

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON
COLLEGE OF APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Department of Disaster Science and Emergency Services
Emergency Management and Homeland Security
Fall 2016

Course Title: Disaster Research Methods and Applications

Course Number: (0 + 6-3 55-001

Course Credits: Three (3)

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: An introduction to current research conducted in the field of emergency management and various methods appropriate for analyzing current topics in the field.

Program Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- 1) Identify and discuss the purpose of social research, and demonstrate an understanding of the scientific processes and methods used in this research
- 2) Understand and use qualitative and quantitative research
- 3) Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamentals of good writing and ensure that written products are error free
- 4) Demonstrate an understanding of the APA citation standards and use them in class projects and papers
- 5) Formulate a good research question and argument that meets social science standards
- 6) Effectively use the wide range of research tools available online and through the Bierce Library
- 7) Understand the purpose of a literature review and be able to develop one
- 8) Develop and implement an effective research design
- 9) Effectively conduct a research interview and understand its use in qualitative research

COURSE OUTLINE

Topic 1: What is social research?

Week 2: What is the link between good research and good writing?

Week 3: What are the APA Standards?

Week 4: What are the key steps in formulating a good research topic?

Week 5: What are the key steps in formulating a good research question?

Week 6: How do I identify and use qualitative and quantitative evidence?

Week 7 How do I develop an effective research argument?

Week 8: How and where do I find the best sources for my research project?

Week 9: How do I create a research design matrix?

Week 10:

Week 11: Nov. 8: What is a literature review and how do I develop it?

TUESDAY: Research design matrix due TODAY

Week 12: Nov. 15: How do I conduct an effective interview?

TUESDAY: Literature review due TODAY

THURSDAY: Student presentation #4 on interviewing (selected students)

Week 13: Nov. 22: Class review of submitted documents

TUESDAY: Project outline and 3 -page abstract due TODAY

Week 14: Nov. 29: (short week) Catch up

TUESDAY: Finish interviews

Week 15: Dec. 6: Guest speaker

Week 16: FINAL EXAM: Dec. 15 (Thursday), 10am -12noon

NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this schedule and/or policies. If there are changes, they will be announced in class.

GRADING SCALE:

| Grade | Percent Required |
|-------|------------------|
| A | 93-100 |
| A- | 90-92 |
| B+ | 87-89 |
| B | 83-86 |
| B- | 80-82 |
| C+ | 77-79 |