

## **RESEARCH METHODS IN RECREATION**

RECL 202: Spring 2008

Thursday 6:00-8:45 pm

SPX 211

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### **Catalog Description**

A study of the various techniques and methods used in research; a survey of research studies in recreation and related fields and an outline for a research project.

### **Course Objectives**

- To develop an understanding of research issues in the social sciences.
- To formulate sound research proposals with appropriate aims and relevant set of objectives.
- To demonstrate knowledge of the characteristics of scientific inquiry.
- To demonstrate knowledge and skills in defining research problems.
- To demonstrate knowledge and skills in conducting reviews of relevant literature.
- To demonstrate knowledge and the ability to select appropriate design methodologies.
- To demonstrate skills in analyzing, interpreting, and summarizing data.
- To foster a critical awareness and interest in management and social science research, and methods employed in that research.
- To assess the usefulness of different research methods in tourism related studies, especially with respect to projects relating to international tourism management and development.
- This course is based on a multi-disciplinary perspective, drawing on disciplines such as anthropology, history, culture, geography, political science and sociology. This multi-disciplinary perspective approach will be employed to analyze tourism within the business and social environments.

### **Method of Instruction**

My teaching philosophy is to encourage students to be reflexive, and my importance is not on teaching as something a professor does alone but on two-way learning as something we do together. I want students to learn essential principles of tourism from each other and enjoy. My goal in this course is to challenge students to learn about the intricacies of doing research in tourism, recreation and leisure studies. Instruction in the course will rely primarily on lectures, discussion, readings and case studies.

### **Attendance and Participation**

Students are expected to attend all classes. Class attendance will not only improve the students' chances of success on the assignments, but also on the job upon graduation. Students are expected to come to class having read the assignment for that day and prepared to participate in class discussion on that topic.

## Assignments

Students will be given assignments that involve applying the material covered in class.

Research Proposal. This piece of work will assess students' ability to construct, design, draft and present a convincing rationale for the proposed research investigation. The proposal should include the following five components:

1. Introduction (including statement of research question/s)
2. Aims and Objectives
3. Literature Review
4. Proposed Methodology for Obtaining Primary and Secondary Data
5. Proposed Approaches for Analyzing Data

The Research Proposal will carry a maximum of 100 points, and should be around 10 double-spaced typed pages using 12 points font (New Times Roman).

Final Project. The Final Project should include the following three components:

1. Findings (results of the research)
2. Conclusions
3. Directions for Future Research

I expect a significant effort of original research. The Final Research Project will carry a maximum of 100 points, and should be around 20 double-spaced typed pages (including the Research Proposal of 10 pages) using 12 points font (New Times Roman).

## Grading Scheme

Participation in Class:	20%
Research Proposal:	30%
Final Project:	40%
Presentation:	<u>10%</u>
	<u>100%</u>

## Grading Scale

A+ = 96.5-100%

A = 92.5-96.4%

A- = 89.5-92.4%

B+ = 86.5-89.4%

B = 82.5-86.4%

B- = 79.5-82.4%

C+ = 76.5%-79.4%

C = 72.5%-76.4%

C- = 69.5%-72.4%

D+ = 66.5%-69.4%

D = 62.5%-66.4%

D- = 59.5%-62.4%

F = <59.5%

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Dates	Topics of Discussion	Readings
Jan 24	Introduction	-
Jan 31	Feminist and Gender Perspectives in Tourism and Leisure Research	Scholarly article
Feb 7	Ethics in Tourism Research	Scholarly article
Feb 14	Visual Ethnography: The Case of Cannibal Tours	Scholarly article
Feb 21	Action Ethnography: Using Participant Observation	Scholarly article
Feb 28	Interviewing	Scholarly article
Mar 6	Longitudinal Research Methods	Scholarly article
Mar 13	Secondary Data Analysis	Scholarly article
Mar 20	Framing Analysis <b>Research Proposal Due</b>	Scholarly article
Mar 27	<b>Spring Break</b>	
Apr 3	Focus Groups	Scholarly article
Apr 10	Bivariate and Multivariate Analysis	Guest Speaker
Apr 17	Inferential Statistics SPSS	Guest Speaker
Apr 24	Content Analysis	Scholarly article
May 1	Discourse Analysis and Semiotics	Scholarly article
May 8	Presentations	
May 15	Presentations <b>Final Paper Due</b>	

\* Schedule may change at the discretion of the instructor. Any changes will be communicated to students in as timely a manner as possible.

### **Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to be familiar with the University's Academic Integrity Policy. Please review this at [http://sa.sjsu.edu/student\\_conduct](http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct). "Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical development."

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. "If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Integrity policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors."

### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

"If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability." Special accommodations for exams require ample notice to the testing office and must be submitted to the instructor well in advance of the exam date.