



AS&D 598 – Philosophy, Interpretation & Application of Research (Fall 2009)

Syllabus approved on: ____/____/____

I. Catalog Description:

- Studies designed to acquaint students in agricultural research techniques and demonstration related to the classroom, laboratories, work experience and extension and adult education activities in agricultural programs. Basic concepts concerning interpretation and analysis of research data will also be investigated.

II. Prerequisites:

- Students must have been admitted to the College of Graduate Studies at Tarleton State University. Students should have an understanding of the agricultural industry, with teaching or extension experience preferred.

III. Expanded Course Content:

- The course is designed to provide an opportunity to learn about scientific inquiry, selection and definition of a research topic, sampling, instrumentation, quantitative research methods, qualitative research methods, reporting, critiquing and funding research. Students will participate actively in several in-class research projects and develop related proposals and critiques.

IV. Intended Student Learning Outcomes: (Upon completion of this course students will be able to:)

- Write a research proposal and develop critiques of research articles;
- Develop and deliver information and instruction that is derived from, and delivered through, computer-based systems;
- Students will create and present at a professional meeting or research conference;
- Describe the philosophies of science that are used in research conducted in agricultural extension/education;
- Develop research hypotheses for investigation of a selected and defined topic;
- Develop a review of related literature for a selected and defined topic;
- Implement various sampling strategies;
- Define variables at differing scales of measurement;
- Select or construct valid and reliable instrumentation for data collection;
- Identify and implement techniques related to descriptive, correlation, causal-comparative, experimental and single-subject experimental research;
- Implement basic statistical procedures utilizing SPSS for qualitative methods;
- Describe qualitative research methods utilized in agricultural extension/education;
- Identify applications, strengths and weaknesses of mixed methods and action research;
- Develop a research report;
- Develop a research critique of a research report; and
- Develop a funding request for a research project.



V. Required Text:

- Gay, L.R., Mills, G.E. & Airasian, P. (2008). Educational research: Competencies for analysis and applications, 9th ed. Pearson-Merrill-Prentice Hall: Columbus, Ohio.
 - ***NOTE: Please purchase the Value Pack that includes the SPSS 16.0 student version for Windows! You will be required to have SPSS for the course. The ISBN below reflects the appropriate package.**
 - **ISBN: 9780137147113**

VI. Evaluation & Grading:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Value</u>
Exam 1	20%
Descriptive Research Project	20%
Correlation Research Project	20%
Experimental Research Project	20%
Weekly Work & Minor Assignments	20%
<u>Total:</u>	<u>100%</u>

VII. General Policies:

- Attendance is required. Please contact me if you will not be able to make class.
- Late work will be accepted with a deduction of one letter grade per day late.
- Academic Honesty Policy:

Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person’s materials or ideas as one’s own), or doing work for another person will receive academic credit are all impermissible. This includes the use of unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources in order to secure or give help during an examination, the unauthorized copying of examinations, assignments, reports, or term papers, or the presentation of unacknowledged material as if it were the student’s own work. Disciplinary action may be taken beyond the academic discipline administered by the faculty member who teaches the course in which the cheating took place. **ALL COURSE ASSIGNMENTS THAT REQUIRE INDIVIDUAL WORK WILL BE SUBMITTED TO TurnItIn.com, WHICH IS A SERVICE THAT PROTECTS STUDENTS AND FACULTY FROM SITUATIONS REGARDING ACADEMIC DISHONESTY. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY ON YOUR PART IS A REQUIREMENT AND AN EXPECTATION! YOU WILL SUBMIT ALL OF YOUR PROJECTS AND WORK ONLINE.**
(Class ID: 2828309 – Enrollment Password: research)

- Students With Disabilities Policy:

It is the policy of Tarleton State University to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other federal, state, and local laws relative to the provision of disability services. Students with disabilities attending Tarleton State University may contact the Office of Disability Services at (254) 968-9478 to request appropriate accommodations. Furthermore, formal accommodation requests cannot be made until the student has been officially admitted to Tarleton State University.

VIII. Instructor Information:

Dr. Kyle W. McGregor

Office: Ag. 106

968-9601

mgregor@tarleton.edu

Office Hours: MWF – 8am-5pm

(Unless Seeing Student Teachers – See Schedule on Office Door)

Department Head Approval:

Signature

Date