



ACR 598 – Philosophy, Interpretation & Application of Research (Fall 2011)

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.



Tarleton State University

Agricultural & Consumer Sciences

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.

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%
Total:	100%

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:

Tarleton State University expects its students to maintain high standards in personal and scholarly conduct. Students guilty of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. The faculty member is responsible for initiating action for each case of academic dishonesty that occurs in his/her class (TSU catalog, p. 62). Academic honesty is expected. Cheating will not be tolerated and will result in automatic failure of the course. The University's Academic Integrity Policy will be maintained.

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: 4276274 – Enrollment Password: research)

- Students With Disabilities Policy:

It is the policy of Tarleton State University to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and other applicable laws. If you are a student with a disability seeking accommodations for this course, please contact Trina Geye, Director of Student Disability Services, at 254.968.9400 or geye@tarleton.edu. Student Disability Services is located in Math 201. More information can be found at www.tarleton.edu/sds or in the University Catalog.

Course Schedule:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Topic/Activity</u>
Aug 30	Introduction to Research in Agricultural/Extension Education
Sept 6	Selection & Development of a Topic
Sept 13	Planning, Proposing & Funding Research
Sept 20	Sampling
Sept 27	Instrumentation
Oct 4	Exam 1
Oct 11	Descriptive Research
Oct 18	Descriptive Research
Oct 25	Descriptive Research
Nov 1	Correlation Research
Nov 8	Correlation Research
Nov 15	Experimental Research
Nov 22	Experimental Research
Nov 29	Experimental Research
Dec 6	Experimental Research

VIII. Instructor Information:

Dr. Kyle W. McGregor
Office: Ag. 106 - 968-9601
mgregor@tarleton.edu
Office Hours: MWF

Department Head Approval:

Signature

Date