

College of Sciences
Sam Houston State University
Course Description and Syllabus
Spring 2018

Department	Agricultural Sciences and Engineering Technology
Course	AGRI 6350 – Techniques and Interpretation of Research
Instructor	Mark J. Anderson, Ph.D. Pirkle Engineering Technology Center 450E Phone: 936-294-3367 Email: mjanderson@shsu.edu Office hours: Mondays 1-3 PM or by appointment
Resources	Blackboard (http://blackboard.shsu.edu) Optional reference textbook: Creswell, J. W. (2009). <i>Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches</i> (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
Course Description	The purpose of this course is to provide an overview of research design techniques and interpretation of research. This overview consists of understanding the preliminary considerations that go into selecting a qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods research design. These include knowing the definition for these different approaches, considering philosophical worldviews, reviewing the literature, understanding the use of theory, anticipating ethical issues, and developing writing strategies. We will discuss the process of research as it relates to each approach. This process includes writing an introduction, specifying a purpose statement, and developing research questions and/or hypotheses. This course will also discuss the methods and procedures for quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods studies.
Learning Outcomes	After completing this course, students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand and apply the steps of the scientific method in research.• Design and critically analyze the design of research studies.• Properly collect, organize, and validate data from a research project.• Critically review and evaluate the design and interpretation of data from other research articles.• Understand the methods to evaluate research of different designs.

Grading

Final grade will be based upon:

Assignments	100pts
Peer Review Article Evaluation	50pts
Class Research Project	100pts
Individual Interpretation Project	100pts

Percentage grading scale:

A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F = <60

Assignments

Assignments will principally consist of quizzes and homework assignments. In-class quizzes cannot be made up for any reason other than an excused absence.

Attendance

Students are expected to be in attendance at all class meetings, and attendance will be recorded each class period. Absences for emergencies, illness, or University authorized reasons will be excused with proper documentation from a doctor, professor, or sponsoring organization presented to the instructor within 48 hours of the absence.

If a student has 4 unexcused absences, their final grade may be penalized by 10 percent. Because arriving late to class and leaving early is disruptive to the learning environment, students should strive to be in class throughout the entire class period. Attendance will be recorded at varying times during the lecture or lab period. If a student is not present when attendance is taken, the student will be considered absent.

If a student misses an exam due to an excused absence, the student will be allowed to schedule a make-up exam within 1 week of the absence. The make-up exam may be of a different format than the exam distributed to the rest of the class. Students that miss an exam due to an unexcused absence will not be allowed to take a make-up exam, and a score of zero will be recorded.

Academic Honesty

The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. [5.31] The University and its official representatives, acting in accordance with Subsection 5.32, may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. -Academic Policy Statement 810213

All quizzes and exams in this course are to be completed independently, and without the aid of outside resources such as textbooks, lecture notes, or internet search engines, unless specifically stated otherwise. Any student found in violation of this policy will receive no credit for that quiz or exam, and may be referred to the department chair and academic dean for further disciplinary action.

Use of any electronic devices during an exam or quiz **for any reason** will be considered use/abuse of resource material, and will also result in a grade of zero on the quiz or exam.

Classroom Conduct Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off before class begins. Use of any electronic device for talking, texting, or listening to music during class will result in the student being counted as absent for that class period. Students that have emergencies or a specific need to answer phone calls during class may be exempt from this policy by notifying the instructor prior to the start of class, setting their phone to vibrate, and leaving the room to receive or place a call.

Behavior in the classroom that is intentionally or unintentionally disruptive is prohibited in order maintain the most effective learning environment for all students in the class. Students may not sleep, read newspapers, listen to music, make offensive remarks, talk at inappropriate times or engage in sidebar conversations with other students, wear inappropriate clothing, or engage in any other form of distraction. Engaging in any of these behaviors during class will result in a directive to leave the classroom, and the student will be counted as absent for that class period. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

The use of tobacco products is prohibited in any Sam Houston State University academic facility. -Academic Policy Statement 890228

Classroom Visitors Classroom visitors are welcome with the prior approval of the instructor based on the presentation of a current and official SHSU ID card, and as long as they do not present a disruption to the class. If the visitor is not a registered SHSU student, approval may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

ADA Policy *It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individuals shall, solely by reason of their disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic program or activity. - Academic Policy Statement 811006*

Disabled students may request assistance with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities by contacting the instructor, the department chair, or the Director of the Counseling Center in the Lee Drain Annex (936-294-1720).

Religious Holidays *Section 51.911 (b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. -Academic Policy Statement 861001*

Electronic Devices The use by students of electronic devices that perform the function of a telephone or text messaging during class-time may be prohibited if deemed disruptive by the instructor to the conduct of the class. Arrangement for handling potential emergency situations may be granted at the discretion of the instructor. Failure to comply with the instructor's policy could result in expulsion from the classroom or with multiple offenses, failure of the course. Any use of a telephone or text messaging or any device that perform these functions during a test period is prohibited. These devices should not be present during a test period is prohibited. These devices should not be present during a test or should be stored securely in such a way that they cannot be seen or used by the student. Even the visible presence of such a device during the test period will result in a zero for that test. Use of these devices during a test is considered de facto evidence of cheating and could result in a charge of academic dishonestly.