

## **Methodology**

CR510 200904

Instructor: Amanda Smith Byron  
Email: [abyron@pdx.edu](mailto:abyron@pdx.edu)  
Phone: 503/725-9170  
Office: NH223 Office hours by appointment  
Web: <http://web.pdx.edu/~abyron>

### **Course Description**

This course is designed to introduce conflict resolution students to the process of research, with the goal that students will become literate in reading and understanding research. Students will have the opportunity to explore topics for their projects and theses, and will become familiar with the process of designing qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research in the human and social sciences. Various methodologies will be studied in depth, and particular attention will be given to the process of choosing an appropriate methodology to answer specific research questions.

### **Learning Objectives**

1. Students will be familiar with the PSU Conflict Resolution Program's steps to producing a thesis or capstone.
2. Students will be able to identify and design 3 approaches to research (qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods) and their 10 related strategies of inquiry.
3. Students will be able to identify and produce typical data collection methods (survey, interview, etc.).
4. Students will develop the ability to practice typical steps in a research project regardless of approach or method.
5. Students will be able to understand and analyze the research that is published in journal articles, theses, and dissertations.

### **Required Reading**

*Texts will be sold by In Other Words Bookstore, and will be available at the Women's Resource Center on campus during the first week of class, and at In Other Words' permanent location thereafter.*

1. Creswell, J. (2009). *Research design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and mixed methods approaches* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed). Sage Publications: Thousand Oaks, CA.
2. Graff, G., & Birkenstein, C. (2006). *They say/I say: The moves that matter in academic writing*. New York: WW Norton & Company, Inc.
3. Additional reading material will be posted on Blackboard and/or distributed in class.

### **Recommended Reading**

Additional reading that addresses particular types of research that are consistent with the field of CR but are not covered in the Creswell Text will be posted on the Blackboard Course site. You are not required to read this, but you are encouraged to read any/all that appeals.

### **Course Expectations**

**Participation: 100 points – 10 points per class**

Students are expected to attend classes in full, and participate fully. Each class is worth 10 points, and students will earn those points by being on time, engaging in class discussion, and remaining alert during class.

**Weekly Assignments: 175 points – 7 assignments x 25 points each**

Weekly writing assignments will be turned in each week, and will provide an opportunity to integrate the reading assignments into practical/situated learning. All assignments will provide the opportunity to build conceptually if not actually toward the Final Research Design.

**Online Participation: 25 points**

This is a hybrid course, with all assignments and discussion located on the Blackboard course site. These points will be offered to students who participate in weekly discussions, and engage actively and responsibly on the course site.

**Midterm Exam: 100 points, due online by midnight 10/26**

An exam will be given during the fifth week of class, which will test your knowledge of the content from the assigned text. This will be an open book exam, and will ask for short answers to theoretical and practical questions.

**Final Paper: 100 points, due in class on 11/30**

The final assignment is a 10-12 page paper. Each course participant will select a topic in conflict resolution, and then describe and critique how the literature utilizes research methods to study, explore, and develop that topic. You can build on the literature review you created in the Perspectives Class, you can select an arbitrary topic within the discipline of Conflict Resolution, or you can choose a topic that represents your potential interest for a thesis or capstone project. The purpose of this paper is for you to demonstrate your ability to distinguish research methods, and to evaluate who/what/where/when/why/how particular methods are employed in a particular area of Conflict Resolution.

**Grading**

A:	475-500	C+:	350-374
A-:	450-474	C:	325-349
B+:	425-449	C-:	300-324
B:	400-424	F:	Below 300
B-:	375-399		
I:	Incompletes are discouraged and will only be given in extreme circumstances.		

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment	Class
1	9/28	Independent Study	Read materials on Blackboard describing the difference between a thesis and a capstone project, and review the new proposal guidelines.	Introduce yourself on the Blackboard Course Site, and familiarize yourself with the syllabus and the Course Site itself.	Not meeting this week in observance of Yom Kippur
2	10/5	Introduction to Methodology	Creswell Ch. 1-4	Write two pages of possible research questions that might be worth pursuing. This can	Academic Writing  Sticky Notes

				be a preliminary and diverse list of possibilities.	Exercise
3	10/12	Designing Research	Creswell Ch. 5-7	Write a 2 page reflective paper on theoretical perspectives/frameworks learned in your studies, which might serve as a foundation for future research.	Lecture on Research Design
4	10/19	Quantitative and Qualitative Methods	Creswell Ch. 8, 9	Read 2 theses and complete a preliminary proposal for both.	Discussion of different Methodologies Exercise
5	10/26	Mixed Methods	Creswell Ch. 10	Preparation for Midterm	<b>No class meeting: Midterm proctored online</b>
6	11/2	Data Collection Methods	Readings Posted Online	Develop a research question and a brief quantitative survey that will provide data to answer your question, and a brief interview protocol that will also provide relevant data.	Explore diverse research scenarios and evaluate +/- of data collection methods
7	11/9	Collecting Data	Readings Posted Online	Interview someone interesting about something interesting. Turn in 2 pages of raw data and 2 pages that summarize your findings.	Workshop Class Examples
8	11/16	Data Analysis	Readings Posted Online	Write 2-5 pages generating hypotheses and analyzing the data provided by instructor.	Hypothesis Generation Group Data Analysis Why/Why Not?
9	11/23	Assessment and Evaluation	Readings Posted Online	Write a needs assessment and evaluation for scenario provided by instructor.	Needs Assessment Program Eval
10	11/30	Ethics in Research	<i>Read Application Guidelines for Human Subjects Review</i> <a href="http://www.gsr.pdx.edu/orsp_compliance_human_forms.html">http://www.gsr.pdx.edu/orsp_compliance_human_forms.html</a>	Collaborative on-line discussion about Ethics in Research. See BB course site for details.	Human Subjects Presentation

***Please notify instructor immediately if you require special accommodation.***  
*If you are sick with a communicable disease, it is your responsibility to stay home from school AND to make alternate arrangements for the classes you miss.*