

COURSE OUTLINE

The Approved Course Description is available on the web @ www.camosun.bc.ca

1. Instructor Information

- (a) Instructor: Dr. Francis Adu-Febiri
- (b) Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday: 11:30 - 1:20
Wednesday and Friday: 11:30 - 12:20 or by appointment
- (c) Location: Ewing 243
- (d) Phone: 370-3105
- (e) E-mail: adufebir@camosun.bc.ca
- (f) Website:

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

The course uses interactive lectures, examinations, survey, laboratory sessions, and written report to help students to:

- know and understand the basic principles of social science research,
 - have hands-on experience with research procedures, particularly the use of SPSS in data analysis, and
 - lay a good foundation for a higher level social science research methods course.

3. Required Materials

- (a) Texts

2001: First Steps: A Guide to Social Research, 2nd Ed., Del Balso, M. and Lewis, Alan D., Scarborough, ON: ITP Nelson.

4. Course Content and Schedule

This course focuses on qualitative and quantitative approaches to social science research with special emphasis on:

- finding and defining research topic;
- formulating intelligent research question and hypothesis;
- identifying variables and their levels of measurement,

- designing a research project,
- gathering data,
- using SPSS in processing and analyzing,
- interpreting SPSS outputs,
- writing a research report.

It adopts a problem solution-centered orientation to the use of research procedures and statistics. Specifically, the course introduces students to:

- (1) the scientific method;
- (2) the central methodological concerns of science regarding conceptualization and measurement and their relations to validity, reliability, generalizability, causality, and sampling;
- (3) the role of deductive and inductive logic in designing research;
- (4) the methods and techniques of collecting qualitative and quantitative information;
- (5) computer-aided analysis of quantitative data using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), and;
- (6) the politics and ethics of social science research.

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

(a) Assignments

Research Report (10%)
Labs (30%)

(b) Quizzes

(c) Exams

Mid-term (15%)
Final (30%)

(d) Other (e.g. Project, Attendance, Group Work)

Group discussions (15%)

6. Grading System

The following percentage conversion to letter grade will be used:

A+ = 95 - 100%	B = 75 - 79%	D = 50 - 59%
A = 90 - 94%	B- = 70 - 74%	F = 0.0 - 49%
A- = 85 - 89%	C+ = 65 - 69%	I = See Calendar for Details
B+ = 80 - 84%	C = 60 - 64%	AUD = Audit

W = Official withdrawal has taken place.

NOTE: to attain a passing grade, students must complete all the evaluation components of the course.

7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

Interactive Lectures:

This is the instructor's presentation on selected topics indicated in the course schedule. Students are encouraged to ask questions, make comments and respond to questions during the presentation process.

You will be required to apply issues covered in the lectures to the Labs.

Social Survey (Lab 5: 6%)

This component of the course involves the use of pre-coded survey questionnaire on the selected topic (Cheating in Examinations) to collect information from a random sample of residents of the Capital Regional District of Victoria.

Laboratory Sessions (30%)

There are twelve laboratory sessions for this course and students are required to submit completed eleven lab assignments for grade. Labs 1 - 5 are take-home, and the remaining seven are computer-based to be done in the Ewing 110 computer lab.

- Lab 1: Literature review for research question and hypothesis (2%)
Due date:
- Lab 2: Design a sampling procedure for the research project (2%)
Due date:
- Lab 3: Questionnaire construction (2%)
Due date:
- Lab 4: Critique the questionnaire and suggest improvements (4%)
Due date:
- Lab 5: Collect data through a telephone survey (6%)
Due date:
- Lab 6: Enter the responses to the survey questionnaire into SPSS spreadsheet (4%)
Due date:
- Lab. 7: Univariate Analysis: Frequency Distribution Tables and Graphs (2%)
Due date:
- Lab. 8: Univariate Analysis: Measures of Central Tendency and Dispersion (2%)
Due date:
- Lab. 9: Bivariate Analysis: Measures of Association: contingency Tables and Graphs (2%)
Due date:
- Lab. 10: Bivariate Analysis: Measures of Association Statistics (2%)
Due date:
- Lab. 11: Inferential Analysis: Test of Significance or Hypothesis (2%)
Due date:
- Lab 12: Crash Data Analysis for Research Report (no marks)
Must be completed by:

Note: The instructor will not accept late labs after labs have been marked.

Research Report (10%)

Produce a research report based on Lab 12: Crash Data Analysis. Provide a suitable title for the report. The report must have sections on:

- Executive summary or abstract
- Introduction
- Research Design
- Data Analysis
- Findings or Results
- Interpretation and Discussion of Findings
- Conclusion

The length of the report must be eight pages or less. The due date for the report is:

You lose marks for late submission - 5 marks a day.

Midterm Examinations (15%)

The date for the midterm examination is: . The instructor will give specific research methods concepts discussed in the course to study for at least five days before the examination date. You are required to study these concepts thoroughly. Thirty (30) multiple choice questions will be set for the midterm examination for you to answer within 50 minutes.

Final Examination (30%)

The final examination will be held during the **official examination week**. The instructor will give you specific research methods concepts chosen from the readings and interactive lectures for you to study at least five days before the examination date. You are required to study these concepts thoroughly. Three essay questions will be set for you to answer any one within 60 minutes.

Group Discussions (15%)

There are twelve group discussion sessions based on selected topics from the required text for the course. Each week thoroughly read the designated chapter for the week. Do that week's exercises/questions provided in the student manual and create one question that is relevant but not adequately addressed in the readings and the exercises/question. In each of the group discussion sessions form a group with three or four other students (you don't have to be in the same group for all the twelve sessions) and discuss each member's question, and

- (a) by consensus come up with one question based on the main theme of the topic but different from the guiding questions and exercises
- (b) provide a justification for the question
- (c) on a piece of paper write this question and the rationale, and list all the names of students who participated in your group's discussion and submit to the instructor for marks.

You will be required to apply the knowledge and skills acquired in the group discussions to the labs and examinations.

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College Calendar, Registrar's Office or the College web site at <http://www.camosun.bc.ca>

ACADEMIC CONDUCT POLICY

There is an Academic Conduct Policy. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, Registration, and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

www.camosun.bc.ca/divisions/pres/policy/2-education/2-8