AEC 6767 – Research Strategies in Agricultural Education & Communication
Spring 2023
(3 credit hours)

Instructor
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Time and Location
Wednesday Periods 6 – 8 (12:50 – 3:50 p.m.) 306 Rolfs Hall

Course Description
This course focuses on applying the principles, practices, and strategies for conducting research in the social sciences, particularly dealing with the interface of the human dimension in the agricultural and natural sciences.

Course Objectives
At the completion of the course, the learner will be able to:
1. integrate the scientific process associated with research.
2. critically evaluate research studies.
3. describe how instrumentation and data collection procedures relate to the entire research process.
4. apply the concepts of qualitative and quantitative research.
5. develop instruments to collect valid and reliable data.
6. integrate instrumentation and data collection methods for various types of research problems and contextual situations.
7. identify a problem area of interest, develop constitutive and operational definitions associated with a study, ascertain an appropriate research design, and develop a research proposal.

Required Texts
Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. (2018). *Research design*. (5th Edition). Sage Publications Inc. ISBN 9781506386706

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association.* (7th Edition). American Psychological Association. ISBN 9781433832178

Frey, B. B. (2016). *There's a stat for that*. Sage Publications Inc. ISBN 9781483318752

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & DESCRIPTIONS

Research Workgroup
Scientific research is not an individual endeavor. It requires the engagement of the community of scientists. Thus, each student will be assigned a research workgroup. The research workgroup will provide support, critique, and feedback to each member to assist in the development of the major assignments of the course. Students will be evaluated on their contributions to their research workgroup.

Module Quizzes
Short quizzes on key ideas are included within each module.

Research Ideas
Bring two research ideas to class (see course calendar below; advisor and/or chair approval). Please be prepared to discuss the idea in groups. Consider the following for group discussion (a) what is the problem, (b) can the problem be measured, (c) how will you measure the problem, and (d) what is the significance of the problem to your field.

State of the Field
Based on the approach (quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-methods) you have selected from class meeting one and two, select one journal in your field. Define your field in any way that you choose. Examine the journal (year 2021) for the approach you have selected. Write a 3-4 page report on the status of the chosen approach. Consider topics addressed, authors, methods used, trends, explanations of approaches etc. Make page 5 your reference page. The report is to be typed, double spaced (12 pt font, 1-inch margins). There is an example report in Canvas.

Introduction, Mini-Literature Review, Theoretical Framework, Purpose Statement, and RQS/OBJS/Hypothesis
Develop a mini-literature review, a full introduction, purpose statement, research questions/objectives/hypothesizes from one of the research ideas (advisor and/or chair approval). The assignment is to be typed, double spaced (12 pt font, 1 inch margins). Please see below for page requirements. This assignment will be the foundation for the Research Prospectus assignment. The guidelines for this assignment will be provided via the grading rubric. Each member of the Research Workgroup will evaluate and provide feedback on the assignment of the other members of the Research Workgroup

Introduction (2-3 pages)
Literature review (4-6 pages)
Theoretical Framework (2-3 pages)
Purpose statement, RQS/OBJS/HYPO (1/2 page)

Research Prospectus – 1st Submission
A research prospectus, essentially a preliminary mini-proposal, outlining a research study you wish to conduct and the rationale and methodology behind it, will be developed by each student and presented to the class during the course poster session (advisor and/or chair approval). The prospectus is to be typed, double spaced (12 pt font, 1 inch margins). Please see below for page requirements. The guidelines for this assignment will be provided via the grading rubric. Each member of the Research Workgroup will evaluate and provide feedback on the research prospectus of the other members of the Research Workgroup.

Introduction (2-3 pages)
Literature review (4-6 pages)
Theoretical Framework (2-3 pages)
Purpose statement, RQS/OBJS/HYPO (1/2 page)
Methods (4-5 pages)

Final Research Prospectus – Revised Submission & Revision Letter
In addition to the revised prospectus, the author must also include a letter stating how comments/suggestions made on the first draft were addressed.

Research Poster Presentation
Develop a research poster based on the Research Prospectus assignment. The research posters will be presented during the AEC Research Poster Session. The guidelines for this assignment will be provided via the grading rubric and the call for posters.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS	Points
Research Workgroup	50
Module Quizzes	30
Research Ideas (2)	20
State of the Field	30
Literature review, TF, Introduction, Purpose statement, RQs	300
Research Prospectus – 1st Submission	20
Final Research Prospectus – Revision Letter	450
Research Poster Presentation	100
Total Points	**1000**

Grading Scale

A = 930-1000	B- = 800-829	D+ = 660-699
A- = 900-929	C+ = 760-799	D = 630-659
B+ = 860-899	C = 730-759	D- = 600-629
B = 830-859	C- = 700-729	E = below 600

COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN

In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions:

- Students and instructors are required to wear a face covering (mask or similar covering) at all times they are in UF facilities. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.
- This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students.
- Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom. Students must maintain at least a 6-feet distance from each other as then enter and leave the room and when they are in the room.
- Students will use their own computers during the semester.
- Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
- If a student or instructor is unable to attend the class due to illness, the course will be able to be taught in an online-only format. Class meetings will take place at specified times via Zoom.
- In the event the university has to cancel in-person instruction, class meetings will continue through Zoom.
- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (Click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus), please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms.
  - Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. Find more information in the university attendance policies.

Because some class sessions of this course will be taught online, the sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

Grades and Grade Points

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Absences and Make-Up Work

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx.

Academic Honesty

As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: "*We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.*" You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: *"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.*"

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/SCCR/honorcodes/honorcode.php.

Software Use

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

- *University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575,*
  www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/
    Counseling Services
    Groups and Workshops
    Outreach and Consultation
    Self-Help Library
    Training Programs
    Community Provider Database
- *Career Resource Center,* First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, **www.crc.ufl.edu/**

Services for Students with Disabilities

The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation
0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, **www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/**

Course Calendar

Dates	Topics / Learning Experiences	Assignment Due
Preliminary Considerations	
Jan 11	The Selection of a Research Approach	None
Jan 18	Research Idea Feedback	Module #1; Quiz Research Ideas (2)
Jan 25	Review of Literature	Module #2 Quiz
Feb 1	The Use of Theory	Module #3 Quiz
Feb 8	Writing Strategies and Ethical Considerations	Module #4 Quiz; State of the Field Paper (1)
	Designing Research	
Feb 15	The Introduction	Module #5 Quiz
Feb 22	The Purpose Statement	Module #6 Quiz
Mar 1	Research Questions and Hypotheses	Module # 7 Quiz
Mar 8	Quantitative Methods	Module #8 Quiz; Introduction, Mini Literature Review, Purpose Statement, and RQS/OBJS/Hypothesis
Mar 15	Spring Break	
Mar 22	Research Workgroup	Feedback
Mar 29	Qualitative Methods	Module #9 Quiz
Apr 5	Mixed Methods	Module #10 Quiz
Apr 12	*No class meeting – submit prospectus online*	Research Prospectus – 1st Submission
Apr 19	Research Workgroup	Research Prospectus Feedback
Apr 26	Research Prospectus Poster Session	Research Poster; Submit Final Research Prospectus w/letter