MARIAN UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCE, & LETTERS
Department of Social, Behavioral, and Forensic Sciences

SWK 352
Summer 2 2019
3 Credit

SWK 352
Research Methods

Why should you take (and be interested in) this class?

A research methods course is required in all social science disciplines. In this class, we will continue to develop your critical thinking skills that help you think like a scientist. Thinking like a scientist will help you to evaluate information, make decisions, and solve problems in your future career and in your everyday life. The skills you learn in this class will help you design studies to answer the research questions you are interested in. Even if you never conduct your own research, these skills will be useful in any applied setting, allowing you to consume and evaluate the research that informs your practice.

In this class, there will be at least one thing you learn that will help you in your practice as a psychologists, social worker, or in the criminal justice system.

Catalog Description: This course presents the basic principles and methods of social science research. Students are introduced to techniques for critical analysis of the professional practice literature and how, as consumers, they can incorporate research findings in practice. Students also acquire knowledge and skills for applying research in their practice. Similarities between the research and problem-solving processes are identified, beginning with conceptualization of the research question, followed by determination of the appropriate design and methodology, and concluding with qualitative and quantitative data analysis and presentation of findings. Professional values and ethics, as well as sensitivity to human diversity, are subsumed within the conduct of research.

About your Professor

Dr. Kidder is an assistant professor of psychology at Marian University. She completed her Bachelors in Psychology at Lock Haven University in Pennsylvania and her Masters and Ph.D. at the University of Texas at El Paso. There, she taught as a graduate student instructor. Dr. Kidder teaches general psychology, statistics for social science, research methods, social psychology, and history and systems in psychology. She and her family (husband and two kids) have lived in Fond du Lac since 2016.

Contact Information

Email: ckkidder08 @marianuniversity.edu

Office Hours: M/W 10-11 on FDL campus or by appointment.

I am available via phone, Skype, email, MO2 chat, or on the FDL campus.

Office: Administration Building 301E
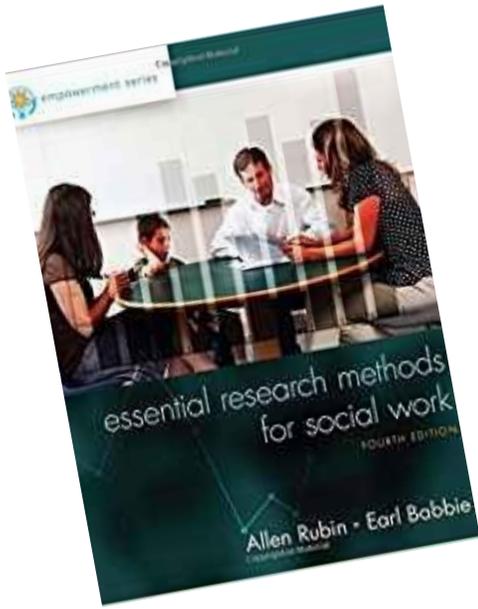
Required Materials

We will be using two texts for this course:

The first "Research Methods" is an open source book available in PDF format on MO2.

The second, is Essential Research Methods for Social Work 4e. I recommend the e-book version which you can rent very cheaply.

You need reliable internet access and a working knowledge of MO2. Because of the nature of technology, you need to anticipate that there are sometimes outages. **You should have a back-up plan for technology issues.** You will also need to regularly check your university email for course updates

Assessment Strategies

| LETTER GRADES	
100-92.5%	A
92.4-89.5	A-
89.4-86.5%	B+
86.4-82.5%	B
82.4-79.5%	B-
79.4-76.5%	C+
76.4-72.5%	C
72.4-69.5%	C-
69.4-66.5%	D+
66.4-62.5%	D
62.4-59.5%	D-
Below 59.5%	F

Formative Assessment

As you are working through the material, it is important to identify the concepts you know and the concepts you don't. This allows you to know what questions to ask, or what supplemental resources to use. In this class, we will leverage collaborative note taking to enhance our learning using online *annotation* through Hypothes.is. These are tied to the "Research Methods" PDF.

The second assessment is *homework* assignments from the text "Essential Research Methods". For each assignment, problems from the text will be assigned for one or more chapters. Complete the assignment and submit to MO2 in a .doc or .docx format.

Each annotation/homework is worth 10 points toward your final grade (25% overall)

Finally, we will have three *reflection* assignments based on unit material. Each reflection is worth 20 points toward your final grade (10% overall)

Grading Scheme

Proposal Assignments

Exams

Reflections

Annotations/Homework
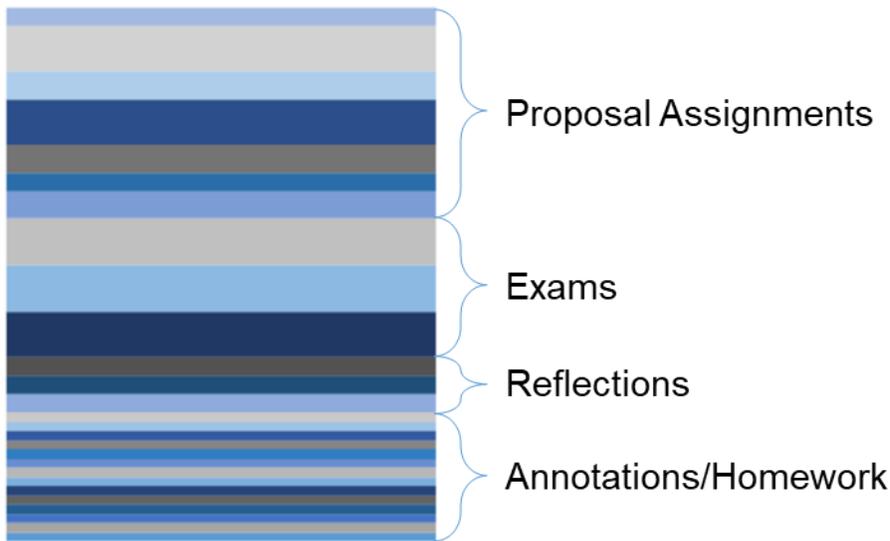
Summative Assessment

Over the semester we will have three **exams** worth 50 points each. These exams will measure the extent to which you have mastered the basic skills and how well you can apply those skills in a variety of settings. You will have 48 hours to complete them. You may use your notes and the texts to complete the exams, however, these should be taken individually without help from others. Gathering with friends to work on the exam together, sharing answers with others, or saving exam questions and/or answers for future students does not help your learning and is collusion (a form of academic dishonesty - see below). I will be able to tell if you worked together!!

Throughout the course, you will be applying what you are learning to your research interests by creating a **research proposal.** We will work on the same project as a class. Over the semester, you will complete several steps along the way as you learn new material to apply to your proposal. I will provide feedback throughout the process and the sections will ultimately be combined into a final written proposal as well as a conference style poster. Descriptions and grading rubrics for these assignments are available on MO2. All sections of the proposal are due by 11:55p on the due date. The proposal in its entirety is worth 40% of your overall grade.

Psychology Program Learning Outcomes

Knowledge Base.

Describe and apply key concepts, principles, and overarching themes in psychology. *Assessed with exams*

Scientific Inquiry & Critical Thinking.

2.2 Demonstrate psychology information literacy. *Assessed with research proposal*

Ethical and Social Responsibility.

3.1 Apply ethical standards to evaluate to psychological science and practice. *Assessed with Method Section.*

Communication.

4.1 Demonstrate effective writing for different purposes. *Assessed with written proposal.*

4.2 Exhibit effective presentation skills for different purposes. *Assessed with presentation.*

Professional Development.

5.1 Apply psychological content and skills to career goals. *Assessed with exams.*

Class Learning Objectives

The overall course objective is to provide instruction in the science of psychology. Upon successful completion of this course, students should have:

- Understanding of psychology as science.

- Critical thinking skills in regards to psychological research.

- Skill in applying psychological research methods to life issues.

- Greater awareness of the values and ethics that are required in the field of psychology.

- Awareness of cultural differences and how that influences research practices.

- Develop logical solutions and practice creative problem solving in regards to psychological research.

Course Policies

Attendance and Late Work

As in the face-to-face environment, Marian University online classes require attendance. 'Attendance' is defined as participation in both the individual assignments and discussions. Learners who do not participate in a given learning session or who fail to complete the learning session's assignments will be 'absent' for said class period. While engaged in an online course, learners will be expected to sign into the Marian Online 2 system regularly throughout the course week, checking for e-mail updates, material uploads, and other course events. Learners will likewise be expected to respond to all class-related correspondence within the associated course week. In extenuating circumstances, such as travel or health-related situations, more time between sign-ins may be approved; however learners will need to **notify the instructor in advance and request approval.**

An instructor may request that the Registrar administratively withdraw a student from a course if the student has not attended the first online week of a course that meets once each week, Students who are administratively dropped by the instructor of the course will be assessed a 10% tuition penalty and have a WD grade recorded on their transcript. This policy does not negate the responsibility of students for their schedule of classes.

Expectations – Due to the online and accelerated format of this course, your success will depend on your interaction with the course materials. You must log into Marian Online a minimum of 3-4 times weekly for announcements, assignments, course documents, and other communications from the instructor and colleagues; Assignments will be submitted no later than the due date assigned. Late work will not be accepted.

Successful completion of all assignments – *This is not a self-paced course*. Assignments must be completed by certain due dates. If you do not submit material by the due date *(without prior approval for late submission)* you will be locked out of the assignment, and the assignment will not be reopened.

University Policies

Classroom and Campus Expectations. Students are encouraged to maximize their learning experience at Marian University. Ideal learning takes place in an environment where trust, mutual respect and active engagement are valued and observed by all participants. Students at Marian University are expected to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to a professional setting. Students are expected to be respectful of the learning environment established by the instructor. No student has the right to be disruptive, disrespectful or uncivil in their conduct – including language – in any setting at Marian University, including online, Facebook, and other web-based venues. A student who the instructor believes is acting inappropriately in the classroom may be asked to leave the class for a session or longer, or may be administratively withdrawn by University officials.

Academic Honesty. The rules and procedures dealing with academic honesty set forth in the Marian University Academic Bulletin will be followed in this class. Students are expected to have familiarized themselves with these rules and procedures. This applies to cheating, plagiarism and intentional misrepresentation of the truth. If a paper is prepared by a student for this class, it is expected that the paper will be the student's own work and that any use of the work of another in a student's paper be properly quoted and cited.

Statement Regarding Accessibility Resources. Marian University will provide reasonable accommodations to qualified people with disabilities. If you feel you need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact Lisa Olig, Director of Accessibility Resources, at 920-923-8951.

Marian University Credit Hour Policy

According to federal guidelines, success in this 3-credit course requires work equivalent to a minimum of 135 hours of work: Over 7 weeks of classes, that's as many as 20 hours of class work per week! It will be important to plan your work accordingly and start assignments prior to their due dates in order to have enough time to complete them **(and to reach out for help when needed).** Work ahead when possible!! Coursework includes: annotations, homework, reflections, exams, research proposal sections, and the final proposal.

Course Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8 *Syllabus Annotation*	9 *Complete Assigned Experiment (take notes on what you did)*	10	11 *Essentials Ch.1/2 Homework*	12	13	14 *Methods Ch. 2/3 Annotations*
15 *Reflection 1*	16	17 *Essentials Ch. 5/6 Homework*	18	19 *Annotated Bibliography*	20	21 *Exam 1 Due*
22	23 *Introduction Draft*	24 *Methods Ch. 4 Annotation*	25	26	27 *Methods Ch. 5 Annotation* *Essentials Ch. 5 Homework*	28
29 *Reflection 2*	30	31	1 *Methods Ch. 9 Annotation* *Essentials Ch. 11 Homework*	2	3 *Introduction Draft 2*	4
5 *Exam 2 Due*	6	7 *Method Ch. 6/7 Annotation*	8	9	10 *Method Section*	11
12 *Reflection 3*	13	14	15	16 *Essentials 13/14/15 Homework*	17	18 *Exam 3 Due*
19	20 *Methods Ch. 12 Annotation* *Essentials Ch. 18 Homework*	21 *Results and Discussion*	22	23 *Final Paper and Poster*	X	X

Topical Outline (in order of completion): Why Study Research Methods, Evidence-Based Practice, Getting Started with Research, Ethics, Cultural Competency, Theories in Research, Measurement, Sampling, Survey Research, Kinds of Research, Experimental Research, Non-Experimental Research, Single-Case Research, Qualitative Research, Goal Attainment Scaling, Program Evaluation, Additional Qualitative Methods, Statistics Analysis Review, Qualitative Analysis