NEW YORK UNIVERSITY  
School of Education

E10.2132 - Principles of Empirical Research  
Bronner  
Spring 2002

Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, you should be able to:

1. List, explain, and evaluate various empirical research designs and activities
2. Identify a wide variety of empirical research resources
3. Describe key principles in sampling techniques
4. Analyze and evaluate appropriate empirical data-collection instruments
5. Describe the elements of and/or develop a simple valid and reliable data-gathering instrument
6. Demonstrate basic facility in the use and application of a statistical software package

Schedule

January 23  Overview of various modes of inquiry  
30  Resources for researchers - Chapter 1
February 6  Conceptual and theoretical frameworks - Chapter 2
13  The problem statement - Chapter 3
20  Software Aids – Guest Speaker
27  Sampling procedures - Chapter 8
March 6  Research designs - Chapters 5 and 6 - Assignment 1
13  Spring Break Week
20  Data Processing and analysis - Chapters 14-19; computer lab meeting
27  TBA
April 3  Data processing and analysis (continued) - Assignment 2
10  Reliability and validity - Chapter 7
17  Methods of data collection - Chapters 9-11 - Assignment 3
24  Methods of data collection (continued)
May 1  Nonreactive measures - Chapters 12-13 – Assignment 4
8  Project review and discussion, final meeting, review, and critique
Assignments

1. Critique of research article  Due: March 6, 10%
2. Computer exercise  Due: April 3, 10%
3. Problem statement and conceptual framework  Due: April 17, 20%
4. Final project  Due: May 1, 40%
5. Active and high-quality participation  20%

Incompletes are strongly discouraged.

Required Text


A supplemental bibliography will be provided; however, you are encouraged to read the research literature in your discipline. Cross check your readings frequently and bring to class copies of materials appropriate for dissemination and discussion. Become an active learner in this course and avail yourself of your colleagues' expertise.

Office Hours

East Building, Room 302: M 2-4; T 4-6; W 2-4. All by appointment please, through Ms. Shirley Montgomery, 998-5520. MB voice mail: 998-5486; fax: 995-4041; e-mail: michael.bronner@nyu.edu