

Draft: May be revised before the first night of class

LL 300 RESEARCH SEMINAR:

PROMOTING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Summer 2007

Faculty: Susan Reed
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Class Time: Tuesdays, 6:30-9:30

Location: O'hare Campus

Course Description: This class will focus on the development of research skills, specifically identifying a researchable question, writing a review of the literature on previous research and designing a study to answer the question employing appropriate methods. Students are encouraged to develop questions that address health issues of interest to them, which may include programs that promote healthy communities in the third world, the role of the arts in promoting healthy communities or effective treatments for breast cancer among African American women.

Competences:

- L-8 Can pose questions and use methods of formal inquiry to answer questions and solve problems.
- L-9 Written by student with assistance from instructor

Outcomes: the following learning outcomes are anticipated for this class....

- Can examine the personal meaningfulness of one's research question(s).*
- Can write a clear researchable question.*
- Can identify the relevant audience and purpose for the Research Seminar project.*
- Can produce an analytic review of the relevant literature reflecting Level 3 mastery or above.*
- Can state researchable hypotheses/questions.*
- Can distinguish between quantitative and qualitative methods for inquiry and apply one of them.*
- Can identify elements of appreciative and critical thinking in the various sources used in one's research.*
- Can articulate a systematic design for one's research project.*
- Can justify the selection of research methods exploring one's research question or hypothesis.*
- Can apply the guidelines for the ethical treatment of human subjects.*
- Can write a concise and assessable competence statement reflecting the topic of one's research.*
- Can select appropriate content that's consistent with the hypothesis or question under investigation.*
- Can select learning methods to achieve learning goals.*

Books: Practical Research by Paul D. Leedy and Jeanne Ellis Ormrod

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, APA, 5th edition

We will also be using Blackboard this quarter where all course documents and assignments will be posted. To login to Blackboard go to www.oll.depaul.edu and type in the user name and password that you use for Campus connect. It should also be possible to email other classmates from there.

Course Requirements

- 1) Active participation in class discussions.
- 2) All assigned reading
- 3) First and second drafts of all components of the final research proposal. These components are:
 - a) a **problem statement** in which you discuss why your research question is important to study (approximately 3 pages).
 - b) a **literature review** in which you thoroughly discuss the work that has already been done which addresses aspects of your research question (approximately 8 pages).
 - c) a description and explanation of the **research methods** you will use to answer your question (approximately 4 pages).
 - d.) An **annotated bibliography** that cites and summarizes your sources (approximately 20 sources).

About the Instructor

Susan Reed is an Associate Professor at SNL and earned her Ph.D. from Northwestern University. She has taught urban policy for many years and has several publications in the area of mental health and long-term care.

Academic Integrity Policy

This course will be conducted in accordance with the University's guidelines on academic integrity that may be found in the Student Handbook. The instructor will work with students to clarify the appropriate use of sources and offer software available to ensure compliance.

Grading and Evaluation

Research Seminar is a Pass/No Pass course. If you cannot complete the course in the 10 week time frame, you may request an incomplete and submit a contract stating when you will complete the coursework. I cannot submit an Incomplete unless I have this signed contract. If you disappear from class or do not complete all required assignments you will receive an F unless an Incomplete has been arranged.

Class Schedule

June 19

How can we promote a healthier world community?

Introduction to the Course

Analyzing news reports of health research:

Vaccine blocks cervical cancer

Barking up the right tree: Hospital volunteers with dogs

Exercise for the body is food for the brain, study says

Study: Schools could trim girls' obesity with PE

Assignments

Read: Click on External Links on Blackboard to read the following 2 articles:

Social Change and Obesity Prevention: Where Do We Begin?

Assessing Overweight, Obesity, Diet, and Physical Activity in College Students

Chapter 1 in *Practical Research*

Complete the worksheet (on Blackboard under Assignments, Week 1) entitled Making sense of your scholarly sources using this week's assigned article, *Assessing Overweight, Obesity, Diet, and Physical Activity in College Students*. Bring it to class

Identify a topic for your proposal related to promoting healthy communities; On Blackboard under External Links, view the website for the Agency for Healthcare Research to get some ideas; complete the Topic Choice worksheet (on Blackboard, under Assignments)

June 26

Brainstorming interesting topics
What is a researchable question?
Different sources: scholarly and popular

Assignments

Read: Writing the Problem Statement (on Blackboard under Assignments, Week 2)
Chapter 3 in *Practical Research*;
If you are still getting used to working on a computer and using the internet, please read p12-20 of Chapter 2 in *Practical Research*, as well
Go to the publisher's website at www.prenhall.com/leedy Choose Chapter 3 in the upper left hand corner; choose project; open and complete the assignment. Click "submit answers for grading" so I may view it.
Start your annotated bibliography with 5 sources used to write problem statement; see *How to Write an Annotated Bibliography* and *SourceAid* (on Blackboard, under External Links)

July 3

Writing a problem statement
Finding resources to help you write it
Library Session

Assignments

Write a draft of the first section of your research proposal, the problem statement.
Read: Writing the Literature Review (on Blackboard under Assignments, Week 3)
Chapter 4 in *Practical Research*
Schedule an individual meeting with me.

July 10

Using a consistent style in your annotated bibliography
How to organize the Literature Review
How to remain focused during the Literature Review
Research Method teams
DUE: Problem Statement, first draft

Assignments

Continue a draft of the annotated bibliography using five scholarly sources
Read Chapter 2 (p. 21-41 only) and 5 in *Practical Research*

July 17

We'll work together in the Lincoln Park library today

Assignments

Begin a draft of the literature review
Prepare to teach about your topic to a small group: complete worksheet entitled, What does the research on your topic find? (on Blackboard under Assignments, Week 5)
Read Chapters 6 and 12 in *Practical Research*

July 24

How to decide what information you need to answer your research question
The basic elements of research design
Small groups: What I've learned so far about my topic

Assignments

Finish draft of Literature review using 15 citations
Ask one member of your team to review for editing
Read: Chapters 7 and 8 in *Practical Research*
Writing the Research Design (on Blackboard under Assignments, Week 6)

Review *Social Change and Obesity Prevention: Where do we begin?* (on Blackboard under Assignments, Week 1) and identify one research question

July 31

Choosing the right methods for your question

Editing your bibliography using APA guidelines

Meet your team mates: Design a study on obesity using your assigned methodology

DUE: Literature review, first draft

Assignments

Read Chapters 9 and 10 in *Practical Research*

Complete Research Team Assignment (on Blackboard under Assignments, Week 7) with team members

August 7

Research Design: Team presentations

Analyzing the Data

How will you explain what you know?

Assignments

Draft Research Design section

August 14

Critiquing the first draft

Research Proposal Checklist

Student Presentations: 5 minutes...research question, the literature, methods

DUE: Research design, first draft

Assignments

Review Checklist for your Final Draft (on Blackboard under Assignments, Week 6)

Rewrite Final Draft

August 21

The Ethics of Research

Student Presentations: 5 minutes...research question, the literature, methods

August 28: Research Proposal Due