PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, AND RECREATION

REC 419 SURVEY RESEARCH TECHNIQUES IN RECREATION

FALL 2013

Course Number: 419 Course Time: M, W, F from 11:00 – 11:50

Credit Hours: 3 Course Location: REC 219

Instructor: Laura Covert Office and Phone: Room 102; 620-235-4670

Email: lcovert@pittstate.edu Office Hours: M & W: 8:00 - 11:00,

Tues & Thurs: 1:00 - 3:00, Friday: apt. only

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION**: Methods and techniques in designing and conducting surveys in recreation. Sampling techniques and statistical procedures used to interpret and evaluate the data will be studied. Various ways to present data will also be included.

Prerequisite: REC 160 Introduction to Recreation and Leisure and REC 275 Recreation Practicum.

**Purpose of Course**: Understand the basic need of research in the recreation field and how to conduct research in the field to help raise the standards of knowledge, professionalism, and programs and services for everyone.

Students with research experience show they have acquired important problem solving and critical thinking skills, which help not only them but also the organizations for which they are employed.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**: *Applied Research and Evaluation Methods in Recreation* by Diane Blankenship (2010); Human Kinetics Publishing. ISBN 9780736077194.

**COURSE OUTLINE**: The course will guide you through the evaluation/research process from beginning to end. We will focus on survey research since this is by far the most common form of research or evaluation in our field. The following general topics will be covered from the required text, but there will be other reading as well. You will need this book for the course. We will cover each chapter. You may be tested on each chapter.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Assessment, Planning, and Evaluation

1. Analyze programs, services, and resources in relationship to participation requirements. *(7.02.01)*
2. Understanding procedures and techniques for assessment of leisure needs. *(7.02.01)*
3. Understanding of principles and procedures for planning leisure services and assessing and evaluating, resources, areas, and facilities, and associated environmental impacts. *(7.02.01 & 7.03.01)*
4. Knowledge of the purpose, basic procedures and interpretation, and application of research and evaluation methodology related to leisure services. *(7.02.01)*
5. Ability to apply computer and statistical techniques to assessment, planning, and evaluation processes. *(7.03.01)*
6. Understanding of principles and procedures for evaluation of leisure programs and services. *(7.02.01)*
7. Ability to formulate, plan for implementation, and evaluate extent to which goals and objectives for the leisure service and for groups and individuals within the service have been met. *(7.02.01 & 7.03.01)*

Recreation Administration and Therapeutic Recreation Option

1. Understanding of an ability to utilize current technology for the management of leisure services, including organizing, marketing, implementing, and monitoring those services. *(7.03.01)*
2. Understanding of an ability to apply techniques of program evaluation and policy analysis which measure service effectiveness and the extent to which programmatic and organizational goals and objectives have been achieved. *(7.03.01)*
3. Understanding of various evaluative tools and methods and the ability to collect and utilize evaluative information to document client and program outcomes. *(7.02.01 & 7.03.01)*

Related Objectives

1. To understand the conceptual foundations of social science research and social science research design and methodology. *(7.01.01)*
2. To use basic descriptive statistics to assess simple survey data.
3. To interpret simple data analysis, to draw meaningful conclusions, and to determine further research needs from survey data. *(7.03.01)*
4. To carry out a simple research project from beginning to end and write a meaningful research report including the steps of problem identification, hypothesis formulation, literature review, research design, data collection, data analysis, interpretation, and conclusion. *(7.03.01)*
5. To be aware of some of the higher data analysis techniques used in recreation research. *(7.03.01)*
6. To critically evaluation research proposals, reports and articles for valid and reliable information and interpretation.
7. To appreciate the value of research and sound evaluation to recreation professionals.*(7.01.01)*

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Class participation is very important. Class discussion and group interaction will be a major component of the class. We all help each other learn. Questions are encouraged. There is no stupid question. ATTENDENCE IS VITAL! You learn when you come to class. Do not miss. ATTENDENCE POLICY: You are permitted 3 absences without penalty. The 4th absence will cause your final score to drop by 5% or half a letter grade. The 6th absence you will be dropped from the class.

**RESEARCH PROJECT**

Every student will help develop, create and complete a research project related to the recreation field. This project will include creating a research problem/question (purpose of the study), completing a literature review, designing and developing a survey instrument, conducting a survey, gathering and analyzing data from that survey, and completing a written research report of the study and presenting the findings. Each section will have an assigned due date. Rubrics will be posted on Canvas for each section.

Students will be divided into groups. The group will do the research project together. BUT, each student is to write his or her own literature review, methods, and discussion session. The survey instrument will be created in the group. Data will be collected as a group. Analyzing the data MUST BE COMPLETED AS A GROUP. TIME WILL BE GIVEN IN CLASS FOR GROUPS TO ANALYZE THE DATA TOGETHER. Due dates for each section are assigned below and are tentative.

The completed research project is your final.

*Research Problem:* Students will develop a defined research problem within their group, which they will base their research project on. **10 points**

*Literature Review and Bibliography*: Conduct a literature review of your chosen topic. The lit review should include as much relevant information about your topic as possible. The lit review process will be covered in class. Utilize books, journals, and reliable on-line sources. A bibliography is required. If you do need help, please ask me, your peers, or the librarians at the Axe Library are more than willing to help with your search. **With in each group, EACH INDIVIDUALS’ lit review will be different. The same sources may be used, but no two papers will be alike. Each student will be required to turn in their own articles they have found on their topic.** **50 points** *(7.01.01)*

*Survey Instrument:* Students will create a reliable research instrument that pertains to their study with their group. Finding and developing reliable research tools will be covered in class. **50 points** *(7.02.01 & 7.03.01)*

*Methods Section:* Students will collect data and analyze their collected data within their group. Information on the data process will be covered in class. **50 points** *(7.03.01)*

*Results Section:* Students will write the results of their survey in this section. There are to be a minimum of four graphs in this section. **50 points** *(7.03.01)*

*Discussion:* Students will write the discussion section of their report. This will include a brief summary of the results and implications found from the research. **50 points** *(7.03.01)*

*Final Written Research Report:* The report will be written in APA 6th Edition Style (American Psychological Association). The length of the report will depend upon the amount of information and method of presentation (inclusion of tables, graphs, literature, references, etc.) The report will contain a cover, cover page, table of contents, standard research chapters, bibliography, and appendices as needed. **THE FINAL WRITTEN RESEARCH REPORT IS DUE MONDAY DECEMBER 9TH.** *(7.03.01)*

**The completed research paper is worth up to 260 total points. Throughout the semester, you will be handing in parts of the completed research project. I will grade each section as it is handed in. You will have the opportunity to make changes if needed. If you make the suggested changes, this give you a second chance to raise your grade on the completed research paper.**

**EVEN THOUGH THIS IS A GROUP PROJECT, EACH INDIVIDUAL’S COMPLETED RESEARCH PROJECT WILL BE DIFFERENT. THERE WILL BE NO TWO PAPERS ALIKE. EACH SECTION WILL CONTAIN SIMILAIR INFORMATION, BUT PAPERS WILL NOT BE EXACT REPLICATES OF EACH OTHER. YOU ARE TO EARN YOUR OWN GRADE.**

**ANY ASSIGNMENT TURNED IN LATE WILL HAVE 5 POINTS DEDUCTED FROM THE GRADE EACH DAY IT IS LATE UNTIL IT IS TURNED IN.**

*If you are unfamiliar with APA style, you can contact the Writing Center in the Axe Library to help format your paper. The Internet website sponsored by Purdue University called OWL (Online Writing Laboratory) is a GREAT and easy to understand reference tool.*

[***http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/***](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/)

*Oral Presentation of Project:* Each group will prepare and present a 10 – 15 minute report on their research project. A power point must be used. The report is an overview of your study. Be sure to include the purpose of the study, the methods used to collect data, results of the study, conclusions drawn from data, and suggestions for future research. Allow time for class questions and discussion. **50 points**

*Hypothetical research for PPRD Program:* You are required to volunteer for ONE Pittsburg Parks and Recreation Department program. After you volunteer, you are to create a participant survey. The survey will not be distributed, BUT you are to write them as if they were going to be handed out. The questions must pertain to the program and be appropriate for the population of the program you volunteered for. You will also include the demographics of the participants, how you would collect and analyze the data, what you think the results would be and then discuss what the results indicate (if the city should do the program again, customers were very satisfied with the program, etc.). The PPRD programs can be found on Canvas, in the announcement section. You are to take a volunteer sheet, found on Canvas with this assignment, and have the director sign the sheet. Hand the sheet in with the project. **100 points.** *(7.02.01 & 7.03.01)*

**Chapter Quizzes***:* There will be quizzes posted on Canvas covering the book chapters and various class discussions. Some may cover multiple chapters. If you do not read the book and attend class, the quizzes will be difficult. **10 points each.**

**Article Reviews & in-class assignments:** Article reviews will be assigned throughout the semester. In class assignments cannot be made up in you miss a class.

**Special Needs:** Any student who, because of a disabling or other condition, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact me as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations.

**GRADING SYSTEM:** Below is a breakdown of the point value of each assignment. Turn in items on time! Late assignments will not be accepted.

Research Problem: 10 points

Literature Review & Bib.: 50 points

Survey Instrument: 50 points

Methods Section: 50 points

(Data Collection)

(Analyze Data)

Results Section: 50 points

Discussion: 50 points

**Completed Written Report: 260 points**

Oral Report: 50 points

PPRD Volunteer: 100 points

Quizzes: 10 points each

**Classroom Rules:**

1. Cell Phones are to remain on silent or off.
2. iPods are not to be used during class. No ear buds.
3. Laptops can be used during class, but for class purposes only. ANY OTHER USE OF THE LAPTOP: FACEBOOK, EMAIL, PINTEREST, ANY USAGE THAT DOES NOT PERTAIN TO CLSS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.
4. If you bring food, bring enough to share with everyone. I prefer granola bars and fruit. Water is fine.

Do not be afraid to ask questions.

*syllabus supplement:* [*http://www.pittstate.edu/dotAsset/bb75904b-3796-4ec1-8c80-23ea1f2e678c.pdf*](http://www.pittstate.edu/dotAsset/bb75904b-3796-4ec1-8c80-23ea1f2e678c.pdf)

**TENTATIVE READING/HOMEWORK/ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE**

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| **Week of** | **TOPIC** | **OTHER ITEMS DUE** |
| **8/19** | Welcome & Syllabus |  |
|  | Chapt. 1 Investigative Overview: Why do research in recreation???? |  |
| **8/26** | Chapt. 2 Research and Eval. Process;*(7.03.01)* Qualitative and Quantitative Designs, Quiz 1 Canvas |  |
| **9/2** | **LABOR DAY Monday: no class**  Chapter 3 Research Problem, Quiz 2 Canvas |  |
| **9/9** | Chapter 4 Lit. Review; Sources; Bibliography;  Quiz 3 Canvas | **Research Topic Due: Monday** |
| **9/16** | Chapter 4 continued, Quiz 4 Canvas |  |
| **9/23** | Chapt. 5 Variables and hypotheses in study design; Quiz 5 Canvas |  |
| **9/30** | Chapt. 6 Ethics in Research *(7.01.01)* & Chapter 8  Quiz 6 on Canvas |  |
| **10/7** | Chapt. 9 Collection Tools *(7.02.01 & 7.03.01)* & Quiz 7 on Canvas;  **FALL BREAK** | **Lit Review Due MONDAY** |
| **10/14** | Chapt. 7 Sampling *(7.03.01)* & Quiz 8 on Canvas |  |
| **10/21** | Chapt. 10: Internal validity & Quiz 9 on Canvas | **Survey Instrument Due FRIDAY** |
| **10/28** | Chapt. 11: Data Analysis *(7.03.01)* & Quiz 10 on Canvas |  |
| **11/4** | Chapt. 12: The Research Report & Quiz 11 on Canvas |  |
| **11/18** | Writing the Summary; Quiz 12 on Canvas; limitations and recommendations, wrap up | **PPRD Volunteer Due Wedn.** |
| **11/25** | Work Days  **Thanksgiving Break** | **Methods Section Due Monday** |
| **12/2** | Oral Presentations | **Discussion Section Due: Wednesday** |
| **12/9** | **FINALS WEEK** | **Completed Written Report due Monday, Dec. 9th. No later than 10:50 am** |