Research Methodology

COURSE DESIGNATOR: MSID 4003  LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: French
NUMBER OF CREDITS: 4  CONTACT HOURS: 12 hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Development, as a process, series of actions, and individual and collective deeds, touches all segments of society. But societies are diverse, and include a multiplicity of cultures, beliefs, needs, lifestyles, etc., and these differences make for communities as varied as they are complex. It is therefore necessary to study communities in order to understand them, and without understanding, all development initiatives would be hazardous.

Cognizant of these difficulties and aware of past failures, development actors have introduced social research methods that work toward understanding humanity in all its forms. Methods such as RRA (Rapid Rural Appraisal), MARP (Active Participation Research Method), PRA (Participative Rural Appraisal) have been deployed to better take into account the cultural aspect of development and better facilitate successful development interventions.

This course will give students the opportunity to discuss these research methods and techniques that take into account the progress of actions, deeds, and communities in a particular cultural context.

This module is part of the course Community Engagement in the Global South.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will familiarize students with research methods and qualitative techniques through a focus on the specificity of the African cultural environment.

This course will enable students to:
- Choose appropriate research methods
- Become familiar with research tools and techniques
- Develop a research plan
- Direct research in different contexts
- Design their own research projects
- Collect and analyze data
- Understand the deeds of actors in a foreign environment

METHODOLOGY

We will discuss foundational techniques, methods, and tools through case studies.

COURSE INSTRUCTOR

Waly Faye

Professor Faye is the Coordinator of MSID Senegal. He holds a Diplôme d’Etudes Supérieures Spécialisées (DESS) in project management. Monsieur Faye’s research focuses on development questions. He also has extensive experience in development at the local and community level, as well as in organizational management.
REQUIRED READINGS/ MATERIALS

- Flick, Uwe (2009). An Introduction to Qualitative Research (4th Edition)
- Miles, Matthew. Qualitative Data Analysis: An Expanded Sourcebook (2nd Edition)
- Russell, Bernard. Research Methods in Anthropology: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches

GRADING

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
<td>Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.</td>
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SUMMARY OF HOW GRADES ARE WEIGHTED

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight (%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Final research project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use of techniques and methods during internship</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in class discussions</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall grade</td>
<td>40%</td>
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COURSE CONTENT

WEEK 1
• Internships and communication: how to create an environment favorable to research
• Actors and their roles

**WEEK 2**

• Definition of terms
• Qualitative vs. Quantitative research

**WEEK 3**

• Designing a research project
• Qualitative research in the African context

**WEEK 4**

• Data collection tools
• Interviews, focus groups, narration, questionnaire

**WEEK 5**

• Data collection tools (con’t)
• Observation, historic profiles, calendars, graphs

**WEEK 6**

• Data analysis
• Drafting process/writing phase
• Practical considerations for fieldwork (languages, belief, customs)

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Students are expected to be on time and attend all classes while abroad. Many instructors assess both attendance and participation when assigning a final course grade. Attendance alone does not guarantee a positive participation grade; the student should be prepared for class and engage in class discussion. See the onsite syllabus for specific class requirements.

**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are
expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else’s work as your own can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

**SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:**

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an “F” or “N” for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

**STUDENT CONDUCT:**

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct. This information can be found on the Learning Abroad Center website.