COURSE SYLLABUS

SOCI – 5303 Section 001
Research Design
Spring 2015

Instructor’s Name | Dr. Dorothy Kalanzi
Instructor’s Office | University Hall – Room 438
E-mail Address | Kalanzi@uta.edu
Office Hours | Mondays and Fridays 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. or by Appointment
Class Days and Times | Wednesdays 2:00 p.m. to 4:50 p.m.
Meeting Location | University Hall 321
Faculty Profile | http://www.uta.edu/mentis/public/#profile/profile/edit/id/12848/category/1

COURSE DISCRIPITION

Seminar on the design, plan, structure, and strategies of contemporary social research. This course examines the interrelationships of theory, methods, and statistics along with problems of measurement, sampling, scaling techniques, and the presentation of statistical data. (3 credit hours)

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK


RECOMMENDED BOOKS at UTA’s Library reference desk:


Supplementary Reading materials will be distributed during the course as necessary.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate broad conceptual understanding of quantitative, qualitative, and mixed research methods
2. Demonstrate knowledge of contemporary sampling techniques
3. Measure and write testable research questions and hypotheses
4. Demonstrate knowledge of ethical concerns in research.
5. Apply critical thinking skills selecting a topic, designing a study, collecting and analyzing data.
6. Demonstrate and apply knowledge of formulating theoretical arguments
7. Design a research study in the area of interest in the field of Social Science and write a proposal for that study.
8. Demonstrate knowledge of disseminating research findings to colleagues or in a publication.

EXPECTATIONS

ACADEMIC CONDUCT: This is a graduate level course that will introduce you to and expect of you graduate level work and behavior. The goal for all students should be to maximize benefits from taking this course. This will only be accomplished by keeping up with all reading assignments; attending all class sessions; constructively engaging in class discussions and activities; and completing all course assignments by the due dates. Every student is expected to take full responsibility for her or his own learning by completing all course requirements as scheduled, applying course material to her or his profession and society, and seeking assistance when necessary.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT: Please be respectful to all members of the class. All electronic devices must be off during the class session. If you must have your cell phone active, please remember to put it on vibrate mode. In case of emergency, please quietly leave the room to answer your phone or text messages.

ASSESSMENT AND PROCEDURES

MID-TERM EXAMINATION: There will a Mid-term examination assessing covered material from course readings, lectures, movies and related activities. The examination will be worth 100 points. Students must complete this exam to pass the course. The format for the exam will be discussed in advance.

Exam Make up Policy: All students are expected to take the Mid-term examination as scheduled. No early or late exam will be given UNLESS if a student has a legitimate excuse such as a written documentation of death or a serious illness, court appearance, or absence on a college sponsored function. These are the only legitimate excuses for failure to show up for the examination or class session. Make sure you understand these policies. Remember that it is your responsibility to contact me if you must miss the mid-term exam for any reason.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL: Each student is expected to design a research study and write a research proposal for that study. The research proposal paper should not exceed 15 pages (excluding references), double spaced using a 12 point size, Times Roman font. The proposal must be proofread and it must include proper citation consistent with the Chicago Manual of Style. The title of the research study will be chosen by the student in consultation with the instructor. The weight of the research study proposal will be 25% of the final grade. Assessment will be based on the students’ ability to demonstration conceptual comprehension of research methods, data collection and analysis techniques, application of theory, etc. as will be covered in class.

ORAL PRESENTATION: Each student will give a 15 to 20 minutes (including the questions and answer session) presentation of her or his study proposal in class as scheduled. The structure of the presentation will be consistent to that of a professional conference. Proposal report presentation assessment will focus on organization and clarity of content, presentation style, etc. The weight of the oral presentation will be worth 5% of the final grade.
JOURNAL ARTICLE CRITIQUE: Every student will be required to critique a recent journal article from a major social science journal or database and to write a maximum of 6 double-spaced pages (excluding references) using a 12 point size Times Roman font. Additional instructions for this assignment will be given later in the course. Submitted critiques must include a copy of the article (stapled together on the top of the critique).

SHORT WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS: Students will complete and bring to class seven written short assignments, double spaced using a 12 point font size, Times Roman. The major purpose for these assignments will be to assist students successfully complete their research proposal project. It is important that every student completes the written assignments as scheduled because class discussions and activities will be generated from these assignments. Additionally, written assignments will not only assist students to acquire a deeper understanding of research methods and developing critical thinking skills, but they will help students demonstrate and apply that knowledge to real life situations. Additional information about the short written assignments will be provided in class.

ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION: Attendance to all class meetings is required for success in this course, it will be recorded, and it will affect your final grade. Every student is expected to express his or her opinions, thoughts, and questions during the class session. I will value everyone’s input as well as contributions, and I will do my best to encourage them by working with you to create a climate that is conducive for participation. I am sure that all of you will have something to contribute at one time or another. Please do so. I will treat your contributions with respect, and I expect you to do the same. Attendance will be assessed based on the number of class sessions attended. Class participation will be assessed based on constructive/not disruptive engagement in class discussions and activities. Both attendance and class participation will constitute 15% of the final grade. I will not remind you of missed assignments, notes, handouts, or any other matter. If you must miss a class meeting, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed from fellow students.

READINGS: Although the readings in this class may be lighter than your other graduate courses because emphasis will be ‘hands on’ experience designing and conducting research studies as per the required projects, it is extremely important that you have enough time to devote to and complete all assigned readings as scheduled for the successful completion of this course. Being prepared for class with completed assignments will enrich the learning process via discussions and collaborative group work all of which may have an impact on the weight of your final grade.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence. I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or
requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System Regents’ Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

**FINAL REVIEW WEEK**

A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations is designated as Final Review Week at UTA. The purpose of this week is to allow you sufficient time to prepare for your finals. During this week, classes are held as scheduled.

**GRADING SCALE**

Your course grade will be based on the number of points you will earn. Your responsibility is to earn as many points as possible. The best way to achieve this is to do as well as possible on the exam, do a good job on written assignments, attend all class sessions, and be active in class. To give you an idea of where you stand at any point during the semester, the following grading scale will be used:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Point Value</th>
<th>% Final Grade</th>
<th>Outcomes Assessed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper Proposal</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal Article Critique</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Short Written Assignments</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td><strong>400</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>1-8</strong></td>
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**Percentage/Letter Grade**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage/Letter Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>89-80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>79-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>69-60</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
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**DROP POLICY**

Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/).

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a
letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

**ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION**

UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php.

**STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY**

At the end of each term, you will be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. You are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/sfs.

**EMERGENCY EXIT PROCEDURES**

Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, everyone should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, you should never take an elevator, use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist you in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

**EEOC STATEMENT**

The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, or disability in the employment or the provision of services.

**E-MAIL**
I will be available to you by e-mail or office hours. Please feel free to E-mail me if you have questions or concerns. I check my E-mail daily. Try to be brief and on the point to accommodate other students who may wish to communicate with me at the same time.

**PROJECTED TOPICS AND READING SCHEDULE**

*(This schedule may change at the discretion of the instructor. “As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. Dr. Dorothy J. N. Kalanzi.”)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting /Week/Day</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
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| WEEK 01 (January 21) | Chapter 1 - The Selection of a Research Approach  
Short Written Assignment 01 |
| WEEK 02 (January 28) Readings | Chapter 2 - Review of the Literature  
Guest Speaker  
**Short Written Assignment 01 Due**  
Short Written Assignment 02 |
| WEEK 03 (February 04) Readings | Chapter 3 The Use of Theory  
**Short Written Assignment 02 Due**  
Short Written Assignment 03 – Field Assignment |
| WEEK 04 (February 11) Readings | Sampling |
| Week 05 (February 18) Readings | Chapter 4 – Writing Strategies and Ethical Considerations  
**Short Written Assignment 03 Due**  
Short Written Assignment 04 |
| WEEK 06 (February 25) Readings | Chapter 5 - The Introduction  
**Short Written Assignment 04 Due**  
Short Written Assignment 05 |
| WEEK 07 (March 04) Readings | MID-TERM |
| WEEK 09 (March 09-14) | HAVE A JOYOUS SPRING BREAK |
| WEEK 10 (March 18) Readings | Chapter 6 - The Purpose Statement  
**Short Written Assignment 05 Due**  
Short Written Assignment 06 |
| WEEK 11 (March 25) Readings | Chapter 7 - Research Questions and Hypotheses  
**Short Written Assignment 06 Due**  
Short Written Assignment 07 |
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 12 (April 01)</th>
<th>Chapter 8 - Quantitative Methods</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Readings</td>
<td>Short Written Assignment 07 Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 13 (April 08)</td>
<td>Chapter 9 - Qualitative Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readings</td>
<td>Journal Article Critique Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 14 (April 15)</td>
<td>Chapter 10 - Mixed Methods Procedures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Readings</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 15 (April 22)</td>
<td>ORAL PRESENTATIONS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Readings</td>
<td>Final Proposal Report Due</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Short Written Assignment 08 Due</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Peer Review feedback required</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 14 (April 29)</td>
<td>ORAL PRESENTATIONS</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Peer Review feedback required</td>
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<td>WEEK 15 (May 06)</td>
<td>Review Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 16 (May 09-14)</td>
<td>FINALS WEEK</td>
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