Instructor
Keon-Hyung Lee, PhD, MPH
Office: Bellamy 659
Office Hours:  Mondays 4:00-5:25 PM
             Tuesdays 4:00-5:25 PM
             or by appointment
Office Phone: 850-645-8210
Office Fax: 850-644-7617
E-Mail: klee2@fsu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course deals with fundamental concepts and techniques in research design, including problem formulation, measurement, sampling, data collection methods, and descriptive statistics with applications in public policy and management.

More specifically, this course focuses on formulating questions, selecting analytical methods, developing conclusions and recommendations, and understanding the use of appropriate research methodologies in public policy and management. This course demonstrates the application of the following to both practical professional analysis and scholarly inquiry: the exploration of the relevant scholarly and professional literature, the design of research approaches, the utilization of various quantitative and qualitative research methods and techniques; the collection, manipulation, interpretation, and representation of data gathered; and the use of information thus obtained in the solution of policy problems confronting professional administrators.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Learning objectives in this course include:
- To gain familiarity with the scientific method of research and analysis in public administration and policy;
- To gain understanding the fundamental issues of research including identifying research questions, locating resources, building theoretical arguments, and formulating testable hypotheses;
- To be able to explain different approaches to gather data and summarize them (descriptive statistics) to answer questions of theoretical or applied relevance;
- To be able to develop an applied research design appropriate to the topic of interest and prepare a theoretically engaging and methodologically sound research proposal; and
- To gain understanding of the significance of ethical issues in the process of research from methodological concerns to broader concerns of generalizations of findings.
TEXTBOOKS AND READINGS


Journal articles and other readings (posted in Blackboard (BB))

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Students are expected to read and reflect upon assigned readings and prepared to discuss them in class. **Late submissions will not be accepted and will result in zero point for that assignment.** Grades will be based on the following requirements:

- Critique on a Journal Article (1*10%=10%): (a max of 3 single-spaced page)
- Summary of Readings and Class Participation (10%): (a max of 1-page single-spaced)
- Research Design Paper (50%) (a maximum of 15 double-spaced pages excluding references and appendices)
  - Problem Statement (5%)
  - Literature Review and Conceptual Framework (10%)
  - Data Collection Methods (5%)
  - Complete Final Research Design Proposal (25%)
  - Presentation (5%)
- Final Exam (30%)

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following point totals: A=94 or higher; A-=90-93.99; B+=87-89.99; B=84-86.99; B-=80-83.99; C+=77-79.99; C=74-76.99; C-=70-73.99; D+=67-69.99; D=64-66.99; D-=60-63.99; F= less than 60.

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE

The Academic Honor System of The Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the university community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the university community. More information at http://www.fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook/codes/honor.html

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the Student Disability Resource Center at 644-9566, sdrc@fsu.edu, or visit the web site at http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/
COURSE SCHEDULE

Session 1 (January 9, 2012)

  Course Introduction: Expectations/Syllabus
  Chapter 1: Introduction (S&S)
  Chapter 2: The Nature of Science (S&S)

  Handout: Assignment #1: Problem Statement (Due: by the beginning of Session 5 (February 6, 2012))

Session 2 (January 16, 2012) – No Class, Labor Day

Session 3 (January 23, 2012)

  Literature Review


  Ethical Issues & Writing Research Reports

  Chapter 3: Research Ethics (S&S)

  Chapter 17: Writing Research Reports

  Handout: Assignment #2: Literature Review and Conceptual Framework (Due: by the beginning of Session 8 (February 27, 2012))

Session 4 (January 30, 2012)

  Nature of Applied Research

  Chapter 4: Elements of Research Design (S&S)

**Concepts and Research Questions**


**Session 5 (February 6, 2012)**

**Variables, Measurement, and Relationships**

Chapter 5: Measurement (S&S)


*Due: Assignment #1 Problem Statement*

**Session 6 (February 13, 2012)**

**Sampling**

Chapter 6: Sampling (S&S)


**Session 7 (February 20, 2012)**

Chapter 7: Experimentations (S&S)

Chapter 8: Experimental Designs (S&S)

*Handout: Assignment #3: Data Collection Methods (Due: by the beginning of Session II)*
Session 8 (February 27, 2012)

Data Collection I: Survey Research

Chapter 9: Survey Research (S&S)

Chapter 10: Survey Instrumentation (S&S)

Due: Assignment #2 Literature Review and Conceptual Framework

Session 9 (March 5, 2012) -- Spring Break

Session 10 (March 12, 2012)

Data Collection II: Secondary Sources

Chapter 11: Field Research (S&S)

Chapter 12: Research Using Available Data


Due: Journal Article Critique

Session 11 (March 19, 2012) -- Extra Readings will be posted on BB.

Descriptive Statistics

1. Data, Tables, Graphs
2. Measures of Central Tendency and Dispersion

Due: Assignment #3: Data Collection Methods

Session 12 (March 26, 2012) -- Extra Readings will be posted on BB.

Normal Distribution

1. Calculate Z score and use the Z score table
2. Understand the relationship among raw score, z score, and percentages
3. Use standard normal scores to combine measures of a single concept.

Session 13 (April 2, 2012)

Chapter 13: Multiple Methods
Chapter 16: Multivariate Analysis

Session 14 (April 9, 2012) & Session 15 (April 16, 2012) – Student Presentation

Final Exam: April 23, 2012 (A study guide will be distributed ahead of time.)

Final Paper: A complete final research design paper must be submitted by 5:00 PM on Wednesday, April 18, 2012 (both hard copy and electronic copy).