

Tamkang University Academic Year 107, 1st Semester Course Syllabus

Course Title	INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS	Instructor	FRANCISCO LUIS PEREZ
Course Class	TRLXM1A MASTER'S PROGRAM, GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES, 1A	Details	♦ Selective ♦ One Semester ♦ 1 Credits
D e p a r t m e n t a l A i m o f E d u c a t i o n			
I . To foster a capacity for understanding and appreciating Latin American affairs. II. To cultivate professionals for future engagement in Latin American affairs. III. To elevate student competency in Spanish language.			
D e p a r t m e n t a l c o r e c o m p e t e n c e s			
A. To educate students with critical and independent thinking and academic research abilities. B. To teach students with basic international relations theories. C. To foster master program students with ability to do research on Latin America political, economic, cultural and social perspectives. D. To cultivate students with competent capabilities in Spanish communication and writing.			
Course Introduction	Introduction to Social Science Research Methods with the aim of developing the ability to make a academic research. Besides teaching the formalities and theories of research, each student will develop a personal research project,which will be discussed in class.		

The Relevance among Teaching Objectives, Objective Levels and Departmental core competences

I.Objective Levels (select applicable ones) :

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|-------------------------|--|--|
| (i) Cognitive Domain | : C1-Remembering, C2-Understanding, C3-Applying, C4-Analyzing, C5-Evaluating, C6-Creating | |
| (ii) Psychomotor Domain | : P1-Imitation, P2-Mechanism, P3-Independent Operation, P4-Linked Operation, P5-Automation, P6-Origination | |
| (iii) Affective Domain | : A1-Receiving, A2-Responding, A3-Valuing, A4-Organizing, A5-Characterizing, A6-Implementing | |

II.The Relevance among Teaching Objectives, Objective Levels and Departmental core competences :

- (i) Determine the objective level(s) in any one of the three learning domains (cognitive, psychomotor, and affective) corresponding to the teaching objective. Each objective should correspond to the objective level(s) of ONLY ONE of the three domains.
- (ii) If more than one objective levels are applicable for each learning domain, select the highest one only. (For example, if the objective levels for Cognitive Domain include C3,C5,and C6, select C6 only and fill it in the boxes below. The same rule applies to Psychomotor Domain and Affective Domain.)
- (iii) Determine the Departmental core competences that correspond to each teaching objective. Each objective may correspond to one or more Departmental core competences at a time. (For example, if one objective corresponds to three Departmental core competences: A,AD, and BEF, list all of the three in the box.)

No.	Teaching Objectives	Relevance	
		Objective Levels	Departmental core competences
1	1.Identify and evaluate the clarity of the problem statement. 2.Determine the theoretical or logical rationale of the research problem. 3.Identify the specific research question under investigation. 4.Determine whether the question is stated in terms amenable to investigation. 5.Appraise the thoroughness and relevance of the literature review.	C6	ABCD
2	6.Determine if the literature review establishes the need for conducting the research. 7.Establish the credibility of the research. 8.Assess the theoretical perspectives and/or apriori assumptions of the researchers. 9.Identify the population(s) being studied. 10. Evaluate the appropriateness of the research methodology for the study.	C6	ABCD
3	11.Assess the clarity and consistency of the results. 12.Identify the limitations of the study. 13.Offer alternative interpretations of the results. 14.Discuss the implications of the study in view of the strengths and weaknesses of the research. 15.Distinguish between quantitative and qualitative research designs and methods.	C6	ABCD

Teaching Objectives, Teaching Methods and Assessment			
No.	Teaching Objectives	Teaching Methods	Assessment
1	1. Identify and evaluate the clarity of the problem statement. 2. Determine the theoretical or logical rationale of the research problem. 3. Identify the specific research question under investigation. 4. Determine whether the question is stated in terms amenable to investigation. 5. Appraise the thoroughness and relevance of the literature review.	Lecture, Discussion	Report, Participation
2	6. Determine if the literature review establishes the need for conducting the research. 7. Establish the credibility of the research. 8. Assess the theoretical perspectives and/or apriori assumptions of the researchers. 9. Identify the population(s) being studied. 10. Evaluate the appropriateness of the research methodology for the study.	Lecture, Discussion	Report, Participation
3	11. Assess the clarity and consistency of the results. 12. Identify the limitations of the study. 13. Offer alternative interpretations of the results. 14. Discuss the implications of the study in view of the strengths and weaknesses of the research. 15. Distinguish between quantitative and qualitative research designs and methods.	Lecture, Discussion	Report, Participation

This course has been designed to cultivate the following essential qualities in TKU students			
Essential Qualities of TKU Students		Description	
◆ A global perspective		Helping students develop a broader perspective from which to understand international affairs and global development.	
◇ Information literacy		Becoming adept at using information technology and learning the proper way to process information.	
◇ A vision for the future		Understanding self-growth, social change, and technological development so as to gain the skills necessary to bring about one's future vision.	
◇ Moral integrity		Learning how to interact with others, practicing empathy and caring for others, and constructing moral principles with which to solve ethical problems.	
◆ Independent thinking		Encouraging students to keenly observe and seek out the source of their problems, and to think logically and critically.	
◇ A cheerful attitude and healthy lifestyle		Raising an awareness of the fine balance between one's body and soul and the environment; helping students live a meaningful life.	
◇ A spirit of teamwork and dedication		Improving one's ability to communicate and cooperate so as to integrate resources, collaborate with others, and solve problems.	
◆ A sense of aesthetic appreciation		Equipping students with the ability to sense and appreciate aesthetic beauty, to express themselves clearly, and to enjoy the creative process.	
Course Schedule			
Week	Date	Subject/Topics	Note
1	107/09/10 ~ 107/09/16	THE RESEARCH PROJECT: TOPIC	
2	107/09/17 ~ 107/09/23	RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND OBJECTIVES	
3	107/09/24 ~ 107/09/30	THEORETICAL FRAMEWOK 1	
4	107/10/01 ~ 107/10/07	THEORETICAL FRAMEWOK 2	
5	107/10/08 ~ 107/10/14	METHODOLOGY 1	
6	107/10/15 ~ 107/10/21	METHODOLOGY 2	
7	107/10/22 ~ 107/10/28	METHODS 1	
8	107/10/29 ~ 107/11/04	METHODS 2	
9	107/11/05 ~ 107/11/11	METHODS 3	
10	107/11/12 ~ 107/11/18	LITERATURE REVIEW	
11	107/11/19 ~ 107/11/25	SOURCES	
12	107/11/26 ~ 107/12/02	CITATIONS AND REFERENCES	

13	107/12/03 ~ 107/12/09	THE BODY OF THE RESEARCH: CHAPTERS	
14	107/12/10 ~ 107/12/16	CONCLUSIONS	
15	107/12/17 ~ 107/12/23	FORMALITIES OF PRESENTATION	
16	107/12/24 ~ 107/12/30	PRACTICE	
17	107/12/31 ~ 108/01/06	PRACTICE	
18	108/01/07 ~ 108/01/13	PRACTICE	
Requirement			
Teaching Facility		Computer, Projector	
Textbook(s)			
Reference(s)		McNiff, J. & Whitehead, J. (2006). All you need to know about action research. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications Inc.	
Number of Assignment(s)		(Filled in by assignment instructor only)	
Grading Policy		◆ Attendance : 50.0 % ◆ Mark of Usual : 30.0 % ◆ Midterm Exam : % ◆ Final Exam : % ◆ Other 〈Presentation〉 : 20.0 %	
Note		This syllabus may be uploaded at the website of Course Syllabus Management System at http://info.ais.tku.edu.tw/csp or through the link of Course Syllabus Upload posted on the home page of TKU Office of Academic Affairs at http://www.acad.tku.edu.tw/CS/main.php . ※ Unauthorized photocopying is illegal. Using original textbooks is advised. It is a crime to improperly photocopy others' publications.	