Course Syllabus

Course Information   SOC 6V92 Research Workshop in Applied Sociology

Section 001

Summer 2017

Professor Contact Information

Bobby C. Alexander, Ph.D.

Office Phone: 972-883-6898
E-mail: bcalex@utdallas.edu

PLEASE use regular UTD e-mail instead of eLearning to reach me. Thank you.

Office: GR 2.532
Office Hours: Mondays 12:30-1:00 p.m. and by appointment if this time does not fit your schedule

NOTE: In addition to having the scheduled office hours to meet with me, all students will meet with me individually for one-half hour twice during our course, and an additional half hour if students need to. See our course calendar below.

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

None

Course Description

Students join a faculty member in a group research project.

This summer, we will gather data on refugees and/or immigrants residing in Dallas’ Vickery Meadow neighborhood, and other neighborhoods in North Texas cities. We will gather some data through non-profit organizations and other agencies that provide services and resources to refugees and/or immigrants. Our research will focus on refugees’ and/or immigrants’ resource needs in the areas of education, health, and community engagement.
Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

- Develop research skills in gathering, analyzing, and interpreting data, both secondary/existing and primary/original, quantitative and qualitative, on the target social group(s).

- Develop an understanding of the relevance of research findings to policies of non-profit organizations and other agencies that provide services and resources to the target population(s).

Required Textbooks and Other Readings

Although no books are required, for anyone who has not taken a field research course, I recommend *A Guide to Qualitative Field Research*, 2nd edition, by Carol A. Bailey, published by Pine Forge Press (Sage Publications), 2007.

The reading by Charles Wheelan on public policy is on Electronic Reserve in the McDermott Library. The password is applied.

Students also will read scholarly sources related to their Research Project, Research Proposal/Design, or Course/Term Paper. See below.

Assignments and Academic Calendar

- Individual Student Assignments. Students will complete a series of 6 assignments that will help you design and carry out either a research project, research proposal/research design, or course/term paper.

- Research Paper, Research Proposal/Design, or Course/Term Paper. Each student will choose one of these options. The first is actual research. The second is a proposal/design for a research project. The last is a library-based paper. Students’ chosen option will be their main course product.

- Group Progress Reports. Students who share an interest in one of the above areas (refugees’ and/or immigrants’ education, health, or community engagement) will divide into small groups and make 3 short group reports. Group members will share their individual progress of their research project, research proposal/design, or course/term paper on their common area. The group reports are designed to help students work on and move forward their chosen research option and related paper/written report.

- Class Presentation. Each group will make a group Class Presentation on their group members’ completed research projects or projects in progress, finished research proposals/designs, or finalized course/term papers.
• Course Workbook. Students will collect their individual assignments, Group Progress Reports, and Class Presentation, and paper on their research project, research proposal/design, or course/term paper in a course workbook. The workbook will provide an overview of each student’s course work.

NOTE: Undergraduate students enrolled in our course for Independent Study credit (SOC 4V97) will have abbreviated assignments and papers.

The Instructor will provide and go over all instructions. All instructions will be posted on eLearning.

Course Calendar

NOTE: We will meet as a class on the Mondays indicated in the course calendar below. On Monday, June 19th, July 10th, and July 17th we will not meet as a class. Instead, students will meet with me individually for 30 minutes on June 19th and again on either July 10th or July 17th. Times tbd. Students who need to meet with me a third time can do so.

We will not meet on Monday, July 31st; I will be on vacation.

June 5

Orientation to the Course

Discussion of IRB Application; Individual Assignments; Research Project, Research Proposal/Design, or Course/Term Paper Options; Group Progress Reports; Group Class Presentation; and Course Workbook.

June 12

NOTE: Our class will meet at the Northwest Community Center at 5750 Pineland Road in Dallas just off Greenville Avenue. See the directions on eLearning.

From the Community Center, we will go together on a tour of the Vickery Meadows neighborhood before returning to the center to hear from staff members and have our lesson.

Assignment #1 due

Assignment #2 due by Wednesday, June 14th
June 19

NOTE: In lieu of meeting together as a class, students will meet with me individually. Times tbd.

June 26

Group Progress Report #1

Assignment #3 due

July 3

Group Progress Report #2

Assignment #4 due

July 10

Individual Student Appointments with me

Assignment #5 due

July 17

Individual Student Appointments with me

Assignment #6 due

July 24

Group Progress Report #3

July 31

NOTE: No Class. Students will continue to work together in their groups to prepare their Group Class Presentation.

August 7

Group Class Presentations

August 14

Research Project Written Report, Research Proposal/Design Paper, or Course/Term Paper, and Course Workbook due
NOTE: Students will turn in their papers (above) and Research Workbook in my office (GR 2.532) at 1 p.m. on Friday, August 12th during the scheduled Final Exam period.

Grading Policy

The percentage distribution for each of the graded assignments and attendance (total equals 100%) for the course grade follows.

25%: Research Written Report, Research Proposal/Design, or Course/Term Paper
20% Individual Assignments combined
15% Group Progress Reports combined
15% Group Class Presentation
15% Research Workbook
10%: Attendance and Class Participation

The grading scale follows.
A+ = 97-100 (undergraduate students only)
A   = 94-96
A-  = 90-93
B+ = 87-89
B   = 84-86
B-  = 80-83
C+  = 77-79
C   = 74-76
C-  = 70-73
D+  = 67-69
D   = 64-66
D-  = 60-63
F    = 59 and below

Course and Instructor Policies

Attendance is required. Students automatically will be excused from one class; no documentation is required if students miss only one class. Students who miss more than one class will be excused if they have a legitimate reason (for example, being out sick) and provide documentation.

The intent of this policy is to help students perform well on assignments by keeping up with lectures and discussion.
Students must submit hard copies of all assignments on the due dates. Electronic submissions will not be accepted, unless the student has a legitimate reason for being absent from class to turn in assignments. Late papers will not be accepted without my prior approval, with the exception of emergencies.

This requirement is intended to help students turn in their work on time and to promote fairness among students who submit their work on time.

University Policies

To view university policies on Student Conduct, Grade Appeals, Disability Services, Religious Holy Days, Campus Carry, Resources to Help You Succeed, and others, please go to the link that follows. http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies