



# PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

— EST. 1925 —

**Course:** 221.22 - Research Methods  
**Credit:** 3 Hours  
**Session:** Winter Semester 2012  
**Instructor:** Dr. Morgan Mulenga, Associate Professor of Psychology  
**Office #:** 2A20, Level 2, Administration Wing.  
**Tel.:** (204) 433-7488 ext. 283  
**Office Hours:** **Mon:** 2:00 - 3:00; **Tue:** 9:00 - 11:00; **Wed:** 9:00 - 11:00 & **Thu:** 3:00 - 4:00  
**Class:** **Mondays & Thursdays:** 09:50 - 11:05; in Classroom # 1.

## SYLLABUS

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### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the foundations and basics of social research. Understanding why research is done and how one goes about doing research are important parts of this course. Special attention will be given to techniques used in the collection, analyzing and interpretation of data. In addition, students will be introduced to the ethics of social research. To better understand the process of research, students will be required to undertake an actual research problem during the semester.

### B. COURSE OBJECTIVES

This is a course that should change the way you think when someone makes a scientific claim. You will be in a position to ask for evidence and how it was gathered, especially when someone has made a claim of “fact” about something. At the conclusion of the course therefore, students will be expected (through exams, class presentations, class discussions, quizzes, and a written research project) to be in a position to:

1. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of social science research.
2. Assess various research strategies.
3. Understand published accounts of social science research.
4. Formulate good research questions and design appropriate research strategies.
5. Collect data using a variety of methods.
6. Distinguish between quantitative and qualitative methodologies.
7. Understand the link between statistics and research methods.

### C. COURSE TEXT(S) AND SUPPLEMENTARY RESOURCES

**Text:** Monette, D. R., Sullivan, T. J., & DeJong, C. R. (2011). *Applied social research: A tool for the human services* (8<sup>th</sup> ed). Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole-Thomson

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#### ***Special Note to Students:***

It is your responsibility to retain course syllabi for possible future use to support applications for transfer of credit to other educational institutions.

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. **(The 5<sup>th</sup> edition is available in the Reference Section of the Library)**

#### D. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Readings:** You will be expected to come to class prepared by having read the listed portions of the text for that day's topic. Pop quizzes will be based on those readings.

The final course grade will be based on quizzes, 2 exams, and a research project.

**Quizzes:** Brief quizzes based on the assigned reading material for the day will be given. **NO** prior notification will be given for these quizzes. Questions for the quizzes will typically be short and basic. As long as you have read the material, you should have little trouble answering the quiz questions. There will be several quizzes given throughout the semester. In calculating your final grade for these quizzes, I will drop your **two (2) lowest scores**.

The quizzes will be given either at the beginning or the end of class. It is your responsibility to be in class on time. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES.** This includes missed quizzes due to illness, being at an official school related event, came to class late (**at least 5 minutes from the start of the quiz**) or left the class early. **If a quiz is given at the end of the class and you were not in class that day, you will not be permitted to write it if you show up just for the quiz. You have to have attended that day's class to be eligible to take it.**

**Exams:** Two non-cumulative exams are scheduled for the semester. Exams will typically cover the assigned reading materials, lectures notes and any demonstrations used in class.

**Assignments:** You will be required to present results of your research to the class and then submit one paper for this course as follows:

#### Research Methods Project (40%)

**Detailed Descriptions of this Project Can Be Found in The Hard Copies to Be Distributed in Class or on the Student Portal of Blackbaud.**

#### E. GRADING SUMMARY (and Percentage to Letter-Grade Breakdown)

Grade	%	G.P.	Grade	%	G.P.
A+	95 -100	4.0 <i>Exceptional</i>	C+	67 - 73	2.5 <i>Satisfactory/Average</i>
A	88 - 94	4.0 <i>Excellent</i>	C	60 - 66	2.0 <i>Adequate</i>
B+	81 - 87	3.5 <i>Superior</i>	D	50 - 59	1.0 <i>Marginal</i>
B	74 - 80	3.0 <i>Good</i>	F	< 50	0.0 <i>Failure</i>

**NOTE: Last Day for Voluntary Withdrawal (VW) From a Course is March 12, 2012.**

#### F. COURSE POLICIES

Full text to the academic policies, procedures and regulations of Providence University College can be found online in the Student Handbook

([http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/student\\_life/](http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/student_life/)) and the Providence University College

In addition to these policies the following policies will also apply to this course:

**1. Class Attendance Policy**

Although I do not keep a record of class attendance, students are expected to attend regularly and punctually. You disrupt the class when you arrive late. Also, try not to leave until the class is over. If, for some vital reason you must leave class early, please let me know before class starts. I will probably ask you to sit close to the exit so as to not disrupt the class when you leave.

Attendance will be important because much of the lecture material will go well beyond what is covered in the text. Exams will cover both material presented in the text as well as material presented via lectures and any demonstrations, such as videos. Attending class regularly therefore, will be vital to your learning and performance on exams.

Come to class everyday prepared to learn. Please stay silent when others are speaking. This includes when the instructor is speaking AND when other students are asking questions or making contributions to class discussions. Be polite and realize that everyone has the right to ask questions and to be heard.

**2. Late Assignment Policy**

Late assignments will be penalized @ 2.5% per day (**including Saturdays, Sundays and holidays**) up to a maximum of 25% (i.e., 10 days). **I will not accept assignments that are more than 10 days late.** If you need an extension, you may request for one **at least 3 days prior to the due date.** Once an extension has been granted, it is expected that the assignment will be submitted on the extended date, without penalties. **If the assignment is not submitted on the new date, the extension becomes null and void.**

Notwithstanding this policy, I will also consider extensions when you find yourself in circumstances that are beyond your control, such as sickness, (**not the sickness of another person**), or you are involved in an accident, as examples.

If your assignment is going to be submitted late, please attach to it the **“Late Assignment Submission Form”**, found at the end of this syllabus. If you ask another person to submit the assignment on your behalf, make sure that they do so on or before the due date, otherwise your assignment will be marked late. **Assignments are deemed duly submitted when I have received a hard copy from you.**

**It is your responsibility to back up data. Lost data due to computer/printer-related problem(s) will not be an acceptable excuse for failing to meet the deadlines.**

**3. Academic Integrity**

Issues of academic integrity will be dealt with according to the policies outlined in the Academic Conduct section of the Student Handbook

([http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/student\\_life/](http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/student_life/)), the Providence University College document entitled “Academic Dishonesty: The Problem of Plagiarism in Academic Writing,” in the Providence University College Academic Formation Guide available in the Bookstore. Students are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the policies and with the consequences attached to their violation.

**4. Missed Exams**

No make-up exam will be given except in the case of extreme circumstances such as a serious illness **on your part**, death in the family or an accident in which you are directly or indirectly involved, etc. Written proof from a physician, in case of an illness, may be required. To qualify for a make-up exam, I must be notified at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled exam, where possible. When permission is granted, make-up exams must be completed within the shortest possible time from the original exam date, **at a time that is convenient for me**.

Requests to write **mid-term** exams earlier or later than scheduled will normally not be granted. However, if there are extenuating circumstances that dictate that the exam be given to you at a different date than scheduled, please talk to me ahead of time, preferably two weeks in advance.

**Final Exams: (Early Leave Policy)**

All requests to have a final exam rescheduled must be approved by the Academic Committee in accordance with the Early Leave Policy (available in the Providence University College Academic Calendar [http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/programs/registrars\\_office/calendar/](http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/programs/registrars_office/calendar/)).

**5. Information and Communication Technologies in the Classroom**

Student use of electronic information and communication technologies, such as laptops, iPads, iPods, etc., is **NOT allowed in this class**. While I deeply regret the inconvenience for note-taking this becomes, too many students in the past have abused ICTs in the classroom, distracting themselves, their classmates, as well as me, thereby disrespecting the educational enterprise. As partial compensation, I will post the PowerPoint presentations from my lectures in your Blackbaud student portal for **THREE (3) days** only after each topic is completed, for you to download if you wish.

<b>Course Evaluation</b>	<b>Worth</b>	<b>Due Dates</b>
Class Presentation	10%	See Syllabus
Research Project	30%	April 05, 2012
Exam # 1	20%	February 23, 2012
Exam # 2	20%	April 16, 2012
Quizzes	20%	Any Class Time
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	

## G. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bamberger, M. (1999). *Integrating quantitative and qualitative research: lessons from the field*. Washington, DC: World Bank.
- Brannen, J. (1992). *Mixing methods : qualitative and quantitative research*. Aldershot, Brookfield, USA: Avebury.
- Carr, W., & Kemmis, S. (1986). *Becoming Critical: Education, Knowledge and Action Research*. Falmer Press, London, England
- Dey, J. (1993). *Qualitative Data Analysis: A User-Friendly Guide for Social Scientists*. Routledge Press, London, England
- Tesch, R. (1990). *Qualitative Research: Analysis Types & Software Tools*. Falmer Press, London, England
- Thomas, R. M. (2003). *Blending qualitative and quantitative research methods in theses and dissertations*. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Corwin Press.

## H. COURSE OUTLINE / SCHEDULE

### Dated Course Outline

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Read</b>
Jan. 12 <i>Thu</i>	Course Introduction	
Jan. 16 <i>Mon</i>	Research in the Human Services	Chapter 1
Jan. 19 <i>Thu</i>	Research: A Process of Inquiry <b>SIGN-UP DUE</b>	Chapter 2
Jan. 23 <i>Mon</i>	Ethical Issues	Chapter 3
Jan. 26 <i>Thu</i>	The Starting Point	Chapter 4
Jan. 30 <i>Mon</i>	Data and the Nature of Measurement <b>ONE PAGE SUMMARY DUE</b>	Chapter 5
<b>Feb. 02 <i>Thu</i></b>	<b>MISSIO DEI - NO CLASS</b>	
Feb. 06 <i>Mon</i>	Sampling Issues	Chapter 6
Feb. 09 <i>Thu</i>	Survey Research <b>REFERENCES DUE</b>	Chapter 7
Feb. 13 <i>Mon</i>	Evaluation Research	Chapter 12
Feb. 16 <i>Thu</i>	Statistical Analysis of Data: Descriptive Statistics	Chapter 15
<b>Feb. 20 <i>Mon</i></b>	<b>LOUIS RIEL DAY - NO CLASS</b>	
<b>Feb. 23 <i>Thu</i></b>	<b>EXAM # 1: READ Chs. 1 – 7, 12 &amp; the Lecture Notes</b>	
Feb. 27 <i>Mon</i>	Statistical Analysis of Data: Descriptive Statistics (Contd.)	Chapter 15
Mar. 01 <i>Thu</i>	Statistical Analysis of Data: Inferential Statistics <b>FIRST DRAFT DUE</b>	Chapter 15
<b>Mar. 05 <i>Mon</i></b>	<b>READING DAYS - NO CLASS</b>	
<b>Mar. 08 <i>Thu</i></b>	<b>READING DAYS - NO CLASS</b>	
Mar. 12 <i>Mon</i>	<b>Using SYSTAT – In the Computer Lab</b>	Chapter 14
Mar. 15 <i>Thu</i>	<b>Using SYSTAT (Contd.) – In the Computer Lab</b>	Chapter 14
Mar. 19 <i>Mon</i>	Report Writing	Chapter 17
<b>Mar. 22 <i>Thu</i></b>	<b>Class Presentations</b>	
<b>Mar. 26 <i>Mon</i></b>	<b>Class Presentations</b>	
<b>Mar. 29 <i>Thu</i></b>	<b>Class Presentations</b>	
Apr. 02 <i>Mon</i>	Validity and Threats to Validity	Chapter 10
Apr. 05 <i>Thu</i>	Control Procedures of Threats to Validity <b>FINAL REPORT DUE</b>	Chapter 10
Apr. 09 <i>Mon</i>	Qualitative Research	Chapter 9 & 16
Apr. 12 <i>Thu</i>	Qualitative Research (Contd.)	Chapter 9 & 16
<b>Apr. 16 <i>Mon</i></b>	<b>EXAM # 2: READ Chs. 9 - 10, 14 -17, &amp; the Lecture Notes TIME: 8:30 AM</b>	

**Late Assignment Submission Form**  
**Providence University College**

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**Student Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student number: \_\_\_\_\_

Course Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Course Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_

**Assignment information**

Title of Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_

Assignment Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Assignment Submission Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Lateness: *Please provide an explanation for the lateness of the assignment.*

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**Note:** Please provide all relevant documentation (e.g. Doctor's note)

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Instructors Use Only**

Date Assignment Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Late Penalty Waived / Assessed

Late Penalty: \_\_\_\_\_%

Faculty Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Running head: SURVEY OF STUDENT SATISFACTION WITH FOOD

Survey of Student Satisfaction with Food Served in the Cafeteria  
at Providence University College and Theological Seminary

by

John M. Doe and Jane F. Doe

Providence University College