LEAD 7300 Research Design
University of Central Arkansas
Spring 2018
Thursday 5:00pm – 8:00pm. Mashburn 232

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Course Description
LEAD 7300 is a methodology course designed to develop quantitative skills and competencies necessary to designing a solid research proposal in the PhD Leadership program. This course emphasizes reasoning, critical thinking and problem solving in designing and conducting quantitative studies. Students will be introduced to the Research Blueprint and 12 competencies prerequisite to the conduct of ethical, relevant, and rigorous research in leadership studies. The course material, assignments and participation will culminate in developing and presenting a quantitative research prospectus in the student’s identified topic area.

Objectives
Students can expect to gain confidence and competence in conducting each phase of a quantitative research proposal including
• Competent use of the tools of research design to organize the research
• Completion of CITI training for conducting ethical research
• Creation of a dedicated Research Notebook for multiple proposal designs.
• Know the epistemological foundations that underpin quantitative leadership studies.
• Align and focus the Elements of Research Design with various research questions.
• Identify the conceptual framework, tests and analyses used in empirical research articles.
• Confidence in using SPSS for descriptive and inferential statistics.
• Present and defend a rigorous research project.

Course Materials
• Software: SPSS (through UCA), Microsoft Word, Excel, and perhaps a whiteboard app to make hand drawn notes (ExplainEverything, Doodledesk, Metamoji etc)
• Laptop for each class unless directed otherwise.
• CITI Research Training Account

Course Evaluation & Assignments:
Research Notebook/In-class Participation 15%
Ethical Research CITI Training 10%
Blueprint Paper 15%
Literature Review Exercises 15%
Statistical Analyses and Assignments 15%
Final Prospectus & Presentation 30%
**Grading Scale:** A = 90-100%; B = 80-89%; C = 70-79%; D = 60-69%; F = below 60%

**Course Outline**
LEAD 7300 meets for 15 weeks in three-hour sessions that cover design principles and practices for research in leadership and practical in-class exercises and problem solving. Each class has opportunity for students to individually apply practices and principles to their own research (e.g., guided data work with SPSS and online library research for literature review assignments). Students should attempt to arrive for each class with the pre-class activity (readings, exercises and papers if due) completed and a laptop. Students will also keep a Research Notebook of the 15 sessions with a nine-point Blueprint for multiple designs. Students will build a working familiarity with SPSS and the literature investigating their topic. As a hands-on class focused on preparing a quality document to guide a research proposal, LEAD 7300 will endeavor to be thorough, specific and iterative, and will necessarily revisit topics and the elements of research design on an as needs basis. However, the linear outline of the course will follow the same format: principle, practice, and personal research over the 15 weeks.

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<tr>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>Topic Focus</th>
<th>Pre-class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Orientation to Research: The Tao of Quantitative Research Design</td>
<td>RMS c1.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Literature Review I: Blueprint keys, Topic &amp; Problem Development</td>
<td>RMS c2. LR Articles</td>
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<td>Literature Review II: Conceptual Foundation: Focusing, framing, aligning the research question.</td>
<td>LR Articles.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Literature Review III: Designs, variables, instruments &amp; measurement</td>
<td>RMS c3. LR Articles</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Sample, Power Analysis, Revisiting the Research Question</td>
<td>RMS c 4 LR Articles</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Variables and Frequency Data</td>
<td>RMS cc 5,6</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Examining Relationships &amp; Scale Development Research</td>
<td>RMS cc7,8</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Designing Multivariate Research: Regression</td>
<td>RMS c9</td>
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<td>Midterm Assessment Research Notebook</td>
<td>Notebook, LR Papers</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Regression II</td>
<td>CITI Training</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Blueprint Presentations &amp; Evaluations</td>
<td>Blueprint Paper</td>
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<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Grouped Designs I</td>
<td>RMS cc 10, 11</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Grouped Designs II</td>
<td>RMS c12</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>ANOVA I, ANOVA II</td>
<td>RMS cc 13,14</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Prospectus to Proposal: Writing, Reporting, Interpreting Data</td>
<td>Final Prospectus</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Prospectus presentation</td>
<td>PPT/PRZ</td>
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* **Recommended Text:** Ravitch & Riggan will be indispensable aid for several research classes, including writing and defending the qualifying paper, and writing and defending the dissertation.
Important UCA Policies

Academic Integrity:

The University of Central Arkansas affirms its commitment to academic integrity and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Students in this course are subject to the provisions of the university’s Academic Integrity Policy, approved by the Board of Trustees as Board Policy No. 709 on February 10, 2010, and published in the Student Handbook. Penalties for academic misconduct in this course may include a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate. Continued enrollment in this course affirms a student’s acceptance of this university policy.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need an accommodation under this Act due to a disability, please contact the UCA Disability Resource Center, 450-3613.

Emergency Procedures:

An Emergency Procedures Summary (EPS) for the building in which this class is held will be discussed during the first week of this course. EPS documents for most buildings on campus are available at http://uca.edu/mysafety/bep/. Every student should be familiar with emergency procedures for any campus building in which he/she spends time for classes or other purposes.

Title IX disclosure:

If a student discloses an act of sexual harassment, discrimination, assault, or other sexual misconduct to a faculty member (as it relates to “student-on-student” or “employee-on-student”), the faculty member cannot maintain complete confidentiality and is required to report the act and may be required to reveal the names of the parties involved. Any allegations made by a student may or may not trigger an investigation. Each situation differs, and the obligation to conduct an investigation will depend on the specific set of circumstances. The determination to conduct an investigation will be made by the Title IX Coordinator. For further information, please visit: https://uca.edu/titleix. *Disclosure of sexual misconduct by a third party who is not a student and/or employee is also required if the misconduct occurs when the third party is a participant in a university-sponsored program, event, or activity.

It is the student’s responsibility to familiarize themselves with all policies included in the Student Handbook and pay attention to the Sexual Harassment Policy and all Academic Policies.