

**WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY
BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE
GENERIC SYLLABUS**

FACULTY MEMBER:

TERM:

COURSE TITLE: Research, Writing, and Information Literacy in the Behavioral Sciences

COURSE NUMBER: SOC 331

TEXTBOOK(S):

TITLE:	Rules of Thumb – A Guide for Writers
AUTHOR:	Silverman, Hughes & Weinbroer
TITLE:	Need to Know Social Science Research Methods
AUTHOR:	Lisa J. McIntyre
TITLE:	Writing Literature Reviews: A Guide for Students of the Social and Behavioral Sciences
AUTHOR:	Galvan
TITLE:	Pocket Guide to APA Style
AUTHOR:	Robert Perrin

If you would like more precise information regarding the textbook(s) for this class, please visit the bookstore website at <http://www.wilmu.edu/bookstore>

FACULTY MEMBER:

OFFICE HOURS/ METHOD OF CONTACT:

PREREQUISITE: PSY 101 or SOC 101, ENG 101 and 102 and MAT 308

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course addresses the information literacy, research methods, and academic journals used in the Behavioral Sciences, and the writing requirements demanded of Behavioral Sciences professionals. Students will be introduced to various research methods used in the Behavioral Science field and instructed in the writing requirements of Behavioral Science programs, and the field in general. In addition, students will be oriented to information literacy of Behavioral Science related materials on the internet.

II. COURSE RATIONALE:

Students in the Behavioral Sciences are, by virtue of the kind of career employment they seek, expected to be knowledgeable in their field, use critical thinking in making

decisions, and communicate ideas in written reports. This requires knowledge in evaluating information, differentiating between scholarly and popular works, interpreting research data, and understanding the writing requirements of various formats of written assignments.

III. MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

GOAL A:

Students will develop information literacy skills within the behavioral sciences. They will develop a proficiency at using behavioral science databases (i.e. PSYCHINFO, EBSCOHOST, PROQUEST, SOCINDEX or some similar such database resource) to locate empirical research and research review articles in the Behavioral Science area.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

- A-1 Identify key words to search and locate credible sources
- A-2 Locate needed information effectively and efficiently
- A-3 Frame a research question
- A-4 Evaluate information resources
- A-5 Evaluate information content
- A-6 Communicate understanding of ethical and legal issues affecting the use of information through appropriate crediting of sources

GOAL B:

Students will demonstrate correct use of APA writing style, including formatting and use of language.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

- B-1 Format a term paper in APA style
- B-2 Use citations in APA style
- B-3 Format a reference page in APA style
- B-4 Use the appropriate point of view
- B-5 Recognize difference between formal and informal language in writing

GOAL C:

Students will demonstrate critical thinking by evaluating arguments and ethical judgments.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

- C-1 Differentiate facts and opinions
- C-2 Recognize errors in thinking
- C-3 Identify errors in judgment such as double-standard, irrelevant criterion, hasty conclusions, unwarranted assumptions, oversimplification, and over-generalizing or stereotyping
- C-4 Identify errors of reaction such as explaining away, shifting the burden of

proof, attacking the person, and straw man

GOAL D:

Students will summarize and analyze scholarly and peer reviewed journal articles, and evaluate research methods used.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

- D-1 Summarize an article from a peer-reviewed journal in the Behavioral Sciences
- D-2 Analyze theories and research methods used in scholarly publications

GOAL E:

Students will become familiar with how to conduct and write a literature review on a given topic.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

- E-1 Conduct an in-depth literature review on a specific topic using appropriate academic literature
- E-2 Identify questions the literature seeks to answer
- E-3 Critically appraise subject-specific literature for use in conducting a literature review
- E-4 Write a literature review in accordance with APA style

GOAL F:

Students will explore writing tasks and research efforts required of Behavioral Science professionals in workplace settings:

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

- F-1 Explore research and writing requirements of career professionals
- F-2 Locate types of report writing required in the field
- F-3 Make the connection between field notes, research writing, and scholarly journals
- F-4 Articulate the ethical requirements of writing in the field

IV. CODE OF CONDUCT:

Academic Integrity

Students of Wilmington University are expected to be honest and forthright in their academic pursuits. Plagiarism (whether intentional or not) is the inclusion of someone else's words, ideas, or data as one's own. When a student submits work that includes the words, ideas, or data of another, the source of that information must be acknowledged through complete, accurate, and specific references, and, if verbatim (i.e. word for word) statements are included, through quotation marks as well. When the student places his or her name on submitted work, the student certifies the originality of all work not otherwise

identified by appropriate acknowledgments. Plagiarism covers published and unpublished sources.

Students are urged to consult with individual faculty members, department heads, or recognized handbooks in their field if they are uncertain as to what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it. For further information concerning plagiarism please review the section of the current Wilmington University Student Handbook entitled “Policies and Regulations,” which can be viewed online at the section of the Wilmington University website entitled “Student Life.”

V. SUPPLEMENTAL OBJECTIVES:

VI. METHODOLOGY:

A. Teaching Methods:

B. Evaluation Procedure:

VII. ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Regular and prompt class attendance is an essential part of the educational experience. Wilmington University expects students to exercise good judgment regarding attendance. Students accept full responsibility for ensuring that work does not suffer from absences. All students are expected to attend every scheduled meeting of each class on time. Exceptions may be made for Wilmington University-sponsored or work-related activities, illness, or valid emergencies.

VIII. STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

Wilmington University actively supports the rights of students with disabilities to have equal access to education. Such students need to self identify by contacting the Office of Student Affairs and furnish documentation verifying the need for special services and/or accommodations. For additional information, please call (302) 356-6940 or go to: <http://www.wilmu.edu/studentlife/disabilityservices/index.html>

IX. COURSE OUTLINE: