

RECL 160: RESEARCH METHODS IN RECREATION
San Jose State University
Department of Hospitality, Recreation & Tourism Management
Fall 2007

Instructor: Ranjan Bandyopadhyay, B.Com, M.B.A., Ph.D.

Office: SPX 53

Office Hours: MW 3:00 - 5:00 or by appointment (you are most welcome)

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Class Times: TR 12:00 –13:15

Classroom: SPX 211

Required Text

Mick Finn, Martin Elliott-White and Mike Walton (2000). *Tourism & Leisure Research Methods: Data Collection, analysis and interpretation*. England: Pearson Education Limited.

Catalogue Description

Methods applicable to recreation problem-solving, leading to the completion of an individual research project. Exposure to computer-assisted applications regarding retention, retrieval and analysis of research-generated data.

Course Objectives

- To develop an understanding of research issues within tourism, hospitality, recreation, and leisure studies
- To demonstrate knowledge of the characteristics of scientific inquiry
- To demonstrate knowledge and skills in defining research problems and generating research questions and hypotheses
- To demonstrate knowledge and skill in conducting reviews of relevant literature
- To demonstrate knowledge and the ability to select appropriate design methodologies
- To demonstrate skills in the design and/or selection of research instruments
- To demonstrate skills in analyzing, interpreting, and summarizing data
- 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

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 8 double-spaced typed pages using 12 points font (New Times Roman).

- *I will give you more details on September 11 (Tuesday).*

Final Research Project

The Final Research 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 8 pages) using 12 points font (New Times Roman).

- *I will give you more details on October 30 (Tuesday).*

Grading Scheme

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Participation in Class: | 15% |
| Bonus Points: | 5% |
| Research Proposal: | 35% |
| Final Presentation: | 10% |
| Final Research Project: | <u>35%</u> |
| | <u>100%</u> |

Grading Scale

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|------------------|
| 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 |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Aug 23 (Thu) | Introduction | |
| Aug 28 (Tue) Aug 30 (Thu) | Introducing Research | Chapter 1 |
| Sep 4 (Tue) Sep 6 (Thu) | Qualitative & Quantitative Research | Scholarly articles |
| Sep 11 (Tue) Sep 13 (Thu) | Methodology and Research Design | Chapter 2 |
| Sep 18 (Tue) Sep 20 (Thu) | Evaluating Research | Chapter 3 |
| Sep 25 (Tue) Sep 27 (Thu) | Secondary Data Analysis | Chapter 4 |
| Oct 2 (Tue) Oct 4 (Thu) | Qualitative Methods | Chapter 5 |
| Oct 9 (Tue) Oct 11 (Thu) | Social Surveys | Chapter 6 |
| Oct 16 (Tue) Oct 18 (Thu) | Sampling Techniques Research Proposal Due | Chapter 7 |
| Oct 23 (Tue) Oct 25 (Thu) | The Analysis of Qualitative Data Content Analysis | Chapter 8 |
| Oct 30 (Tue) Nov 1 (Thu) | Semiological Analysis | Chapter 8 Scholarly article |
| Nov 6 (Tue) Nov 8 (Thu) | Summarizing Data | Chapter 9 |
| Nov 13 (Tue) Nov 15 (Thu) | Bivariate and Multivariate Analysis | Chapter 10 |
| Nov 20 (Tue) Nov 22 (Thu) | Inferential Statistics Thanksgiving Holiday (no class) | Chapter 11 |
| Nov 27 (Tue) Nov 29 (Thu) | Writing a Research Report | Chapter 12 |
| Dec 4 (Tue) Dec 6 (Thu) | Writing a Research Report | Scholarly articles |
| Dec 11 (Tue) | Presentations | - |
| Dec 13 (Thu) | Presentations Final Research Project Due | - |

* 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. "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.