Course Number: 419
Credit Hours: 3
Professor: Dr. Laura Covert-Miller
Email: lcovert@pittstate.edu

Course Time: M, W, F from 11:00 – 11:50
Course Location: REC 219
Office and Phone: Room 102; 620-235-4670
Virtual Office Hours: M, W: 9:00 am - 11:00 am
T & TH: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

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.

Writing to Learn

Philosophy of Writing

The reasoning of using writing as a way to learn the course material is that as students write about concepts, they become active learners, articulating ideas in their own words and thinking about ideas from their own perspectives. Writing about course content is a skill that needs to be practiced; that is why you will be writing often and relating it to the course material.

Statement of Intent

This is a Writing to Learn class. In this course we will write frequently as a way to learn the proper steps of a research project related to the field of recreation. The writing assignments will all build up to your final research project.

Writing to Learn Requirements

- *This a Writing to Learn course, which means that in addition to earning an overall passing grade on other course components, you must also earn an average passing grade on the formal writing assignments to pass this course. If you do not earn an average passing grade on the formal writing assignments, you cannot pass this course.*

- *You will receive feedback from the instructor on each separate section of the research project. Those sections are the literature review, data collection instrument, methods section, results section, and discussion section. The feedback will be written in the comments section for each assignment and in the grading rubric. Use this feedback to improve your final research project.*

- *When sources are used throughout the literature review and elsewhere in your assignments, citations must be written for the words or ideas of others. Documentation must be in APA format.*

- *In this course, you will write a minimum of 12 pages of formal writing in the form of a research report. Refer to each required section of the research report for minimum page length for each section.   Descriptions of each assignment are also available on Canvas. All writing must be in 12-point font, Times New Roman, Double spaced.*

- *Due dates for each research report section and the final research report are indicated in the course schedule at the end of the syllabus. Each section will be submitted via Canvas. The final research report will be submitted on Canvas as one document.*

- *All writing will be evaluated according to each rubric posted on Canvas.*

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 quizzed on each chapter.

COURSE DELIVERY METHOD: Based on the PSU definition, this is a Hyflex type course delivery. This course will be a combination of face-to-face and online. Half of the class will attend in person on Monday, the other half will attend in person on Wednesday, and Friday will be online/open for student questions/review of student work. Students will not be required to attend face to face, but will be required to be present for online class lectures at the designated class time. ***If students choose to attend FULLY online, this must be discussed with the course instructor by the second week of class.*** Students need to have webcam and microphone capability. Please note, this course may change delivery during the semester due to current health situations. It is advised students be prepared for either course delivery – face to face or online. *This course does require group work. All learning activities and group work will be able to be completed in person or virtually. It is strongly recommended students be "live" virtually during class time when not face to face.*

This course will include a variety of presentation methods including: lectures, student presentations, discussion, and group work. Students will not be submitting any paper-based assignments. All assignments will be submitted on Canvas. It is strongly encouraged students bring a laptop with them to class if available

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
1. Describe procedures and techniques for assessment of leisure needs. *(7.02.01)*
2. Understanding of principles and procedures for assessing and evaluating leisure services, resources, areas, and facilities, and associated environmental impacts. *(7.02.01 & 7.03.01)*
3. Create a research plan to gather data. *(7.02.01 & 7.03.01)*
4. Design an evaluation tool to collect data. *(7.02.01 & 7.03.01)*

5. Interpret data analysis to draw meaningful conclusions and to determine further research needs from collected data. *(7.03.01)*

EVALUATION

I. RESEARCH PROJECT

Every student will help develop, implement and complete a research project related to the recreation field. This project will include writing a research question (purpose of the study), completing a literature review, designing and developing a data collection instrument, implementing the instrument, 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 which is listed on the schedule below. Rubrics will be posted on Canvas for each section. *Each section will be first submitted as a rough draft. Dr. Covert Miller will review the rough draft and provide feedback. At the end of the semester, students will submit their revised research report. Each section of the report has an opportunity to improve the original grade received if students make adequate changes to their rough drafts.*

For the research project, students will be divided into groups. The group will help complete 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.* **ONE PERSON IS NOT TO DO ALL THE WORK**.

The COMPLETED research project is your final. Total points for the entire research project: 270 points.

Below are the components of the research project.

- *Research Question/Purpose Statement:* Students will develop a defined research topic within their group, which they will base their research project on. **10 points**

- *Literature Review*: Students will conduct a literature review of the assigned topic. The lit review helps educate about the topic. The lit review process will be covered in class. Utilize books, journals, and reliable on-line sources. Students are expected not to plagiarize. Cite all your sources used throughout the document. A bibliography is required. The citations and bibliography are to follow APA guidelines. Refer to the syllabus supplement within this syllabus for the PSU academic dishonesty policy for further information on consequences of plagiarism. *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.*
Purdue Owl

  If assistance is needed with finding references for the literature review, please talk to Dr. Covert Miller, your peers, or the librarians at the Axe Library are more than willing to help with your search. **Within each group, EACH INDIVIDUALS' lit review will be different. The same sources may be used, but no two papers will be alike. Worth up to 50 points** *(7.01.01)) Instructions for the literature review include:*
  - *The research question is clearly stated within the first two paragraphs of the literature review.*
  - *The sequence of the literature review is coherent. Ideas are clearly supported by evidence.*

- *Clearly used and cited all 8 sources throughout literature review*
Minimum four pages in length

- **Bibliography:** *Students will be required to create and submit a bibliography with their literature review. All sources are to be sited throughout the document. The bibliography is to follow APA guidelines. If you are unfamiliar with APA style, contact the Writing Center in the Axe Library. In addition, the website sponsored by Purdue University called OWL (Online Writing Laboratory) is a great reference tool. Website: Purdue Owl Bibliography is worth up to 10 points. This document is to be placed at the end of the final research project.*

- **Data Collection 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. **Worth up to 50 points** *(7.02.01 & 7.03.01) Instructions for the Instrument include:*
  - *Must have at least eight questions if not more. No more than 15 questions.*
  - *The instrument asks the questions that will collect the data you need to collect in order to answer your research question. Questions may be formatted any way you chose, but remember, the data will be analyzed using Excel.*
  - *Data collection questions are to be specific, using correct word choices, and appropriate for the population. All questions must pertain to the data you are collecting.*
  - *Data collection questions are grouped together accordingly. There is a coherent flow to the tool. Activity questions are with activity questions, etc.*
  - *Survey questions have specific wording. There is no room for misunderstanding of a question.*
  - *Responses provided are all appropriate to the question.*
  - *Responses provided have specific wording. There is no room for misunderstanding of a response*
  - *The informed consent is located at the top of the collection tool, along with researchers names at the bottom of the page.*
  - ***Minimum one page in length.***

- **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)*
  Instructions for the Methods section:
  - *Clearly describes WHO was involved in the study (your sample) and clearly states the sample size*
  - *Specifically details HOW the data was collected: Did you use a survey. What type of questions did you use in your survey. How did you administer your survey. HOW did you get respondents to participate? HOW did you recruit the sample: convenience, random, snowball, etc.*
  - *Specifically states WHEN the data was collected.*
  - *Specifically states WHERE the data was collected*
    - *Specifically states WHO collected the data.*
  - *Specifically states HOW the data was analyzed. Did you use Excel, Survey Monkey?*
  - *Sample size is 50 - 100.*
  - ***Minimum page length two pages.***

- **Results Section**: Students will write the results of their data collection in this section. **50 points** *(7.03.01) Instructions for the results section:*
  - *Writing style is to the point. Only facts are reported in this section.*
  - *The MODE is reported for at least five survey questions. The MODE is interpreted without any research bias.*

- o *The MEAN is reported for at least five survey questions. The MEAN is interpreted without any researcher bias.*
- o *The results section clearly states only the results of each question. The author's OPINION is not included.*
- o ***Minimum page length two pages***

- *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)* *Instructions for the discussion section:*
  - o *Opening paragraph refers back to the research questions/objectives.*
  - o *Strengths and limitations to the project were addressed. Sampling limitations, participation, location, etc.*
  - o *Clearly explains at least THREE recommendations based on the research and uses the data as supporting evidence.*
  - o *Recommendations for at least 2 future studies are clearly written.*
  - o *A summary of the discussion section is presented, highlighting the major findings of the study.*
  - o *Clearly interprets the findings in the results sections.*
  - o ***Minimum page length four pages***

- *Final Written Research Report:* The final report will be written in APA 6th Edition Style (American Psychological Association), 12-point font, Times New Roman, double spaced. **The minimum total page number of the final report is 12 pages.** The report will contain a cover, title page, table of contents, standard research chapters, bibliography, and appendices as needed. **The final written research report is due Monday December 7th.** *(7.03.01)*

  The completed research paper is worth up to 270 total points. Throughout the semester, students are to submit a rough draft for each section of the research report. Each section will receive a grade as it is handed in. Students will receive feedback within Canvas and the rubric and have the opportunity to make changes. If students make the suggested changes, this will give students a second chance to raise their grade on the completed research paper. Each section of the paper is to follow the same instructions as stated above for each section.

  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 similar information, but papers will not be exact replicates of each other. Students are to earn their own grade.

  **Turnitin will be used for every writing assignment submitted on Canvas. The document will be scanned at submission. If plagiarism is detected, the student will be required to meet with Dr. Covert Miller.

II. *Writing Center Appointment:* Every student must have a consultation with the PSU writing center at least one time during the semester for assistance with their research paper. Students may have their consultation any time during the semester. Student's must make an appointment with the writing center. ***The online confirmation from the student's writing center appointment must be sent to Dr. Covert Miller***. **DUE DEAD WEEK, WEDNESDAY DEC.2ⁿ. Extra writing center sessions will count as extra credit. Extra credit will be granted if students do an online or in person apt. Dr. Covert Miller must receive the confirmation of the appointment to receive extra credit. WORTH 25 POINTS**

III. *Oral Presentation of Project*: Each group will prepare and present a report on their research findings. A power point must be used. The report is an overview of the study. To be included: 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. EACH GROUP MEMBER IS TO SUBMIT THE PRESENTATION VIA CANVAS. **50 points. Due Monday, Dec. 7ᵗʰ @ 8:00 am. The presentations will be on a virtual platform. Students must have microphone capability in order to present. Students must be available during the scheduled final time, Monday Dec. 7ᵗʰ from 11:00 am – 12:50 pm. Each group will present together.**

IV. In-class assignments – There will be various in-class assignments for most class meetings. The assignments can be completed in person or virtually. All assignments will be submitted on Canvas.

GRADING SYSTEM: Below is a breakdown of the point value of each assignment. Turn in items on time! Do not ask about bumping grades. If the grade is borderline, attendance and class participation will be taken into consideration when deciding grades. POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR LATE ASSIGNMENTS.

Research Problem:	10 points
Literature Review	50 points
Bibliography	10 points
Survey Instrument:	50 points
Methods Section:	50 points
(Data Collection)	
(Analyze Data)	
Results Section:	50 points
Discussion:	50 points

Completed Written Report: 270 points
Oral Report: 50 points

Grades will be earned as follows:
A= 90-100%   B= 89-80%   C= 79-70%   D=69-60%   F= Below 59%
Do not ask about bumping grades. If the final grade is borderline, class participation and timeliness of assignment submissions will help decide the final grade.

Assignments are expected to be submitted on-time, regardless of a student attending face-to-face or online. Assignments given are to help students learn the material and practice the material learned. If students become behind on submitting assignments, this could potentially hurt overall major course assignments. The assignments build to the major course assignments. Any assignments handed in late will receive 1 point off per day until received.

Student Accommodations – Students who require accommodations must present or be contacted by the Student Accommodations Center. Students should speak with Dr. Covert Miller about course accommodations in order to ensure best opportunities to learn.

For important dates, <mark>academic dishonesty policies</mark>, university information and policies, see the [Syllabus supplement](#).

Considerations for Fall Semester 2020
University Policy: In response to the guidelines put in place by local, state, and federal Health Departments, several policies have been put into place by the University to provide as much safety and flexibility as possible. One such policy that will be enforced in this class is the requirement that all students

wear a face mask (pittstate.edu/coronavirus > PSU Face Mask Policy). Students will be required to abide by these policies; students failing to do so will be asked to leave class until back in compliance. For a list of all policies and resources put in place by the University in response to COVID-19, go to https://www.pittstate.edu/office/health-services/coronavirus/index.html

Office Hours: Office hours will be held virtually. If a student needs to meet with Dr. Covert Miller in person, students will be required to make an appointment. Upon the student arrival, students are required to check in with the HHPR offices. They will then be allowed to come to Dr. Covert Miller's classroom.

Social Distancing: Students are expected to follow social distancing guidelines when in the classroom. This includes maintaining six-feet of distance between students and the instructor. *The instructor may be within six feet of a student to answer questions/check work for a 15-minute time period*. Students are not to share personal items and are expected practice proper hygiene. All assignments will be submitted via Canvas. No in-class paperwork will be handed-in. Equipment used during interventions will be wiped down after use.

Additional Requirements/Considerations for Online Participation: Due to the current social distancing policies, there are several alterations to the syllabus for those who cannot or do not wish to attend face-to-face lectures. If you are unable to meet any of these requirements, please speak with the instructor as soon as possible to discuss your options.

1. In-person attendance is ***not mandatory***. Live lectures will be simulcast and recorded using Zoom (or equivalent). If you are uncomfortable or unable to attend a face-to-face lecture, you are welcome to participate in the lecture during normal class time via Zoom or view it on your own time and email questions to the instructor *prior to the next schedule class*. **Students will be required to attend class either in-person or virtually for assignments/projects that require students to be live during scheduled class time. See assignment listing for those requiring students to be present. Students must understand this course will incorporate in class assignments and require dedicated time to complete the writing assignments. The activities can be completed face to face and virtual, but "live" attendance virtually is strongly recommended. If students choose to attend FULLY online, this must be discussed with the course instructor by the second week of class.**

2. Quizzes, tests, presentations, and certain assignments will be available online; however, ***they may take place during normal class times so you must be prepared to sign in and take them at that time or participate at that time from wherever you are located. Assignments are expected to be submitted on-time, regardless of a student attending face-to-face or online.***

3. In order to participate in this class online, there are several additional requirements that are not necessary for face-to-face:
   a. Windows PC or a computer capable of running Windows software.
   b. Access to a webcam is required. Quizzes and tests may be administered using Respondus Monitor at the instructor's discretion. This software is a tool used to prevent academic dishonesty and requires the use of a webcam. In the past, an iPad has NOT been able to serve this function, so either a notebook computer with an integrated camera (e.g. Microsoft Surface Pro) or a USB plug-in version should be sufficient. The instructor will provide a practice quiz to make sure your hardware will work.
   c. Access to a microphone or ability to call in to Zoom meetings is required due to the interactions with the community. Most webcams have an integrated microphone but Zoom meetings will be set up to also allow call-in from a phone line.

d. You will need to be able to hear the audio track to get the most out of lectures whether that is with integrated speakers or plug-in headphones.

e. Reliable internet access. Since all your instruction will be done over video conferencing and quizzes/exams will require uninterrupted Internet access, it is imperative that you have a reliable connection. High speed internet is preferred, but not required as long as you are able to view video, and your connection is not prone to dropping signal (i.e. using a mobile hot spot in an area with spotty cell signal is not advised).

Netiquette: Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online. Internet messages are permanent, so you don't want to be remembered as anything other than a courteous professional.

- Use good grammar and spelling and avoid using text messaging shortcuts or all caps.
- Double-check email addresses and spelling of names/titles.
- Be aware of hitting Reply All or Message All when sending email or chat room messages.
- During video conferences, mute your microphone and web cam unless you're actively speaking.
- Make sure that your background (both what's visible in the room behind you and what's visible on your computer desktop) and your chat room avatar look professional.
- Don't write angry - if you have an issue, take a few minutes to calm down before writing something you may regret.

Determination of what is inappropriate behavior will be at the discretion of the instructor and may result in being dropped from the class or brought before the University disciplinary committee. Examples of inappropriate behavior include, but aren't limited to: swearing and profanity, insensitivities to differences in cultural and linguistic backgrounds, different political and religious beliefs, "flaming" (publicly attacking or insulting) another student.

A word of caution about working online. *Do not assume that you will have more free time just because you're doing a course online. This course requires a lot of time and writing.* With a face-to-face class the rule of thumb is to spend 3 hours outside of class for every credit hour; for example, for a three-credit hour class, you should be spending an ADDITIONAL 9 hours outside of class preparing (reading assigned chapters, doing suggested problems, reviewing notes, etc) for a total of 12 hours spent each week just on that class. If the same class is offered online, you should plan to spend the same 12 hours on the class, without having a scheduled meeting time. It is easy to convince yourself that "Since I don't have to go to class, I can do other things like work full time." *While some students may be able to handle a 40-hour-a-week job and 60 hours of school (15 credit hours + 15*3 hours of homework) every week, students often quickly get in over their heads and fall behind on schoolwork. For reference, there are only 168 hours in a 7-day week. If we must go online at some point this semester, please carefully consider your options and your personal study habits when planning your time.*

TENTATIVE READING/HOMEWORK/ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Week of	TOPIC	OTHER ITEMS DUE
8/17	Welcome & Syllabus/Chapter 1	
	Chapt. 1 Investigative Overview: Why do research in recreation????	
8/24	Chapt. 2 Research and Eval. Process;*(7.03.01)* Qualitative and Quantitative Designs,	
8/31	Chapter 3 Research Problem	**Research Topic Due: Friday**

9/7	**Labor Day – No Class Monday** Chapter 4 Lit. Review; Sources; Bibliography	
9/14	Chapter 4 continued,	
9/21	Chapt. 5 Variables and hypotheses in study design;	
9/28	Chapt. 6 Ethics in Research *(7.01.01)* & Chapter 8	<mark>Lit Review Due MONDAY</mark>
10/05	Chapt. 9 Collection Tools *(7.02.01 & 7.03.01)*	
10/12	Chapt. 7 Sampling *(7.03.01)*	<mark>Instrument Due FRIDAY</mark>
10/19	Chapt. 10: Internal validity	
10/26	Chapt. 11: Data Analysis *(7.03.01)*	<mark>Methods Section Due Monday</mark>
11/2	Chapt. 12: The Research Report	
11/9	Writing the Summary; limitations and recommendations, wrap up	
11/16	Work Days	<mark>Results Due Friday</mark>
11/23	**Thanksgiving & Dismiss for Online Completion**	
11/30	Work Days	<mark>Discussion Due Wednesday</mark>
12/7	**Finals Week: Oral Presentations** **Presentations due 8:00 am Dec. 7th**	<mark>Completed Written Report due Monday, Dec. 7th. No later than 11:00 am</mark>