

**Research Methods
NRM 601 2 credits
Class Syllabus, Fall 2016**

Pre-requisites: Graduate student status.

Lecture: Wednesday 3-5p

Instructor: Dr. Bret Luick bluick@alaska.edu 474-5170

Office hours: Daily except Wednesday 1-5

Course Materials:

Elective textbook: John Creswell. Research Design, 4th ed. Publisher: Sage. ISBN 978-1-4522-2610-1 (\$35.85 @ Barnes & Noble)

Additional instructional material will be distributed.

Course Description:

An overview of the structure, methods and assessment tools needed to conduct graduate level research. The course is designed to guide the student through the process of organizing and writing a successful graduate proposal, or similar writing project.

Course Objectives:

After completion of the course, students should be able to organize a research project and conduct, as appropriate, the following:

1. Understand the role of research.
2. Formulate a research question.
3. Conduct a literature review.
4. Write an introductory chapter.
5. Write methods, materials or assessment chapter.
6. Formulate and organize potential implications and results.
7. Formulate and organize potential discussions and conclusions
8. Formulate future work and impacts of their work.

Instructional Methods:

Formal lecture once a week. Class will begin with a review of the previous class topic and an open question session.

Proposal Document:

There will be no exams for this class, grades will be measured based on the completion of a research proposal document, and the successful oral presentation of this proposal document.

Milestones for the document may include: Research Statement Formulation, Introduction and Literature Review, Materials and Methods and Implications of potential results, discussions and conclusions, and Final Presentation. At each milestone, the student will give a mini presentation on the milestone document.

Grading Policy:

Your final grade will be based on the following parameters:

| Task | Points | Percentage |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|
| Research Statement | 50 | 17 |
| Intro & Lit Review | 50 | 17 |
| Materials & Methods | 50 | 17 |
| Implications | 50 | 16 |
| <u>Final Presentation</u> | <u>100</u> | <u>33</u> |
| Total | 300 | 100 |

A = 90-100 %Points

B = 80-89 %Points

C = 70-79 %Points

D = 60-69 %Points

F < 60 Points

**Lecture
Tentative Schedule**

| Date | Topic |
|---------|--|
| Week 1 | Course Basics- Writing style |
| Week 2 | Formulating a Research Project- the basic components |
| Week 3 | The Research Question continued, Introduction and Literature Review |
| Week 4 | Milestone Due- Submit Research Question document and mini presentations. Literature Review Continued |
| Week 5 | Materials and Methods, what to focus on, tools and content. |
| Week 6 | Writing and reading technical papers |
| Week 7 | Revisiting the research question, literature and introduction- putting it all together |
| Week 8 | Milestone Due- Submit Introduction and Literature Review- mini presentations. |
| Week 9 | Revisiting the Materials and Methods, and evaluating available resources and scope of the project |
| Week 10 | Anticipating Implications- literature based vs experimental |
| Week 11 | What should the Results, Discussion and Conclusions Include |
| Week 12 | Milestone Due- Submit Materials and Methods document and mini presentations. |
| Week 13 | Combining all sections into a final draft, rearranging content |
| Week 14 | Milestone- Submit Implications Document |
| Week 15 | Open session |
| Week 16 | Milestone- Final Proposal presentation and proposal draft due |

Disabilities Services:

The instructor will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (RH 105, 3211 Providence Dr., 786-4530) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.

Other Course Policies

Contact Email

Students are required to obtain a university-issued username for use with email (and Blackboard). If the university server is not the student's primary email address, the student is expected to set it up so that all emails are forwarded from a university server account so that the email address used for course purposes is the university-issued email address.

Student Conduct

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students must abide by academic integrity standards as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct found in the Student Catalog of UAA.

Cell Phones and Laptops

Cell phones must be turned off or put to silent mode while the student is in class. Under no circumstance should a call be taken (including text messages) during class.

Laptops may be used in class for note-taking. However, students should not be using their laptops to connect to the Internet, do email, or otherwise engage in non-class-related activities. Laptop usage in class is a privilege, not a right. The practice of using laptops for any purpose (including note-taking) may be banned during the course of the semester if students are found to be violating the laptop policy.

Incomplete Coursework

An incomplete grade (I) will be assigned only if two conditions have been met:

- First, the student must have attended at least two thirds of the class meetings.
- Second, documented evidence must be submitted to substantiate the fact that course completion was prevented because of personal problems, such as medical or family emergency.

Failing to attend or to complete the course, whether due to negligence or indifference, will result in a grade of “F” unless there has been an official course withdrawal. If an “I” is assigned, completion of all course work is the responsibility of the student. All course work must be completed within one year following the semester the “I” was given.