

**THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON  
COLLEGE OF APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Department of Disaster Science and Emergency Services  
Emergency Management and Homeland Security  
Fall 2016**

**Course Title:** Disaster Research Methods and Applications

**Course Number:** 2235-355-001

**Course Credits:** Three (3)

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** An introduction to current research conducted in the field of emergency management and various methods appropriate for analyzing current topics in the field.

**Program Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- 1) Identify and discuss the purpose of social research, and demonstrate an understanding of the scientific processes and methods used in this research
- 2) Understand and use qualitative and quantitative research
- 3) Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamentals of good writing and ensure that written products are error free
- 4) Demonstrate an understanding of the APA citation standards and use them in class projects and papers
- 5) Formulate a good research question and argument that meets social science standards
- 6) Effectively use the wide range of research tools available online and through the Bierce Library
- 7) Understand the purpose of a literature review and be able to develop one
- 8) Develop and implement an effective research design
- 9) Effectively conduct a research interview and understand its use in qualitative research

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

**Topic 1:** What is social research?

**Week 2:** What is the link between good research and good writing?

**Week 3:** What are the APA Standards?

**Week 4:** What are the key steps in formulating a good research topic?

**Week 5:** What are the key steps in formulating a good research question?

**Week 6:** How do I identify and use qualitative and quantitative evidence?

**Week 7:** How do I develop an effective research argument?

**Week 8:** How and where do I find the best sources for my research project?

**Week 9:** How do I create a research design matrix?

**Week 10:**

**Week 11:** Nov. 8: What is a literature review and how do I develop it?

TUESDAY: **Research design matrix due TODAY**

**Week 12:** Nov. 15: How do I conduct an effective interview?

TUESDAY: **Literature review due TODAY**

THURSDAY: **Student presentation #4 on interviewing (selected students)**

**Week 13:** Nov. 22: Class review of submitted documents

TUESDAY: **Project outline and 3-page abstract due TODAY**

**Week 14:** Nov. 29: (short week) Catch up

TUESDAY: Finish interviews

**Week 15:** Dec. 6: Guest speaker

**Week 16: FINAL EXAM: Dec. 15 (Thursday), 10am-12noon**

**NOTE:** The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this schedule and/or policies. If there are changes, they will be announced in class.

**GRADING SCALE:**

Grade	Percent Required
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	0-59

**Assessment\_**

The University of Akron and specifically the Emergency Management and Homeland Security program assesses student learning at several levels. The goal of these assessment activities is to improve student learning. As a student in this course, you will participate in various assessment activities. Grades and work samples may be selected to gather learning outcome data to be measured and tracked over several years. Student names or indicators are not used in data analysis. Students have an active role in course and program assessment projects. Generated data will direct any changes made in the curriculum which is designed to strengthen and constantly improve student learning and educational outcomes.

**Special Accommodations:**

If there are special circumstances which affect your learning in this class, please let me know as soon as possible. Accommodations can be arranged through the Office of Accessibility, located in Simmons Hall, 105 (972-7928).