WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

FACULTY MEMBER: TERM:

COURSE TITLE: Applied Research Design

COURSE NUMBER: SOC 340

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is an introduction to research design in the social sciences. Emphasis is on students as consumers of research. Critical reading of research and application of research findings in practice are included.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 101 or SOC 101, ENG 121, ENG 122, SOC 331 and MAT 308

II. COURSE RATIONALE:

III. MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

GOAL A:
The student will demonstrate an understanding of the role of research in the development and application of knowledge.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:
A-1 Explain the purposes of research.
A-2 Describe the relationship between behavioral science theories and research.

GOAL B:
The student will explain the steps of the research process.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:
B-1 Explain the model of scientific inquiry.
B-2 Specify a study’s goals or objectives.
B-3 Define a study’s parameters such as population, sample and variables.
B-4 Specify techniques and procedures to be used to achieve the study’s objectives and goals.
B-5 Describe the process of collecting relevant data.

GOAL C:
The student will contrast major types of research designs, including when and why each is used.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:
C-1 Identify and describe historical research.
C-2 Identify and describe descriptive research.
C-3 Identify and describe analytical/correlation research.
C-4 Identify and describe experimental research.

Syllabus is sole property of Wilmington University
C-6 Describe the differences between quantitative and qualitative research.

**GOAL D:**
The student will demonstrate understanding of data collection and manipulation.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:
- D-1 Define random assignment.
- D-2 Describe independent and dependent variables.
- D-3 Discuss potential researcher bias.
- D-4 Explain different types of sampling (i.e. probability and non-probability sampling).
- D-5 Describe reliability and validity.
- D-6 Discuss issues to consider when generalizing research to the population.

**GOAL E:**
The student will read research critically.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:
- E-1 Identify the type of research used.
- E-2 Specify the purpose of the research.
- E-3 Identify the research methods used.
- E-4 Identify possible fallacies/limitations to research.
- E-5 Suggest future research.
- E-6 Analyze scholarly articles.

**GOAL F:**
The student will gain “hands-on” practical experience in research methods common to social science research.

**Learning Outcomes:** Students will:
- F-1 Conduct a mini-study
- F-6 Reflect on the process of the mini-study

**GOAL G:**
Students will analyze ethical considerations in the research process

**Learning Outcomes:** Students will:
- G-1 Discuss the 3 ethical principles outlined in the Belmont Report: beneficence, autonomy, and justice.
- G-2 Discuss potential problems in obtaining informed consent.

**GOAL H:**
Students will demonstrate appropriate written and oral communication skills

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:
- H-1 Write clearly, concisely, and appropriately using correct English grammar, punctuation, usage, mechanics, sentence structure, and vocabulary.
- H-2 Use appropriate APA format for scholarly writings.
- H-3 Speak with confidence, clarity, and conciseness.
- H-4 Research, prepare, and deliver professional presentations