

SYLLABUS

Course Title – Research Methodologies

Course code –

ECTS credits– 4

Auditorium hours -34

Professor/ Instructor– Vardan Sargsyan

Instructors E-mail – varsarg@yahoo.com

Class website – n/a

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The nature of the scientific method and basic techniques in social science research as applied to the collection, analysis, and interpretation of social and management data.

PREREQUISITES - No prerequisites

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

1. To understand social science frameworks for scientific social inquiry
2. To understand the various methods for conducting empirical research
3. To examine trends and patterns in the use of various research methods
4. To analyze and evaluate important research terms, concepts, and techniques
5. To articulate informed opinion about the value of empirical research

To appreciate the benefits of applied research general goals of this course are to provide the student with the following tools to help develop his or her potential:

1. Development of the student's analytical thinking capabilities through comparison and contrast in the application of theories and concepts to social problems
2. Enhancement of the student's literacy skills through assigned readings, discussions, examinations, and other requirements
3. Utilization of the historical perspective which helps with student understanding of evolutionary developments over time
4. Understanding of the scientific method through research requirements and in-depth case studies
5. Improvement in social interaction skills and understanding human behavior through consideration of the impact legal and social systems have on individuals
6. Increased student awareness of cultural and multi-cultural issues through study of how social problems and social movements are related to, and affect, minority groups

COURSE TOPICS/UNITS

The course will cover the following topics:

1. Hypothesis Formulation and Testing
2. A Primer on Sampling, Measurement, Validity and Reliability
3. Survey Research Design
4. Research Ethics
5. Scales and Indexes
6. Quantitative Data Analysis
7. Templates for Grant Writing and Program Evaluation/Policy Proposals

TEXTBOOK(S) AND REFERENCES

Main Textbook/Required Textbook: O'Sullivan, E., Rassel, G. & Berner, M. (2008). *Research methods for public administrators, 5e*. NY: Pearson Longman. ISBN: 0321431375 or ISBN-13: 9780321431370.

GRADING PLAN AND GRADE SCALE

Coursework will be weighted as follows:

- a. class participation - weight 20 %
- b. paper - weight 30%
- c. interim exam - weight 0%
- d. Attendance - weight 10%
- e. Final exam - weight 40%