

**COURSE SYLLABUS FORMAT**  
Southeast Missouri State University

Department of Political Science, Philosophy, & Religion

Course No. PS 645

Title of Course: Research Methods for Public Administrators

Revision \_\_\_\_\_

New XX

I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course:

This course provides a foundation in the theory and practice of applied research methodology for public administrators, from conceptualization to practical data analysis. 3 credit hours

II. Prerequisite (s): Graduate standing.

III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course:

- A. Introduce fundamentals of research.
- B. Develop skills in research design.
- C. Develop competency in quantitative and qualitative data analysis.
- D. Develop techniques of program evaluation and application of methodology to practitioner problems.

IV. Expectations of Students:

This course will be administered as a seminar. Although some classes will feature traditional lectures, the emphasis will be placed upon class discussion and interaction. As a result, a high premium is placed upon student participation.

V. Course Content or Outline (3 hours per topic):

- A. The Research Question and Models
  - a. Research Designs: Descriptive
  - b. Research Designs: Explanatory
- B. Measurement
  - a. Sampling Techniques
  - b. Survey Research Methodology
  - c. Primary Data Collection
  - d. Ethical and Logistical Issues
  - e. Secondary Data Analysis
- C. Index Construction
- D. Univariate Analysis

- E. Hypothesis Testing
  - a. Measures of Association and ANOVA
  - b. Regression and Correlation
- F. Paper Presentations

VI. Textbook(s) and/or Other Required Materials or Equipment:

*Text:* Research Methods for Public Administrators, Fourth Edition, O'Sullivan, Rassel, and Berner (*Required*); Evaluation Research, Weiss (*On Reserve*). In addition, materials will be placed on reserve and/or online.

VII. Basis for Student Evaluation:

- A. Exams: 2 @ 100 pts each = 200 pts.
- B. Term Paper = 100 pts.
- C. Homework = 100 pts.
- D. Article Presentations = 50 pts. (2@25 pts. each)
- E. Class Participation = 50 pts.  
Total = 500 pts.

The weight of evaluation criteria may vary at the discretion of the instructor and will be indicated at the beginning of each course.