

Course	PADM 5850 - Research and Assessment Methods in Public Administration
Term	Spring I - January 4 - March 5, 2010
Instructor	Name: Alan L. Bohannon Phone: 501-371-4551 (W); 501-416-5099(C) Email: alanbohannon82@webster.edu or petebo1@comcast.net
Catalog Description	This course introduces students to basic descriptive and inferential statistics, research principles, sampling designs, survey methodologies, and simple experimental and quasi-experimental designs. The course also introduces students to other assessment methods used by public administrators.
Prerequisites	PADM 5000 – Public Administration
Course Level Learning Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students will be able to measure their results against Public Administration theory-based criteria and standards of performance. 2. Students will be able to apply a basic research method to analyze and evaluate the success of public administration programs. 3. Students will be able to appraise the utility of survey methodology tools for public administration research. 4. Students will be able to design an appropriate survey feedback tool for a public program. 5. Students will be able to recommend an appropriate research tool to use in evaluating a public administration program. 6. Students will be able to differentiate between effective and ineffective research methods. 7. Students will be able to prepare a simple public administration research plan.
Materials	<i>The Practice of Social Research</i> , 12th Edition; Earl Babbie; Wadsworth, Cengage Learning ISBN: 0-495-59841-0
Grading	<p>Grading Scale 93-100 A 90-92 A- 87-89 B+ 83-86 B 80-82 B- 70-79 C 0-69 F</p> <p>Overall Course Grade based on 1000 points possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Homework (8 @ 25 points ea.) = 200 • Exam #1 (Chapter 1-6) = 100 • Exam #2 (Chapters 7-12) = 100 • Final Exam (Cumulative) = 200 • Project- Research Proposal = 400 <p>Homework may not be made-up / Attendance for all class sessions is expected.</p>

	<p>Course Requirements The GRADUATE catalog provides these guidelines and grading options:</p> <p>A/A– Superior graduate work B+/B/B– Satisfactory graduate work C Work that is barely adequate as graduate-level performance CR Work that is performed as satisfactory graduate work (B– or better). A grade of "CR" is reserved for courses designated by a department, involving internships, a thesis, practicums, or specified courses. F Work that is unsatisfactory I Incomplete work ZF An incomplete which was not completed within one year of the end of the course. ZF is treated the same as an F or NC for all cases involving G.P.A., academic warning, probation, and dismissal. IP In progress NR Not reported W Withdrawn from the course</p>
<p>Activities</p>	<p>Reading the weeks Chapters and participation in class is essential. Since homework cannot be made-up, a missed class is an automatic -25 point deduction.</p>
<p>Policy Statements: University Polices</p>	<p>University policies are provided in the current course catalog and course schedules. They are also available on the university website. This class is governed by the university's published policies. The following policies are of particular interest:</p> <p>A student may submit their term paper to the On-Line Writing Center in St. Louis by email and have a coach make suggestions/corrections. It is up to the student to allow sufficient time for this process to be utilized and still turn in the term paper on the assigned date. Go to http://www.webster.edu/acadaffairs/asp/wc/online.html</p> <p>Academic Honesty The university is committed to high standards of academic honesty. Students will be held responsible for violations of these standards. Please refer to the university's academic honesty policies for a definition of academic dishonesty and potential disciplinary actions associated with it.</p> <p>Drops and Withdrawals Please beware that, should you choose to drop or withdraw from this course, the date on which you notify the university of your decision will determine the amount of tuition refund you receive. Please refer to the university policies on drops and withdrawals (published elsewhere) to find out what the deadlines are for dropping a course with a full refund and for withdrawing from a course with a partial refund.</p>

	<p>Special Services If you have registered as a student with a documented disability and are entitled to classroom or testing accommodations, please inform the instructor at the beginning of the course of the accommodations you will require in this class so that these can be provided.</p> <p>Disturbances Since every student is entitled to full participation in class without interruption, all students are expected to be in class and prepared to begin on time. All pagers, wireless phones, or other electronic devices must be turned off, or switched to vibrate, when you enter the classroom.</p> <p>Disruption of class, whether by latecomers, noisy devices, or inconsiderate behavior is not acceptable. Students are expected to treat the instructor and other students with dignity and respect, especially in cases where a diversity of opinion arises. Students who engage in disruptive behavior are subject to disciplinary action, including removal from the course.</p> <p>Student Assignments Retained From time to time, student assignments or projects will be retained by The Department for the purpose of academic assessment. In every case, should the assignment or project be shared outside the academic Department, the student's name and all identifying information about that student will be redacted from the assignment or project.</p> <p>Contact Hours for this Course It is essential that all classes meet for the full instructional time as scheduled. A class cannot be shortened in length. If a class session is cancelled for any reason, it must be rescheduled.</p>
<p>Course Policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This syllabus may be revised at the discretion of the instructor without prior notification or consent of the student. The schedule below presents an approximate expectation of course progress. The instructor reserves the right to change the overall course grade weighting. Any changes will be announced in class. • In line with the university's policy on academic honesty, please be advised that instances of academic dishonesty will result in a zero for the assignment and will be reported to the Dean of the School of Business and Technology for further disciplinary action. • Graduate Students are expected to contribute to class discussions in a substantive way at all class sessions.

<p>Week 1:</p>	<p>Time will be spent this first class meeting on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions (Both Instructor and Students) • Discuss syllabus, course objectives & expectations • Class structure, homework, exams • Project - Research Proposal <p>Read and be prepared to discuss all aspects of :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 1 - Human Inquiry and Science • Chapter 2 - Paradigms, Theory, and Social Research • Homework #1
<p>Week 2:</p>	<p>Before class: Read and be prepared to discuss all aspects of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 3 - The Ethics and Politics of Social Research • Chapter 4 - Research Design • Homework #2
<p>Week 3:</p>	<p>Before class: Read and be prepared to discuss all aspects of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 5 - Conceptualization, Operationalization, & Measurement • Chapter 6 - Indexes, Scales, and Typologies • Homework #3
<p>Week 4:</p>	<p>Exam #1 (Chapters 1-6)</p> <p>Before class: Read and be prepared to discuss all aspects of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7 - The Logic of Sampling • Chapter 8 - Experiments • Homework #4
<p>Week 5:</p>	<p>Before class: Read and be prepared to discuss all aspects of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 9 - Survey Research • Chapter 10 - Qualitative Field Research • Homework #5
<p>Week 6:</p>	<p>Before class: Read and be prepared to discuss all aspects of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 11 - Unobtrusive Research • Chapter 12 - Evaluation Research • Homework #6



Week 7:	Exam #2 (Chapters 7-12) Before class: Read and be prepared to discuss all aspects of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 13 - Qualitative Data Analysis• Chapter 14 - Quantitative Data Analysis• Homework #7
Week 8:	Before class: Read and be prepared to discuss all aspects of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 15 - The Elaboration Model• Chapter 16 - Statistical Analyses• Homework #8
Week 9:	Final Exam (Cumulative); Project- Research Proposal Due
Additional Information	
Approved by	Michael Hostetler, Faculty Coordinator, 9 Dec 2009