

**Sam Houston State University**  
**McNair Scholars Program**  
**MCN 430-01**  
**Spring 2008**  
**CFS Building Room 101**

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**Professor:** Dr. Lydia C. Fox  
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**Course Description:**

This course is designed to provide students with a quick introduction to the methods, problems, and terminology of graduate research. Because the course is geared toward advanced undergraduate students and is interdisciplinary, we will only touch the surface of the research process and will provide students with a foundation on which to build during their graduate studies. Through the process of writing a research proposal and presenting the preliminary research to the class, students will be exposed to the complex area of research, to the library and computer resources available, and to the critical thinking, computer, and writing skills necessary to succeed in graduate school.

**Required Texts:**

Classroom Packet. Tayebi, Kandi/Fox, Lydia. Quantitative and Qualitative Research. (Will be available on Blackboard.)

**Learning Outcomes**

Students will be able to

- 1) Construct a research proposal
- 2) Utilize computer and library resources for research
- 3) Present research findings
- 4) Write effectively in the discipline

**Course Requirements:**

- 1) Research proposal—The proposal will include an abstract, statement of the hypothesis, research question or problem, literature review, methodology section, statement of the research problems, and an annotated reference page using appropriate document style sheet.
- 2) A 15- to 20-minute PowerPoint presentation of preliminary research.
- 3) In-class and homework exercises—you will be expected to complete exercises working with variables, preparing IRB paperwork, inputting and manipulating SPSS data, and practicing other skills necessary to complete a research project.

- 4) Graduate school paperwork—you will be expected to complete the paperwork (application, letters of recommendation, letter of application, etc.) necessary to apply to graduate school.
- 5) GRE Preparation—you will be expected to complete a workshop on GRE preparation and GRE practice tests.
- 6) Attendance at all classes.

### **Attendance:**

Attendance is mandatory. After you miss two classes, your grade will drop for every absence after that. BE PREPARED!

### **Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in either an “F” on the paper or an “F” in the course.

### **Papers:**

Papers should be double-spaced on a word processor. Papers should follow appropriate documentation style for your discipline. Late papers will receive a “0”. Papers that do not meet the minimum page allowance for the assignment will not be accepted.

### **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. 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.

**Conferences:**

You may meet with the professors as many times as you wish. Call or e-mail to schedule an appointment.

**Grading:**

Graduate Paperwork	05 points
Research Action Plan	05 points
Hypothesis and Research Questions	10 points
Abstract	05 points
Literature Review	20 points
Proposal	30 points
Presentation	<u>25</u> points
	100 points

## Class Schedule

<b>Week One</b> 1/17/08	Introduction to Course
<b>Week Two</b> 1/22/08; 1/24/08	<b>GRE Pre-test (1/22)</b> ; Applying to Graduate School
<b>Week Three</b> 1/29/08; 1/31/08	GRE Prep; Graduate School Politics <b>**Research Action Plan Due (1/31)**</b>
<b>Week Four</b> 2/5/08; 2/7/08	GRE Prep; Filling out Graduate School Applications
<b>Week Five</b> 2/12/08; 2/14/08	GRE Prep; Selecting a Faculty Mentor
<b>Week Six</b> 2/19/08; 2/21/08	GRE Prep; Selecting a Faculty Mentor <b>**Graduate School Paperwork Due (2/21)**</b>
<b>Week Seven</b> 2/26/08; 2/28/08	Quantitative/Qualitative Research; Ethics; Hypothesis & Research Questions; Reliability and Validity; Measurement Modalities; Observation
<b>Week Eight</b> 3/4/08; 3/6/08	Library work (3/4); Surveys and Questionnaires; Experiments <b>** Hypothesis and Research Questions Due (3/6)**</b>
<b>Week Nine</b> 3/11/08; 3/13/08	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
<b>Week Ten</b> 3/18/08; 3/20/08	Literature Reviews; Reading Scholarly Articles; Writing a Proposal;
<b>Week Eleven</b> 3/25/08; 3/27/08	Library Work (3/25); SPSS (3/27)
<b>Week Twelve</b> 4/1/08; 4/3/08	Data Analysis; Writing Abstracts
<b>Week Thirteen</b> 4/8/08; 4/10/08	Library Work (4/10); Presentation Skills <b>**Literature Review Due (4/10)**</b>
<b>Week Fourteen</b> 4/15/08; 4/17/08	Library Work (4/15); Posterboard, Oral and PowerPoint Presentations <b>**Abstract Due (4/17)**</b>
<b>Week Fifteen</b> 4/22/08; 4/24/08	<b>GRE Post-test (4/22)</b> ; Library Work (4/24)
<b>Week Sixteen</b> 4/29/08; 5/1/08	<b>Presentations</b>
<b>Week Seventeen</b> 5/6/08; 5/8/08	<b>Presentations</b> <b>**Research Proposal Due (5/8)**</b>