

Public Administration 9914  
**RESEARCH METHODS and STATISTICS**  
Autumn 2014

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SSC 4223

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All classes are in SSC 4255

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the research process. The principles and techniques covered here will be useful both for academic work (including the required MPA research report) and for applied administrative and policy research. As well, it will help you evaluate research that you encounter in academe and on the job.

There are two components to the course. First is the discussion of research methods, which begins with notions of theory and inductive and deductive approaches, and proceeds through survey design to the logic of experimentation and to qualitative research techniques.

Second, we will cover the elementary statistics that are basic to quantitative research. This will be done in a straightforward way, and individual help will be available. We will discuss simple descriptive statistics, sampling and probability, measures of association and tests of significance, and analysis of variance and regression.

**Read as much as possible before class begins!**

Books

O'Sullivan, Elizabethann, Gary R. Rassel, and Maureen Berner, (2008). *Research Methods for Public Administrators*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed., New York: Pearson Longman [hereafter O'S].

It is essential to get this latest edition, because in class we will often be looking up particular pages for examples, and page numbers change from edition to edition.

It is best to buy the book through Amazon or another on-line dealer.

Evaluation

Students will do three short assignments during the course (10% each). Students will also be graded on class participation (10%). There will be a take-home examination on statistics (worth 30%). This will be **due December 19, 2014**. The second major assignment involves designing a research project (30%). This will be **due January 23, 2015**. Late penalties will be applied.

**PA 9914 OUTLINE**

**Friday, October 3:**

3:00 - 6:00: Introduction: theories, hypotheses, variables, operationalization

O'S: ch 1, 2 (25-38), 4.

6:00 - 7:00: Statistics: variables, descriptive statistics

O'S: ch 11 (323-52)

**Saturday, October 4:**

9:00 - 10:00: Variables, descriptive statistics continued

10:00 - 11:00: Methods: sampling  
O'S: ch 5 (133-50)  
11:00 - 12:00; 1:00 - 1:30: Methods: surveys and questionnaires  
O'S: ch 6 (172-91), 7  
1:30 - 2:30: Statistics: indexes  
O'S: ch 10 (299-312)  
2:30 - 4:00: Statistics: the normal curve, estimation and inference  
O'S: ch 11 (352-4)  
Assignment #1 handed out.

### **Friday, October 17:**

3:00 - 6:00: Statistics: more about estimation; sample size  
O'S: ch 5 (150-63, and appendixes)  
6:00 - 7:00: Discussion of Research Proposals (Assignment #4).

### **Saturday, October 18:**

9:00 - 11:00: Statistics: hypothesis testing, tests of significance  
O'S: ch 12, including appendixes  
11:00 - 12:00; 1:00 - 1:30: Methods: causal analysis; experimental design  
O'S: ch 3  
1:30 - 2:30: Methods: library research  
2:30 - 3:00: Group exercise about validity.  
3:00 - 4:00: Discussion of research proposals  
Assignments 2 and 3 handed out.

### **Friday, November 14:**

3:00 - 5:00: Statistics: relations between two or more variables  
O'S: ch 13 (396-413, and appendix [re: V and gamma only])  
5:00 - 6:30: Statistics: analysis of variance  
O'S: Ch 13 (413-418); xeroxed handout  
6:30 - 7:00: Discussion of research proposals

### **Saturday, November 15:**

9:00 - 10:30: Methods: fundamental design choices; qualitative methods  
O'S: ch 9 (270-80), 2 (38-49), 6 (191-206)  
Julie Ann McMullin, Lorraine Davies and Gale Cassidy, 'Welfare Reform in Ontario:  
Tough Times in Mothers' Lives', *Canadian Public Policy*, 28:2 (2002), 297-313.  
10:30 - 11:00: Ethics; Research proposal for 9914 and the MPA Research Report.  
O'S: ch 8  
11:00 - 12:00; 1:00 - 1:30: Statistics: regression  
O'S: ch 14 (430-38)  
1:30 - 3:00: Multiple regression  
O'S: ch 14 (439-56)  
3:00 - 4:00: Discussion of take-home examination and research proposal.