Course Syllabus

Course Prerequisite: ENG 340 or appropriate junior writing course and final semester of program

Instructor/Location/Office Hours:
Suzanne Buehler, M.S.

Instructor Office Location and Hours:
Office Location: University Center Room 311 (In the Library)
Phone: 903-223-3133
E-mail: Suzanne.Buehler@tamut.edu
Fax: 903-223-3120

Office Hours:
Tuesday 1 – 6 pm
Wednesday 1 – 6 pm
Other times by appointment

Class Meeting Dates/Times: This course is fully online


Or


The 10th edition is current, but if you have a copy of the 9th edition, you will be fine.

Course Purpose and Description

As the capstone course for General Studies and Applied Arts and Sciences majors, AAS 490 was created to conclude the interdisciplinary program of study and teach students practical research skills. Academic research and problem-solving are skills that serve a student well in the marketplace, graduate school, or any venue of life. The major project in this course teaches students the steps involved in conducting original research, analyzing data, and applying logic to solve real-world problems. In addition, verbal and written communication skills will be refined throughout the course project.

Course Objectives

1. Students will articulate a research problem, hypotheses or research question.
2. Students will develop a research instrument for data collection, such as a survey and formal interview protocol.
3. Students will develop stronger academic writing skills, and apply standard writing conventions as prescribed by the American Psychological Association 6th edition publication guide to the formal research report.
4. Students will be able to logically analyze a problem, devise recommendations based on data and present recommendations.

Course Methodology

This is a web based course using Blackboard as the learning management system. Media rich content will be complemented with planned instructor-student and student-student interactions. Each student will select a problem to investigate, collect data, and analyze findings on which solid conclusions can be drawn.

University/Course Policies

Disability Accommodations
Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations through the A&M-Texarkana Director of Student Services by calling 903-223-3062.

Academic Honesty
Academic honesty is expected of students enrolled in this course. Cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of research data, plagiarism, and undocumented use of materials from any source, constitute academic dishonesty, and may be grounds for a grade of "F" in the course and/or disciplinary actions." For additional information see the university policy manual.

University Drop Policy:
To drop this course after the 12th class day, a student must complete the Drop/Withdrawal Request Form, located on the University website (http://tamut.edu/Registrar/droppingwithdrawing-from-classes.html) or obtained in the Registrar's Office. The student must submit the signed and completed form to the
instructor of each course indicated on the form to be dropped for his/her signature. The signature is not an “approval” to drop, but rather confirmation that the student has discussed the drop/withdrawal with the faculty member. The form must be submitted to the Registrar’s office for processing in person, email (Registrar@tamut.edu), mail (P. O. Box 5518, Texarkana, TX 75505) or fax (903-223-3140). Drop/withdraw forms missing any of the required information will not be accepted by the Registrar's Office for processing. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that the form is completed properly before submission. If a student stops participating in class (attending and submitting assignments) but does not complete and submit the drop/withdrawal form, a final grade based on work completed as outlined in the syllabus will be assigned.

### Course Assignments and Assessment

**Discussion Board Questions: (100 points)**
Students will participate in Discussion Questions based on the material presented in the course content and assigned readings.

**Class Participation: (200 points)**
Because the course relies heavily upon student-student interaction, an additional 200 points earned by consistent and thorough class communication

**Exams (200 pts – 2 @ 100 pts each)**
Two examinations will be given during the semester over the material covered in the course. Exams will contain a variety of quantitative and qualitative types of questions; the last exam will contain a major research case study to analyze and write. Students will be responsible for all material covered in Blackboard and the assigned readings in the text book.

**Research Project Data Collection (100 pts)**
Each student will select a research problem or topic on which to collect data, analyze findings and make recommendations; this study may utilize quantitative or qualitative methods. Each student will create a survey or set of interviewing questions and gather data. Student performance will be assessed by the development of the instrument and data collection, in addition to the degree to which he/she follows the ethical standards of research and protocol described in course materials. Progress assignments throughout the term will contribute to these points.

**Literature Review Development (100 pts)**
As part of the Research Project, the student will conduct a review of the literature relevant to the project. Students will access articles through the library database and write a literature review using proper APA format and citation. Progress assignments throughout the term will contribute to these points.

**PowerPoint Presentation (100 pts)**
Each student will make a formal presentation in Microsoft PowerPoint using bulleted points to highlight the presentation and include and audio recording to fill in the details. The presentation will delineate the conclusions and recommendations as a result of studying the research findings. Additional data discovered from the literature and other sources can also be used to support
recommendations. The presentation should be about 10 minutes in length. More information on format and style will be provided as the project develops.

**Final Paper (200 pts)**

The final paper is the culminating document of the course and will demonstrate the degree to which the student has mastered the course objectives.

Total Points Possible: 1,000 pts

Grading scale:

- A  900-1,000 pts
- B  800-899 pts
- C  700-799 pts
- D  600-699 pts
- F  000-599 pts