**Venue:** MATHEMATICS & GENERAL CLASSROOMS RM. 2.202 (Edinburg Campus)

**Time:** Tuesday: 7.45–10.15 p.m.

**Instructor:** Dr. Ben S. Wasike

**Office:** Main 1.210F (Brownsville Campus)

**Phone:** 956-882-3878 (ben.wasike@utrgv.edu)

**Office hours:**

Wednesday: 2–5 p.m. (Brownsville Campus)

*Or by appointment*

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**Required Text:**


Howard Reid.

ISBN-10: 1452271968

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**Course Description:**

This course introduces students to quantitative research methodology. Students will learn the research process, the statistical process, the nuances of preparing a research paper, and ethics in research. The overall goals are to prepare students to have the skills necessary to produce quality research papers and commendable thesis projects. Additionally, the course aims at equipping students with the necessary research skills in case they pursue doctoral studies.
Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the research process regarding:
   a. Problem definition
   b. Exploration
   c. Research objectives
   d. Formal research
   e. Data analysis
   f. Interpreting and reporting findings
   g. Reporting limitations

2. Understand the statistical process regarding:
   a. Data gathering
   b. Data classification
   c. Data coding
   d. Computing data
   e. Data analysis

3. Understand how to develop a research paper regarding:
   a. Developing a rationale
   b. Developing a theoretical framework
   c. Describing methods
   d. Reporting results
   e. Discussing findings and limitations
   f. Writing an abstract

4. Understand how to prepare and present a research paper at a conference or symposium

5. Understand how to prepare and revise a manuscript for publication

6. Understand the guiding principles of ethical research

Classroom Policy:

Proper decorum is required of all students. This includes interaction with the professor and fellow students in all circumstances.

Classroom decorum includes but is not limited to the proper use of cell phones. Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off during class. Answering your cell phone during class is discouraged.

The use of laptops is allowed, but only for class-related activities.

No recording of other student’s work is allowed without proper authorization. Also, posting or sharing class material on personal or public online accounts without permission is also forbidden.

NOTE: Violators will face disciplinary action that might include dismissal from class.
Expectations:

In keeping with the high academic standards at UTRGV, students will be expected to meet the following requirements:

I expect each student to demonstrate the self responsibility expected of a graduate student.

Attend all classes. Students get ONE unexcused absence for the semester. Further unexcused absences result in dismissal from the class or a reduction of your grade. Absences due to unavoidable circumstances will be excused upon the timely presentation of documented proof.

An absence encompasses both not showing up for class and tardiness. This means that showing up late for class also counts as an absence. Tardiness applies to those who walk in after I have called the class roster.

I will grant an exemption to late comers only if they have to commute reasonably long distances right before class, such as from the Harlingen or Brownsville campuses.

Working students have to make the necessary arrangements to be in class on time.

Hand in all assignments on time. There are absolutely no exceptions to this.

This class uses a zero-tolerance rule to academic dishonesty. Plagiarism and any other acts that give a student an unfair advantage over others constitute academic dishonesty. All work and assignments, unless otherwise stated, will be the original idea of each student.

Perpetrators will face a variety of penalties that might include receiving a failing grade for the semester once I detect academic dishonesty. See the back of the syllabus for more details on UTRGV’s policy.

Make ups for exam, assignments, and absences are provided only with documented and authentic proof. This should be done within three school days of the missed exam/assignment, or absence.

NOTE: Despite of the unexcused absences, all students are required to meaningfully participate in class.

Grading Scale

A = 90 - 100
B = 80 - 89
C = 70 - 79
D = 60 - 69
E = 59 and below
Calendar

Week 1: August 27

Introduction/Research Methodology

Reading: TBA

Week 2: September 3

The Statistical Process/Anatomy of a Research Paper/ Measures of Central Tendency

Reading: TBA

Week 3: September 10

Measures of Central Tendency/Measures of Dispersion/Descriptive Statistics

Reading: TBA

Week 4: September 17

Sampling /Ethics in Research/Intro to SPSS

Reading: TBA

Week 5: September 24

Confidence Intervals/Significance/Hypothesis Testing/SPSS

Reading: Lecture Notes

Week 6: October 1

Hypothesis Testing/SPSS

Reading: TBA

Week 7: October 8

Data Collection Methods: Surveys/SPSS

Reading: TBA

Week 8: October 15

Data Collection Methods: Content Analysis/SPSS

Reading: TBA
Week 9: October 22

Data Collection Methods: Experiments
Reading: TBA

Week 10: October 29

Data Collection Methods: Secondary Data/Focus Groups
Reading: TBA

Week 11: November 5

Data Collection Methods: Focus Groups/In-depth Interviews
Reading: TBA

Week 12: November 12

Presentations
Reading: TBA

Week 13: November 19

Presentations
Reading: TBA

Week 14: November 26

Presentations
Reading: TBA

Week 15: December 3

Presentations
Reading: TBA

Note: This schedule is subject to change
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who experience a broken bone, severe injury, or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services.

Pregnancy, Pregnancy-related, and Parenting Accommodations

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination, which includes discrimination based on pregnancy, marital status, or parental status. Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition, or parenting (reasonably immediate postpartum period) are encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services for additional information and to request accommodations.

Student Accessibility Services:

Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 1.107 in the Music and Learning Center building (BMSLC) and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

Edinburg Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center (EUCTR) and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

Mandatory Course Evaluation Period:

Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available on or about:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module 1</td>
<td>October 2nd – 8th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 2</td>
<td>November 27th – December 3rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full Fall Semester</td>
<td>November 14th – December 4th</td>
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</tbody>
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Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

Scholastic Dishonesty:

As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to Student Rights and Responsibilities.
SEXUAL MISCONDUCT and MANDATORY REPORTING:

In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report to the Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity (oie@utrgv.edu) any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, and sexual harassment, about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct, discrimination, and all forms of violence. If students, faculty, or staff would like confidential assistance, or have questions, they can contact OVAVP (Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention) at 665-8287, 882-8282, or OVAVP@utrgv.edu.

COURSE DROPS:

According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

STUDENT SERVICES:

Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Advising Center, Career Center, Counseling Center, Learning Center, and Writing Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are (see table on next page):
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Center Name</th>
<th>Brownsville Campus</th>
<th>Edinburg Campus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advising Center</strong></td>
<td>BMAIN 1.400</td>
<td>ESWKH 101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[&lt;span class=&quot;email&quot; title=&quot;<a href="mailto:AcademicAdvising@utrgv.edu">AcademicAdvising@utrgv.edu</a>; AcademicAdvising&lt;/span&gt;]</td>
<td>(956) 665-7120</td>
<td>(956) 665-7120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Career Center</strong></td>
<td>BCRTZ 129</td>
<td>ESSBL 2.101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[&lt;span class=&quot;email&quot; title=&quot;<a href="mailto:CareerCenter@utrgv.edu">CareerCenter@utrgv.edu</a>; CareerCenter&lt;/span&gt;]</td>
<td>(956) 882-5627</td>
<td>(956) 665-2243</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Counseling Center</strong></td>
<td>EUCTR 109</td>
<td>BSTUN 2.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[&lt;span class=&quot;email&quot; title=&quot;<a href="mailto:Counseling@utrgv.edu">Counseling@utrgv.edu</a>; Counseling&lt;/span&gt;]</td>
<td>(956) 665-2574</td>
<td>(956) 882-3897</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Learning Center</strong></td>
<td>BMSLC 2.118</td>
<td>ELCTR 100</td>
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<td>[&lt;span class=&quot;email&quot; title=&quot;<a href="mailto:LearningCenter@utrgv.edu">LearningCenter@utrgv.edu</a>; LearningCenter&lt;/span&gt;]</td>
<td>(956) 882-8208</td>
<td>(956) 665-2585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Writing Center</strong></td>
<td>BUBLB 3.206</td>
<td>ESTAC 3.119</td>
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<tr>
<td>[&lt;span class=&quot;email&quot; title=&quot;<a href="mailto:WC@utrgv.edu">WC@utrgv.edu</a>; WC&lt;/span&gt;]</td>
<td>(956) 882-7065</td>
<td>(956) 665-2538</td>
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