Community Based Research Methods
SRSC 520 Fall 2020

Instructor:
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Course Description:
SRSC 520: Community Based Research Methods examines the history, theory, practices, politics, ethics and methods of community-based, participatory action research (CB**PA**R or just CBR). Community-based and participatory approaches to research involve the collaborative undertaking of research and other activities between scholars and communities, emphasizing multidirectional co-learning and reciprocal transfer of expertise. Such approaches are aimed at empowerment and transformative social change. As a methodology, CBPAR is founded on philosophies and practices derived from constructivist, feminist, social and spatial, and postcolonial perspectives. Historically, it has been mostly used in health-related fields and social work, but it is quickly becoming quite common among all social sciences.

This course will operate on two interrelated dimensions, focusing on: 1) the theoretical traditions underlying different approaches to community-based research, and 2) the practical techniques for designing and conducting research projects, in general, with an emphasis on qualitative methods. Through the overlapping frameworks of methodology and methods, this course examines the way CBR disrupts the distinctions between theory and practice; the power relationship between the researcher and those researched; and traditional forms of knowledge production, and explores an approach to research that is locally grounded, shaped by the experiences of communities in context, and informed by iterative and emergent data analysis.

Learning Outcomes:
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
- Identify the principles of community-based participatory action research methodologies.
- Demonstrate critical understanding of the relationships between research methodology, social justice, community, empowerment, social change, and sustainability
- Apply appropriate research methodologies to answer research questions/hypotheses.
- Design a community-based research project.

Required Readings:
- All materials for this course will be posted on Blackboard Course Website:

Teaching Modality:
Since this is an online class, the Blackboard (Bb) website will be our virtual classroom. All students must have high-speed Internet access, the latest version of Bb compatible browsers, and familiarity with Bb tools (see Blackboard Resources for Online Learners). If you have Internet, Bb problems, or troubleshooting issues take these up with IT support or by calling 270-745-7000.

<u>Required Course Assignments and Grading</u>:
Guidelines are posted on Bb for each assignment. These instructions must be followed for all submissions. Grades will be calculated on a 1400-point scale. All papers must be in APA formatting, 12pt font, and Times New Romans – without a space and a half between paragraphs.

<u>Course assignments</u>:
Weekly Worksheet: 450pts (9 @50pts)
Quizzes: 500pts (5 @100pts)
Topical Outline: 50pts
Design and Methods DRAFT (Quant): 50pts
Design and Methods DRAFT (Qual): 50pts
Annotated Bibliography: 50pts
Literature Review DRAFT: 50pts
Final paper – The proposal: 200pts

Late or Missing Work: Assignments are due as indicated in the course schedule. All assignments must be completed ***on time***, and must be submitted through the Bb course site. Late assignments will be penalized 25% for each day they are late.

Important Dates:
● Last day to add a class or to drop one with a full refund: Tuesday, September 1
● 50% point: Sunday, October 1
● Last day to drop a class with a grade of W (fee applies): Monday, November 2
● Students who stop attending class before the 60% point will be assigned an FN rather than an F

Resolving Complaints about Grades:
The first step in resolving a complaint about grades is for the student to attempt to resolve the problem directly with the course instructor. See the Student Handbook, available at http://www.wku.edu/handbook/ for additional guidance.

Title IX Misconduct/Assault Statement:
Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf and the Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at https://www.wku.edu/policies/docs/251.pdf.

Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

ADA Accommodation Statement:
In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu . Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Academic Integrity:
This course assumes students will present their own work, and will participate on all assignments with integrity. The WKU policy prohibiting academic dishonesty states: "The maintenance of academic integrity is of fundamental importance to the University. Thus it should be clearly understood that acts of plagiarism or any other form of cheating will not be tolerated and that anyone committing such acts risks punishment of a serious nature."
Familiarize yourself with the WKU Student Code of Conduct; there are no excuses for academic dishonesty. Plagiarism occurs when a student copies, without proper citation intentionally or unintentionally, the ideas or words of another. It is a violation of academic integrity to use words or ideas that are not your own anywhere in this course (assignments, discussion posts, etc.) Academic dishonesty of any form will not be tolerated, it will result in a failing grade for the assignment, risk having actions reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs, and you will likely fail the course. To avoid academic dishonesty, see the WKU library resources on avoiding plagiarism. If you are unsure, ask a librarian, the Writing Center, or a professor.

Final note:
2020 has been a year of unrest and unpredictability. We have all grown, adapted, and manage things we never dreamed we would encounter. If you are in need of assistance, don't be afraid to reach out; we are all in this together. Please be kind to one another and yourself.

Tentative Schedule: This course will use the online textbook, *Graduate research methods in social work: A project-based approach* by Matthew DeCarlo, Cory Cummings, and Kate Agnelli along with some chapters from Randy Stoecker's Research Methods for Community Change (on Bb). I do realize this is NOT a social work course and none of you are social work graduate students. There are two reasons I picked this book. Number one, it is free! Number two, social work methodology is the closest thing we have to a practical, interdisciplinary approach to community-driven, social science research. Since we have both sociology and SRSC students in this class, it's a "meet in the middle" sort of approach.

Note: this schedule is subject to change at any time but you will be notified of updates in plenty of time to adjust if that happens. *In light of Cobid-19*, we also need to be prepared to "pivot" in order to manage crises. Even though this is an online-asynchronistic course, the pandemic effects how and when we manage everything in our lives.

Readings, Exercises, and Assignments:

INTRODUCTON TO THE COURSE
Week 1: August 24 – August 30
Article (Bb):
- From Research Methods for Community Change *"Chapter One: But I don't DO research"* (Randy Stoecker)
- *"Principles of Best Practice for Community-Based Research"* (Kerry Strand, et. al)

From the text:
Graduate research methods in social work: A project-based approach
- How to Use this Text
- Part 1 – Chapter One: Science and Social Work

Assignment, due by **Aug 28**:
- Post an introductory video with the following information:
  o Name
  o Where you did your undergraduate degree and in what
  o Where you are from and where you live now
  o Something you believe is unique about yourself
  o Which program are you in and why…
  o What you know already, in general, about research methodology

PART 1: Introduction to research

Week 2: August 31 – September 6
Article (Bb):
- From Research Methods for Community Change *"Chapter Two: The Goose Appraoch to Research"* (Randy Stoecker)

From the text:
- Chapter Two: Starting YOUR Research

Assignment, due by **Sept 6**:
- Worksheet 1: Working question and feasibility

Week 3: September 7 – September 13
Article (Bb):
- From Research Methods for Community Change *"Chapter Three: Head and hand together"* (Randy Stoecker)

From the text:
- Chapters 3: Searching the Literature and
- Chapter 4: Critical Information Literacy

Assignment, due by **Sept 13**:
- Worksheet 2: Literature search
- Topical Outline

Week 4: September 14 – September 20
From the text:
- Chapter 5: Writing your literature review

Assignments, due by **Sept 20**:
- Worksheet 3: Outlining a review article
- Quiz 1 – on Bb

PART 2: Conceptualizing your research project

Week 5: September 21 – September 27
From the text:
- Chapter 6: Research Ethics

Assignment, due by Sept 27
- Watch Mrs. Evers' Boys, available here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nHP1p9bRQ3Q or on HBO/Hulu Premium. You can get a free trail and juts cancel after you have watced the movie. If you have trouble, let me know.
- Worksheet 4: Annotating an empirical journal article

Week 6: September 28 – October 5
From the text:
- Chapter 7: Paradigm & theory
- Chapter 8: Reasoning & causality

Assignment, due by **Oct 5**:
- Worksheet 5: Research questions

Week 7: October 6 – October 11
<u>From the text:</u>
- Chapter 9: <u>Research questions</u>

Assignment, due by **Oct 11**:
- Worksheet 6: Problem statement and literature review
- Quiz 2 – on Bb

PART 3: Using quantitative methods

Week 8: October 12 – October 18
<u>From the text;</u>
- Chapter 10: <u>Quantitative Sampling</u>
- Chapter 11: <u>Quantitative measurement</u>
- Chapter 12: <u>Survey Design</u>

<u>Assignments, due by</u> **Oct 18**:
- CITI Training

Week 9: October 19 – October 25
<u>From the text:</u>
- Chapter 13: <u>Experimental Design</u>
- Chapter 14: <u>Univariate Analysis</u>
- Chapter 16: <u>Reporting Quantitative Results</u>

<u>Assignment, due by</u> **Oct 25**:
- Worksheet 7: Creating a questionnaire

PART 4: Using Qualitative Methods

Week 10: October 26 – November 1
<u>From the text:</u>
- Chapter 17: <u>Qualitative Data and Sampling</u>
- Chapter 18: <u>Qualitative Data Collection</u>

<u>Assignment, due by</u> **Nov 1**:
- Worksheet 8: Target population and sampling approach
- Annotated Bibliography

Week 12: November 9 – November 15

From the text:
- Chapter 20: Qual rigor, measurement
- Chapter 21: Qualitative Research Dissemination
- Chapter 22: A Survey of Qualitative Design

Assignments, due by **Nov 15**:
- Design and methods: Quantitative draft
- Quiz 4 – on Bb

PART 5: Research in Practice

Week 13: November 16 – November 22
From the text:
- Chapter 23: Program Evaluation
- Chapter 24: Sharing and Consuming Research

Assignment, due by **Nov 22**:
- Worksheet 9: Designing an interview guide
- Literature review draft
- Quiz 5 – on Bb

Week 14: November 23 – November 29
***Thanksgiving/Fall Break (no class)

Week 15: November 30 – December 6
**Work on final drafts

Week 16: December 7 – December 11
Assignments, due by **Dec 9**:
- Literature review (final draft)
- Design and methods: Quant and qual (final draft)