I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

Course: PSC 780
Course Title: Research in P.A. in Political Science
EPN: 22200376
Term: Summer I
Location: Auburn Hills Center
Course Dates: 5/17, 5/18, 5/31, 6/1, 6/14, 6/15/2013
Course Days and Times: Fri 6:00PM-10:00PM; Sat 8:00AM-5:00PM;
Prerequisites: N/A

Blackboard:
Blackboard is a web-based learning management system licensed by CMU. Within Blackboard, a course website, also known as a shell, is automatically created for every CMU course. Face-to-face courses may or may not incorporate Blackboard, whereas Blackboard course shells are always used for online courses and will be available to you prior to the course start date. Seeing the course shell listed in Blackboard with unavailable adjacent to its title is an indication that your instructor has not made it available and is in no way indicative of registration status. To access Blackboard, open a web browser and enter http://www.cmich.edu/blackboard. After the site loads, enter your CMU Global ID and password in the respective spaces provided. Click the "login" button to enter Blackboard and then the link to the appropriate course to enter the course's Blackboard shell. If you need assistance, contact the IT Helpdesk at 989-774-3662 / 800-950-1144 x. 3662. Self-guided student tutorial resources are also available at http://www.cmich.edu/blackboard.

Instructor: Nancy Quarles
Primary Phone Number: 248 357 8600
Secondary Phone Number: N/A
E-Mail Address: quar11nl@cmich.edu
Availability: Tues - Thurs 11:00 am - 4:00 pm; Other times by appointment

Academic Biography:
Dr. Nancy Quarles served as a member of the Michigan House of Representative. Prior to serving as a State Representative, she served as an Oakland County Commissioner. Dr. Quarles has lectured before many organizations concerning the importance of their involvement in public policy. Quarles received her B.S. in Business Administration, University of Detroit; M.A. in Management and Leadership, Central Michigan University; and Ph.D. in Public Administration, Western Michigan University.

II. TEXTBOOKS AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Order books from MBS at http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/cmu.htm

Textbooks and Course Materials:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Practical Research Planning and Design</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Paul Leedy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edition</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISBN</td>
<td>10: 0132693240</td>
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<table>
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<th>Research Methods for Public Administrators</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Gail Johnson</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>ISBN</td>
<td>978-0-7656-2312-6</td>
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III. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Conceptual frameworks within which policy is studied, and relationship between theory and empirical research.

IV. COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The course is designed to provide a graduate level introduction to research methods in political science, with an emphasis on public administration. The course will first focus on the logic and theoretical rationale of scientific methods, followed by empirical techniques of research processes. Students will be trained in the use of research tools and resources. Students will also be trained to be intelligent consumers of empirical research reports.

After completion of the course, the student will:

1. describe and discuss the scientific process and its logic.
2. define and measure concepts.
3. construct and test hypotheses.
4. delineate the basic data analysis techniques.
5. undertake an empirical research project.

V. METHODOLOGY

Guided discussion, investigation, and analysis are the primary methods of instruction in this course. Other teaching methods will include lecture and group work. As an applied research course, the course succeeds only with the active involvement of all course participants. Participants must complete their readings and other assignments on schedule and come to applicable class sessions fully prepared to evaluate them. All analytical work and writing assignments, and they are extensive in complexity and duration will require critical thinking and problem-solving by each course participant.

VI. COURSE OUTLINE/ASSIGNMENTS

Pre-Class Assignment:

Reading assignments: Each course participant must read the assigned textual material in its entirety prior to its designated class session to be able to participate credibly in the discussion. A participant should read the textual material for comprehension, not simply for familiarity. Accordingly, each participant is expected to relate textual material to current research issues and practices, and be prepared to criticize them. Informed contributions to research analysis will thus improve the learning experiences for all session participants; in short, intensive investigation of research issues and practices will enrich session material.

Research Concept Paper: Author for submission at the start of the first class session, a two-paged, double-spaced, word-processed, applied-research concept paper. The paper (6 – 9 pages) must satisfy eight (8) requirements:

1. Introduction heading: define very succinctly the issue / problem to be investigated;
2. Issue Statement or Problem Statement heading: enter a one-sentence issue statement or problem statement of 25 words or less that is derived only from the introductory material;
3. Research Objective heading: specify the objective for the investigation in a one-sentence research objective of 20 words or less that is derived only from the issue statement or problem statement;
4. Research Questions heading: list the 3 to 5 research questions/subproblems (simple questions, not compound questions) for which historical information will
be sought via a review of literature from authoritative sources (e.g., university publications, professional journals, scholarly papers, policy centers);

5. Research Methodology heading: identify the research typology / protocol/ recipe intended for use to structure the collection of current information from publicly available, government documents and data sets;

6. Data Collection Methodology heading: identify the data collection tools expected for use to collect the current information from the government documents and data sets;

7. Data Analysis Methodology heading: describe the analysis plan for the collected information [i.e, how the data will be analyzed to answer the applicable research question];

8. Literature Review: summarize the principal authoritative source for the intended research typology, the principal authoritative sources for the envisioned data collection tools, and principal authoritative source for the proposed analytical process. This section should have a minimum of 10 varied sources. If you prefer you can submit an annotated bibliography for this section.

The paper will be graded for clarity of expression, grammatical accuracy, compliance with its preparation instructions, and its on-time submission. Paper must follow APA guidelines. You should include a minimum of ten (10) works or references. You should have a mixture of Scholarly articles, subject matter journals, books, websites, policy centers documents, etc.

**Group Guided Discussions:** Each group will be assigned portions of the required texts/chapters for analysis and discussion (this will be your teachable opportunity). A word-processed outline of the significant points for the discussion will be presented to the professor and your cohort colleagues. The written outline, and guided discussion with its accompanying presentation aids, will each be graded on analytical content and accuracy in composition.

If you prefer you can email the outline to the Professor two days before the start of the class to have them posted in the course blackboard.

**Research Proposal:** Each course participant will complete an applied research project proposal about a public sector issue. The word-processed research proposal will contain comprehensive substantive and methodological citation schemes, a thoroughly-sourced comprehensive explanation of the chosen research methodology (i.e., introduction, literature review, research question(s), data collection tools, and analytical process, plus the validity and reliability threats and defenses applicable to the proposed research project, etc.) and be not less than fifteen (15) double-spaced pages in length. The proposal will be graded on the thoughtfulness manifest in the research activities, the specificity of the description of the applicable public sector issue or problem, the thoroughness of the citation schemes, and the clarity the proposal.

**Course Outline:**

**Pre-Assignment:**

There are two written pre-class assignments to be completed and submitted at the first class meeting for this course: 1) an applied-research concept paper; 2) Short paper (2 - 3 pages) describing and explaining typology, basic research, applied research, empirical research, and give examples. The reading of Leedy & Ormrod, Parts I, II, and Johnson, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, and 16 should be completed prior to the first class.

**Outline of Session Topics and Activities:**

Weekend 1 – Course Introduction and Research Concept Paper

Course introduction and syllabus review; submission of applied research concept papers; pre-assignment short paper; participant introductions and organization of Paper Review Groups (PRG)

Activities: evaluating the Research of Others; preliminary review and revisions of participants’ research concept papers by PRG (to include problem statement, research objective statement, research questions, research methodology typology, data collection tools, analysis plan); APA citation guidelines, preparation of applied research proposal production schedules; review of research project proposal format; and guided discussions from Leedy & Ormrod.

Class discussion: research proposal, paper introduction; literature review; research question(s)

Read Leedy & Ormrod: Parts I, II, and V; and Johnson: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 16 prior to the first class meeting

Read and review APA in-text citations; citing; and bibliography (Chapter 6, 7, and Reducing Bias – p. 71-76)

Class exercise

Submit Pre-class assignments

Weekend 2 - The analysis and assessment sections

Evaluating the arguments of your analysis and assessment section; considering the significance and limitations of your findings; measurement and appropriate statistics; and PRG finishing the touches on participants research design.

Activities: PRG proposal review, and research proposal presentations, MPA Alumni.

Class discussion: research design; data collection; sampling; analysis,

Guided discussions

Submit Research Proposal sections: a) introduction which includes topic, research question(s), and significance of knowledge and b) expected results
Read Leedy & Ormrod: Parts III, and IV; and related chapters in Johnson book

Exam

Weekend 3- Applied Research Proposal

Present research of introduction, literature review, research question, model and methods and data source

Activities: Research proposal presentations and class exercise.

Submit Research proposal

Read Johnson: Chapter 17

Assignment Due Dates:

- Short Paper (research comparison) - Weekend 1
- Concept Paper - Weekend 1
- Group Guide Discussion - Weekend 2
- Exam - Weekend 2
- Research Proposal sections: introduction and expected results - Weekend 2
- Research Proposal - Weekend 3
- Proposal Presentation - Weekend 3

Post-Class Assignment:

n/a

Student Involvement Hours:

It is expected that you will need to provide 6-8 hours outside of class to successfully complete this course. This should include time for: reading, writing, study, research, completion of specific activities, etc.

VII. CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

Evaluation Criteria:

Students are graded on the quality of their written assignments, in-class participation, oral presentations, graduate paper and quiz.

Evaluation Criteria:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Graduates’ points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guide Discussion</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>Attendance</td>
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<td>Short Paper (research comparison)</td>
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<td>Concept Paper</td>
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<td>In-Class Exercise</td>
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<td>Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Proposal</td>
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<td>Individual Presentation - Proposal</td>
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Grading Scale:
A 525-516
A- 515-473
B+472-455
B 454-437
B- 436-420
C+419-402
C 401-384
C- 383-368 (No Credit towards Degree)
D 367-315
E 314-below

Late Assignments:
A late research concept paper, verbal presentation, or research proposal will result in a 5 points reduction for each day that the material is late being received by the professor; unless the student has official documentation from their employer or physician to achieve relief from this policy.

Make-ups and Rewrites:
Students are expected to submit assignment on the scheduled dates. Make-ups will not be accepted.

VIII. EXPECTATIONS

Attendance and Participation:
Attendance Policy:
Students are expected to attend every class session in its entirety. The instructor should be notified of any anticipated absences.

Class Participation:
Since this is an active learning course, students are expected to be engaged in class discussions.

Class Protocol:
Do not use cell phones, review emails, search internet (unless it is a class assignment), or text in the classroom.

Academic Integrity:
Because academic integrity is a cornerstone of the University's commitment to the principles of free inquiry, students are responsible for learning and upholding professional standards of research, writing, assessment, and ethics in their areas of study. Written or other work which students submit must be the product of their own efforts and must be consistent with appropriate standards of professional ethics. Academic dishonesty, which includes cheating, plagiarism and other forms of dishonest or unethical behavior, is prohibited. A breakdown of behaviors that constitute academic dishonesty is presented in the CMU Bulletin (https://bulletins.cmich.edu/).

Student Rights and Responsibilities:
Each member of the Central Michigan University community assumes an obligation regarding self conduct to act in a manner consistent with a respect for the rights of others and with the University's function as an educational institution. As guides for individual and group actions within this community, the University affirms the general principles of conduct described in the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Disciplinary Procedures at https://www.cmich.edu/about/leadership/office_provost/dean/Pages/Code-of-Student-Rights.aspx.

IX. SUPPORT SERVICES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS
Global Campus Library Services (GCLS)

CMU offers you a full suite of library services through its Global Campus Library Services (GCLS) department. Reference librarians will assist you in using research tools and locating information related to your research topic. The library’s Documents on Demand office will help you obtain copies of the books and journal articles you need. Check out the GCLS website at http://gcls.cmich.edu for more information.

Reference librarian contact information:
1. By phone: (800) 544-1452.
2. By email: gclsref@cmich.edu
3. By online form: http://gcls.cmich.edu/reference/index.html#form

Documents on Demand office contact information:
1. By phone: (800) 274-3838
2. By email: docreq@cmich.edu
3. By fax: (877) 329-6257

Writing Center

The CMU Writing Center is a free online service for all CMU students, providing help with grammar, citations, bibliographies, drafts, and editing of academic papers. Suggestions and feedback are typically provided within two business days. For additional information and to submit work, visit http://webs.cmich.edu/writingcenter/.

Mathematics Assistance Center

The CMU Mathematics Assistance Center provides free tutoring in mathematics and statistics to students enrolled in select courses. Tutoring is available online and via telephone. To see what courses qualify and to register with the Math Assistance Center, visit http://global.cmich.edu/mathcenter/tutoring-request.aspx.

ADA

CMU provides individuals with disabilities reasonable accommodations to participate in educational programs, activities and services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in class activities or meet course requirements should contact Susie Rood, Director of Student Disability Services at (800) 950-1144, extension 3018 or email her at sds@cmich.edu, at least 4 weeks prior to registering for class. Students may find additional ADA information and forms at http://go.cmich.edu/support_services/academic/StudentDisabilityServices/Pages/default.aspx

Note to faculty: CMU Administration will notify you if applicable; otherwise, the student will provide a “Notification Letter to the Instructor” outlining the accommodations the student is approved to receive.

X. BIBLIOGRAPHY

list will be given in class
Center Information

- Not Currently Available -