



RE 499 ONLINE RESEARCH METHODS SEMINAR
IES Abroad Barcelona

DESCRIPTION:

This online seminar will introduce students to qualitative and quantitative research methods, as well as the design, development and writing of research and scholarly projects. The seminar will help students develop the tools and skills required to carry out a research project and deliver a high-quality research paper in a partner course during their semester at an IES Abroad Center. The seminar will cover the most important research and presentation techniques used in different academic disciplines. Since study abroad is a unique opportunity for experiential learning and cultural interaction, special emphasis will be given to those methods and techniques that imply contact and relationship with local people and/or institutions.

The seminar will be divided into 8 online classes. These will be delivered using a variety of methods, and students will be expected to engage in the online learning activities, completing a range of required feedback to ensure their understanding of the topics discussed. The seminar will start before students' arrival at their chosen Center, but in some cases may overlap with the first weeks of their program.

CREDITS: 1 credit will be added to the selected partner course, once the research paper has been submitted and graded.

CONTACT HOURS: 5 online contact hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

This seminar will be presented online in Moodle using e-lectures, guided PowerPoint presentations and online meetups.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Research paper: 100%
- Attendance is compulsory. Students who do not complete the seminar including all required exercises will not be eligible for the research program, unless they have documentation that they have already received credit for a similar course at their home colleges.

Course Participation

In addition to the online presentations, there will be a range of required activities, including forum discussions, quizzes, summaries of readings and critiques of scholarly articles. Students are expected to participate in all online activities as directed.

Research Paper

A 25-page research paper will be completed as part of one of the selected partner courses to this seminar. The topic for the research paper will be proposed by the student, and approved by the instructor of this seminar and the instructor for the selected partner course. The paper must be based on original research carried out by the student during the seminar. The precise criteria for the paper will vary depending on the subject matter and the type of research undertaken. These criteria will be discussed and approved during the seminar.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- set a research question or topic in an appropriate scholarly manner;
- place a working hypothesis, thesis statement, or research question into a real context;
- use accurate tools for data collection and analysis;
- test a research hypothesis, demonstrate the validity of a thesis statement, or effectively answer a research question;
- write up a research project using scholarly norms;



ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students are expected to complete all of the online sessions and associated activities by the deadlines set out in the syllabus. Students who fail to complete any part of the online course by the deadline set by the instructor will not be permitted to present a research paper for a companion course.

CONTENT:

Session	Content	Assignments
Session 1	<p>Introduction and an overview of research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is research? • Overview of different types of research • Difference between research and journalism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walliman, N. (2011). "Research basics". In <i>Research Methods: The Basics</i>. New York: Routledge, pp. 7-15 • Walliman, N. (2011). "Research theory". In <i>Research Methods: The Basics</i>. New York: Routledge, pp. 15-29
Session 2	<p>The research question</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choosing a research question/hypothesis/thesis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rienecker, L., Jorgensen, P.S., with Skov, S. (2013). "Formulating a research question: From topic to focus and question". In <i>The Good Paper—A Handbook for Writing Papers in Higher Education</i>. Frederiksberg, Denmark: Samfundslitteratur, pp. 105-141 • Evans, J. (2007). "Choosing a topic and the research proposal". In <i>Your psychology project: The essential guide</i>. (pp 21-35). London: Sage • Teaching & Learning, Ohio State University Libraries (2016). "The Research Question", In <i>Choosing and Using Resources: A Guide to Academic Research</i>. Available online at https://library.osu.edu/blogs/choosingsources/files/2016/08/Choosing-and-Using-Sources-1-Research-Questions.pdf
Session 3	<p>The structure of research papers/organizing your research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of different ways of structuring different sorts of research papers • Mendeley and other programs helpful for research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rienecker, L., Jorgensen, P.S., with Skov, S. (2013). "The Paper's Structure and Elements". In <i>The Good Paper—A Handbook for Writing Papers in Higher Education</i>. Frederiksberg, Denmark : Samfundslitteratur, pp. 253-299
Session 4	<p>Introduction and literature review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The introduction and the literature review • Demonstrating the relevance of your topic • Putting the research question into context. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USC Libraries Research Guide (n.d.) <i>Organizing Your Social Sciences Research Paper: 4. The Introduction</i>. Available online at http://libguides.usc.edu/c.php?g=235034&p=1559828 • Sharp, J.A., Peters, J., & Howard, K. (2002). "Literature searching". In <i>The Management of a Student Research Project</i> (3rd ed.) (pp. 73-108). Burlington, VT: Gower. • The Writing Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill <i>Literature Reviews</i>. Available online at

		<p>http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/literature-reviews/</p>
Session 5	<p>Methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choosing the best method to carry out the research project (qualitative; quantitative; systematic review; conceptual) Key components of different research approaches How to ensure that your research is “trustworthy” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baker, M. J. (2000). “Selecting a research methodology”. <i>The Marketing Review</i>,1(3), 373-397. Ryan, A. (n.d) <i>Methodology: Analysing qualitative data and writing up your findings</i>. Retrieved from http://eprints.nuim.ie/871/1/methodology.pdf on 3rd May 2009. Golafshani, N. (2003). “Understanding reliability and validity in qualitative research”. <i>The qualitative report</i>, 8(4), 597-607.
Session 6	<p>Ethics and human subjects research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethical issues in research IRB and human subjects research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walliman, N. (2011). “Research ethics”. In <i>Research Methods: The Basics</i>. New York: Routledge, pp. 42-52 Bhatterjee, A. (2012). “Research ethics”. In <i>Social Science Research: Principles, Methods, and Practices</i>. Textbooks Collection. Book 3. http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/oa_textbooks/3
Session 7	<p>The discussion/conclusions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bringing it all together in the discussion and conclusions section of the paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hess DR (2004) “How to write an effective discussion”. <i>Respiratory Care</i> 49: 1238–1241.
Session 8	<p>The final write up and dealing with criticism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing and editing a research paper Responding to reviewers’ critiques and suggestions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saunders MNK and Rojon C (2015) “Dealing with reviewers’ comments in the publication process” In: <i>Coaching: An International Journal of Theory, Research and Practice</i>. DOI: 10.1080/17521882.2015.104746 Janossy, J. (2005). <i>How to write an academic paper using method instead of madness</i>. Downloaded from http://www.ambriana.com/C298_website/How_to_write_a_paper.pdf Sharp, J.A., Peters, J., & Howard, K. (2002). “Presentation of the research findings”. In <i>The Management of a Student Research Project</i> (3rd ed.) (pp. 193-230). Burlington, VT: Gower.

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Baker, M. J. (2000). “Selecting a research methodology”. *The Marketing Review*,1(3), 373-397.
- Bhatterjee, A. (2012). “Research ethics”. In *Social Science Research: Principles, Methods, and Practices*. Textbooks Collection. Book 3.
- Evans, J. (2007). “Choosing a topic and the research proposal”. In *Your psychology project: The essential guide*. (pp 21-35). London: Sage
- Golafshani, N. (2003). “Understanding reliability and validity in qualitative re-search”. *The qualitative report*, 8(4), 597-607.
- Hess DR (2004) “How to write an effective discussion”. *Respiratory Care* 49: 1238–1241. http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/oa_textbooks/3

- Janossy, J. (2005). How to write an academic paper using method instead of mad-ness. Downloaded from http://www.ambriana.com/C298_website/How_to_write_a_paper.pdf
- Rienecker, L., Jorgensen, P.S., with Skov, S. (2013). "Formulating a research question: From topic to focus and question". In *The Good Paper—A Handbook for Writing Papers in Higher Education*. Frederiksberg, Denmark: Samfundslitteratur, pp. 105-141
- Rienecker, L., Jorgensen, P.S., with Skov, S. (2013). "The Paper's Structure and Elements". In *The Good Paper—A Handbook for Writing Papers in Higher Education*. Frederiksberg, Denmark : Samfundslitteratur, pp. 253-299
- Ryan, A. (n.d) Methodology: Analysing qualitative data and writing up your findings. Retrieved from <http://eprints.nuim.ie/871/1/methodology.pdf> on 3rd May 2009.
- Saunders MNK and Rojon C (2015) "Dealing with reviewers' comments in the publication process" In: *Coaching: An International Journal of Theory, Research and Practice*. DOI: 10.1080/17521882.2015.104746
- Sharp, J.A., Peters, J., & Howard, K. (2002). "Literature searching". In *The Management of a Student Research Project* (3rd ed.) (pp. 73-108). Burlington, VT: Gower.
- Sharp, J.A., Peters, J., & Howard, K. (2002). "Presentation of the research findings". In *The Management of a Student Research Project* (3rd ed.) (pp. 193-230). Burlington, VT: Gower.
- Teaching & Learning, Ohio State University Libraries (2016). "The Research Question", In *Choosing and Using Resources: A Guide to Academic Research*. Available online at <https://library.osu.edu/blogs/choosingsources/files/2016/08/Choosing-and-Using-Sources-1-Research-Questions.pdf>
- The Writing Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Literature Reviews. Available online at <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/literature-reviews/>
- USC Libraries Research Guide (n.d.) Organizing Your Social Sciences Research Paper: 4. The Introduction. Available online at <http://libguides.usc.edu/c.php?g=235034&p=1559828>
- Walliman, N. (2011). "Research basics". In *Research Methods: The Basics*. New York: Routledge, pp. 7-15
- Walliman, N. (2011). "Research ethics". In *Research Methods: The Basics*. New York: Routledge, pp. 42-52
- Walliman, N. (2011). "Research theory". In *Research Methods: The Basics*. New York: Routledge, pp. 15-29

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Bickman, L. & Rog, D.J. (Eds.) (2009). *The Sage Handbook of Applied Social Research Methods.*, 2nd Ed. Thousand Oaks: Sage.
- Creswell, J. W. (2009). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches*. 3rd ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publ.
- Darley, J. M., Zanna, M. P., & Roediger III, H. L. (Eds.) (2004). *The Compleat Academic: A Career Guide*. Second Ed., New York: Random House.
- Fowler, F. J., Jr. (2009). *Survey Research Methods* (4th Ed). Applied Social Research Methods Series. Newbury Park, CA: Sage. Huff, A.S. (1999). *Writing for Scholarly Publication*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage
- Jackson, P. T. (2010). *The Conduct of Inquiry* (London: Routledge)
- Lebow, R. N. (2007). "What Can We Know? How Do We Know?" in Richard Ned Lebow and Mark Irving Lichbach, eds., *Theory and Evidence in Comparative Politics and International Relations* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan), pp. 1-22. –
- Lee, T.W. (1999). *Using Qualitative Methods in Organizational Research*. Thousand Oaks: Sage. ations. Ithaca & London: ILR Press, Cornell University.
- Longino, H. (2006). "The Social Dimensions of Scientific Knowledge," *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, last updated August 31, 2006, available online at <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/scientific-knowledge-social/> -
- Moses, J. and Knutsen, T. (2007). *Ways of Knowing: Competing Methodologies in Social and Political Research* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan). –
- Pedhazur, E.J. & Pedhazur Schmelkin, L. (1991). *Measurement, Design, and Analysis: An Integrated Approach*. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
- Rogelberg, S.G. (Ed.) (2004). *Handbook of Research Methods in Industrial and Organizational Psychology*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers.
- Saks, A.M, Schmitt, N. W. & Klimoski, R. J. (2000). *Research, Measurement, and Evaluation of Human Resources*. Scarborough, ON: Nelson.