writing skills are required in all assignments. Correct use of MLA or APA referencing style, including the use of non-sexist language, must be followed. The research report would be in a discipline based format approved by the instructor, such as APA or MLA research report or paper format. Resources outlining these procedures are available in the Library and the Writing Centre (Fir 402).
- All assignments must be original and must be used for this course only. Keep a copy of all work and hand in the original.
- Computer Usage: Students are expected to abide by the Statement of Appropriate Use of Information Technology Facilities and Services in any use of computers at the University. This statement can be obtained from your department, the Library, Computer Services or on the University web site: (www.capilanou.ca/policies/cap-aup.html).
- Electronic Devices: Laptops may be used during class for note-taking only. No personal electronic devices (cell phones, pagers, calculators, electronic dictionaries, etc.) may be used during an examination without prior approval from the instructor. During an exam, turn off all cell phones and pagers and remove them from the desk.
- Emergency Procedures: Please read the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.