Course Title: Research Methods in Public Administration
Course Number: PADM 5311.001       Semester: Fall 2017
Instructor: Dr. Bilaye Benibo      Office: B. H. 346
Time: Thurs: 7:00-9:30 p.m.       Phone: (361) 825-5980
Classroom:B.H. 128               O/Hrs. Thurs. 6-7 p.m.

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Required Texts:


Course Description and Objectives
Social Research Methods is the use of pre-established “principles, guidelines, and procedures for investigating aspects of the social universe that are not completely understood or understood at all. This involves the systematic observation, collection, organization, analyses and interpretation of empirical data so as to better understand and explain why and how two or more events in the social universe are related in the manner that they do.

The three equally important objectives of this course are, (1) to expose students to the conceptual issues surrounding social research, which includes a brief excursion into the ontology, epistemology, and methodology of scientific inquiry in the social universe, (2) to develop in students the hands-on capability of collecting, analyzing and interpreting empirical data, (3) to prepare students for data-informed and guided public policy decisions.
**Student Learning Outcomes**

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Explain the origin, development and logics of social-scientific inquiries;
2. Observe, collect, organize, analyze and interpret empirical data.
3. Write a short paper, that includes a clearly formulated question, a relevant literature review, an appropriate methodology, an effective data analysis, and a meaningful interpretation of research findings.

**Course Format**

**Lecture:**
The first 75 minutes of each class will be spent on straight lectures. This will be followed by a 15 minute break after which the class reconvenes for another 30 minutes of lectures. The remaining 30 will be spent on questions and/or discussion. The reason for this format is to ensure that students are sufficiently exposed to the topic of day before they ask questions. When appropriate and possible, films and/or slides will be used to buttress class lectures. I will also invite some guest lecturers to share with us some of their expertise on specific social issues.

**Course Requirement**

Your final grade for this course will be based on the following.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination/Paper</th>
<th>Weighted Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Examination</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Examination</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Third Examination</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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**Letter Equivalents**

- 90-100% = A
- 80-89 = B
- 70-79 = C
- 60-69 = D
- <60 = F
All three exams will require long essay answers. Exams must be taken at the scheduled times and place. Make-up exams are allowed only for validly supported medical and/or personal emergencies. The instructor reserves the right to determine the merits of each request for a make-up examination. Extra credit is not allowed.

Class Attendance

Class attendance is important and required. There is, however, a maximum of three penalty-free absences allowed for personal/family emergencies. Every other non-officially excused absence will be penalized with a three percentage-point deduction from final grade. Regardless of the reason(s) for one’s absence, students are personally responsible for recovering materials taught during their absence from class. It is recommended, therefore, that students develop responsible, professional relationships with two or more other students for class lecture notes taken on the day(s) that they are absent.

Academic Advising

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information, please call 361-825 3466.

Disability Services

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116.
Returning Veterans
If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services Office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Grade Appeals Process
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures (available at [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C2.01_students_grade_appeal_procedure.pdf](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C2.01_students_grade_appeal_procedure.pdf).) For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

Course Outline: Lecture
08/31 Introductions: Students, Course and Instructor.
08/31 An Introduction to Inquiry (EB:1)
09/07 Paradigms, Theory and Research (EB:2) (Research Topics Due)
09/14 Ethics and Politics of Social Research (EB:3) (Literature Review Begins)
09/21 Research Designs (EB:4)
09/28 Conceptualizations and Measurement (EB:5)
10/5. First Exam.

10/12 Indexes, Scales and Typologies (EB: 6)
  (Literature Review Due)

10/19 Logic of Sampling (EB: 7)
  (Data Analyses Begin)

10/26 Experiments (EB: 8)

10/26 Survey Research (EB: 9)

10/26 Qualitative Field Research (EB: 10)

10/26 Unobtrusive Research (EB: 11)

11/02 Second Exam

11/09 Evaluation Research (EB: 12)
  (Data Analysis Due)

11/16 Qualitative Data Analysis (EB: 13)
  (Data Interpretation and Conclusion Begin)

11/23 Quantitative Data Analysis (EB: 14)

11/30 Multivariate Analysis (EB: 15&16)
  Data Interpretation and Conclusion Due)

12/06 DEAD DAY – NO CLASS

12/07 Final Exam (Complete Term Paper Due)

*** EB (Earl Babbie)

**** This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to accommodate students' and/or instructional needs.