

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
FCS 583: RESEARCH PROBLEMS
CREDIT HOURS: 3
SEMESTER: Fall, 2007

Class meets: Day/time: Mon: 4-6:50 pm
Academic Building II: Room 201

INSTRUCTOR: Claudia Sealey-Potts Ph.D., R.D., L.D.,
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Textbook: Patten, Mildred L. Questionnaire Research: A practical guide. Second edition:
Pyrzack, Publishing, 2001.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is tailored to the needs of students in the Dietetic Internship Program in regard to research, project development, and problem solving. Each student will conduct an individual project. As a team, students will develop a case study based on a nutrition problem with a culturally diverse target population group. Students will develop and market a brochure on solutions to the developed study.

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend class sessions. Only University-recognized excuses will be accepted.

Student Syllabus Guidelines: You may find online a more detailed description of the following policies. These guidelines will also provide you with a link to the specific university policy or procedure: <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Academic Dishonesty: Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines.*

Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. Students are to turn off all cell phones while in the classroom. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination. Failure to do so will result in a 50% deduction of overall grades. Students may tape record lectures provided they do not disturb other students in the process.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days: Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines.*

Students with Disabilities Policy: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines.*

Visitors in the Classroom: Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

Course Format:

This course involves actual research design, data analysis and data presentation in the form of a bound thesis and electronic format. For this Fall 2007 only group effort is undertaken. A topic will be selected and data collected, written up and presented in bound form and on a CD. This will complete 100 hours of research competency approved by the American dietetic Association (ADA).

Course Outline:

This course involves basic and applied research in Family and consumer Sciences; nutrition or nutrition-related field. The course provides a general overview of the ways that information professionals collect information about empirical phenomena. It is not a statistic course.

Objectives:

- Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments and points of view.
- Learning how to find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems.
- Acquiring skills in working with others as a member of a team.
- Developing specific skills, competencies and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course.
- Provide a basis for an informed and critical evaluation of the research literature in the field, including how to read a research report and report research results.
- Locate and use information about scientific research and primary and secondary data resources, including data analysis and descriptive statistics; and
- Provide the foundation for designing and conducting practical needs assessment and service delivery evaluation
- Acquiring an interest in learning more by asking questions and seeking answers

There are no formal examinations; however students are required to submit various pieces of the research at specific times within semester. A grade will be assigned to the various sections as describe below:

Course Evaluation: Your written work evaluation will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Clearly written and/or presented work
- Knowledge of the concepts and methods of research
- Demonstration of a growing knowledge base over the course of the semester of facts, concepts and literature related to research methods
- Demonstration of a degree of originality in your analyses
- Accomplishments of stated intentions
- Quality and presentation of final product
- Group participation

COURSE EVALUATION:	Points	% final grade
Structured outline:	50	10%
Comprehensive literature Review	150	25%
Final Document (includes peer evaluation)	250	50%
Participation	100	15%
Total possible points	550	100%

A	=	405-450	=	90-100%
B	=	360-400.5	=	80-89%
C	=	315-355.5	=	70-79%
D	=	270-310.5	=	60-69%
F	=	0-309	=	below 60%

Participation in the course is based on peer evaluation. Your peers will evaluate you based on relevant input, work ethic, and performance.

Late submissions: Late is not ordinarily accepted and will not be accepted for the course. Documented medical reasons are typically the only exception to this rule. In fairness to students who turn in assignments on time, all late papers will be penalized by lowering the earned grade by 10 percent for each day that the assignment is late (e.g. If an assignment is worth a total of 100 points, your grade on the assignment is 97 points and you handed in the assignment one day late, then your earned grade is 87 points).

Help with Written Work: Writing is the principal component of the grade for this course. Critical thinking must be translated into written word. SHSU has a place to go for help. The SHSU Writing Center has skilled people to help you construct and produce a coherent paper. This service is free and has been proven to be extremely useful to students.

Incompletes: Permission will be granted only under special circumstances and is available only to students with a medical or family emergency for which written documentation is required. Decisions about granting incompletes will generally not be made until last three weeks of the course.

Ethical Behavior: SHSU and the CHSS policies on academic dishonesty will be adhered to stringently. Academic and personal misconduct by students in this class are defined and dealt with according to the procedures in the students' code of ethics. There is however much more to avoiding plagiarism than just citing a reference. To help recognize plagiarism, the Writing center can provide guidance. Also search the ADA website for information on ethical behavior and plagiarism.

Here are some tips on how to avoid inadvertent plagiarism:

1. If you take material that is not yours, from any source whatsoever and copy into assignments for this class, you must provide a footnote, endnote, or parenthetical reference to the source of the material
2. Any material that quotes verbatim from other sources must be enclosed in quotation marks and its source attributed as noted in rule # 1 above. See AMA style manual for guidance.
3. Materials not taken verbatim from a text but paraphrased must also be attributed as in rule #1.
4. Violations of these rules in any assignment may be subject to a maximum penalty of a grade of zero (0) for the assignment and may result in a grade of "F" for the course. The instructor will clarify any of the expectations that you do not understand.
5. In this course your written work is subject to be reviewed through Turn-it-in.com to check for plagiarized work You are also required to submit all written work on a CD or electronic format, including the data spread sheet.

Deadlines for submission of work:

Human Subjects Application should be submitted prior to 1st day of class or by 8/27

Completed Research Outline: Due: 9/10

Comprehensive literature review (draft) Due: 9/24

Data collection and should be well on its way by: 9/24

Final Document, CD with data and peer evaluation Due: 12/10

September 5th: Departmental Meeting for all FCS students @ 3:30pm

All assignments are due by 4:00 pm on the dates above. Anytime after 4 is considered late by one day.