



# Research in Kenya

## COURSE DETAILS

Course Designator and Number: KNYA XXXX

Number of Credits: 4

Language of Instruction: English

Contact Hours: 30

Instructor: Dr. Mohamed Karama

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The goal of this course is to introduce the MSID student to various research concepts and practices, helping them select their research topic and title, develop statements of problems and choose research questions and appropriate research design, study issues related to research ethics, develop their skills in choosing data collection instruments, and analyze the data they collect for their research. The course introduces various topics in the research cycle and provides a forum in which students can share with one another their research experience at each stage of the process.

Research projects in this course are ideally projects that fit with the development agency's goals and activities; therefore, the student's research interests are expected to blend with what is realistically happening at the development agency. Students may either be posted to research agencies where they will participate in ongoing research or transition to selected sites to collect necessary data for the research projects they developed during the classroom phase. In the latter category, they may be required to contribute some time toward the agency's programs and activities. Through hands-on experiences as well as readings, discussions, and written assignments, students will deepen their understanding of the host-country cultural context and development work from an international perspective, as well as critically examine their own worldview in order to develop, defend, and challenge their own values and beliefs.

## Course Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, it is expected that students would be able to:

1. Demonstrate basic knowledge of the research process, including concepts of ethical research
2. Develop skills associated with research such as problem-solving, decision-making, communication, and analytical reasoning
3. Speak clearly and confidently about their own research
4. Gain expertise in a particular topic within their field of study
5. Acquire intercultural sensitivity and a more complex understanding of the local context
6. Critically examine their own worldview by deepening their understanding of Kenya, in order to develop, defend, and challenge their own values and beliefs.

## Methodology

The course consists of a research methodology module offered in the first seven weeks of the semester and six-week field placements to enable students apply some of the techniques they learned in the classroom. It offers students an opportunity to engage in research that is relevant to the needs of communities and/or civic organizations.

The research methodology module offered during the classroom phase includes students' presentations, discussions, and critiques on each other's work with guidance from faculty. During field placement, the student is expected to learn under the guidance of both his/her agency supervisor and MSID faculty. Most of the learning during this phase is experientially based, independent, and individualized. The evaluation of student's performance in this course is based on attendance and participation in the research methodology module classes, class assignments/presentations, attendance and performance of research work at the agency, the supervisor's evaluation, and the final report.

## Required Readings/Materials

- Mishra S.B and Alok S 2017 "Handbook of Research Methodology: A Compendium for Scholars and Researchers" Educreation Publishing, New Delhi
  - [https://books.google.co.ke/books/about/Handbook\\_of\\_Research\\_Methodology.html?id=O54wDwAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=kp\\_read\\_button&redir\\_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.co.ke/books/about/Handbook_of_Research_Methodology.html?id=O54wDwAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=kp_read_button&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false)
- Kumar R 2011 "Research Methodology: A Step-by-Step Guide for Beginners" SAGE, London.
  - [https://books.google.co.ke/books/about/Research\\_Methodology.html?id=a3PwLukoFIMC&printsec=frontcover&source=kp\\_read\\_button&redir\\_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.co.ke/books/about/Research_Methodology.html?id=a3PwLukoFIMC&printsec=frontcover&source=kp_read_button&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false)
- Kothari C R 2012 "Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques" 2nd Revised Edition New Age International Publishers New Delhi
- Barret C.B and Cason J.W 1997 Overseas Research: A practical Guide Johns Hopkins University Press.

# Grading

## Grading Rubric

<b>Letter grade</b>	<b>Score or percentage</b>	<b>Description</b>
A	93–100	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90–92	
B+	87–89	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B	83–86	
B-	80–82	
C+	77–79	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C	73–76	
C-	70–72	
D+	67–69	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
D	60–66	
F	0–59	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.

## Summary of How Grades Are Weighted

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Percentage of grade</b>
Class attendance and participation	10%
Class written assignments	25%
Data collection and analysis	15%
Agency supervisors' assessment	10%
Final report	20%
Final presentation	20%
<b>Overall grade</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Assessment Details

#### **Class Attendance and Participation**

To promote learning, improve thinking, and deepen understanding of topics covered in class, students are encouraged to do required readings before class. Questions connected to these readings will be discussed and all will be expected to contribute. Students will be rewarded for asking questions, commitment to the peer reviews, and respond to questions or reactions of others in the class. Use of phones and other electronic gadgets are strictly discouraged.

#### **Class Written Assignments (Research Methods)**

Learners will be required to develop their research proposal step by step beginning with finding and limiting a researchable topic, investigating and reading information on the topic, creating title of the study, writing statement of the problem, research objectives, literature review, selecting appropriate methodology and writing a list of works cited etc. Students are expected to review each other's work throughout the process and submit a draft research proposal by the fifth week. They should work towards having an approved research proposal by the seventh week with a PowerPoint presentation in class.

#### **Data Collection and Analysis**

Learners are expected to have collected their data by the third week of the internship phase for review and grading by visiting MSID faculty.

### **Agency Supervisors' Assessment**

The agency supervisor may periodically review student's progress based on their work performance as well as the progress they make towards their research work. At the end of the internship phase, the supervisor completes the MSID Internship Supervisor Evaluation Form covering activities in which the student participated in; the research work done and learning outcomes thereof; level of enthusiasm and commitment in their work and research; and what the student contributed to the organization.

### **Final Report**

The final report must include the following chapters: Introduction, Literature Review, Methodology, Analysis and Results, and Conclusions. The course instructor will review students' work chapter by chapter and provide feedback.

### **Final Presentation**

In the final week of the program you will be provided with an opportunity to share your experience with other students, MSID faculty, and staff. The course instructor will provide detailed instructions including due dates.

## **COURSE CONTENT**

### **Unit 1**

#### **Introduction**

- Pre-semester survey.
- Introduction to scientific research.
  - Research characteristics (what research is and what it is not).
  - Research pitfalls.
- Readings:
  - Mishra S.B and Alok S 2017 "Handbook of Research Methodology: A Compendium for Scholars and Researchers" Educreation Publishing, New Delhi Page 1-5.
    - [https://books.google.co.ke/books/about/Handbook\\_of\\_Research\\_Methodology.html?id=O54wDwAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=kp\\_read\\_button&redir\\_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.co.ke/books/about/Handbook_of_Research_Methodology.html?id=O54wDwAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=kp_read_button&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false)
  - Kumar R 2011 "Research Methodology: A Step-by-Step Guide for Beginners" SAGE, London. Page 1-5.

- [https://books.google.co.ke/books/about/Research\\_Methodology.html?id=a3PwLukoFIMC&printsec=frontcover&source=kp\\_read\\_button&redir\\_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.co.ke/books/about/Research_Methodology.html?id=a3PwLukoFIMC&printsec=frontcover&source=kp_read_button&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false)

- Kothari C R 2012 "Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques" 2nd Revised Edition New Age International Publishers New Delhi pages 1-23.
- Barret C.B and Cason J.W 1997 Overseas Research: A practical Guide Johns Hopkins University Press. 106-111.

- **Assignment:**

- Suggest peer review guidelines for discussion in class

## Unit 2

### The Research Cycle

- Selecting a topic.
- Choosing a title for your research project.
- Formulating the research question/problem.
- Selecting an appropriate design for your research.
- Readings:
  - Mishra S.B and Alok S 2017 "Handbook of Research Methodology: A Compendium for Scholars and Researchers" Educreation Publishing, New Delhi page 5-16.
  - Kumar R 2011 "Research Methodology: A Step-by-Step Guide for Beginners" SAGE, London. Page 24-30.
  - Kothari C R 2012 "Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques" 2nd Revised Edition New Age International Publishers New Delhi pages 31-52.
- **Assignment:**
  - Share a tentative title for your proposed research with your colleague(s) for appropriate/constructive comments

## Unit 3

### Background Information

- Annotated bibliography.
- Literature review.
- Readings:
  - Mishra S.B and Alok S 2017 "Handbook of Research Methodology: A Compendium for Scholars and Researchers" Educreation Publishing, New Delhi Page 18-29.
  - Kumar R 2011 "Research Methodology: A Step-by-Step Guide for Beginners" SAGE, London. Page 31-42.
- **Assignments:**
  - Discuss proposed titles (student responses on the previous week's peer review)

- Draft an annotated bibliography for the proposed study

## Unit 4

### Research

- Types of research (qualitative, quantitative, basic and applied research).
- Concept paper/research proposal.
- Reading:
  - Mishra S.B and Alok S 2017 "Handbook of Research Methodology: A Compendium for Scholars and Researchers" Educreation Publishing, New Delhi Page 2-4; 15-16.

## Unit 5

### Data

- Data collection instruments.
- Analyzing data.
- Readings:
  - Mishra S.B and Alok S 2017 "Handbook of Research Methodology: A Compendium for Scholars and Researchers" Educreation Publishing, New Delhi Page 32-34.
  - Kumar R 2011 "Research Methodology: A Step-by-Step Guide for Beginners" SAGE, London. Page 137-164.
  - Kothari C R 2012 "Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques" 2nd Revised Edition New Age International Publishers New Delhi pages 95-120; 122-151.
- **Assignment:**
  - Submit the first draft of your research proposal with a peer's review notes

## Unit 6

### Ethics

- Ethics—historical background, human rights, justice, and integrity— and comparison between the US and Kenya.
- Writing the final report.
- Reading:
  - Mishra S.B and Alok S 2017 "Handbook of Research Methodology: A Compendium for Scholars and Researchers: Educreation Publishing, New Delhi Page 60-.
- **Assignment:**
  - Revise your research proposal, taking into account the course instructor's (academic supervisor's) comments and guidelines

## Unit 7

### Research Review

- Reviewing research projects.
- **Assignment:**
  - Present your research proposal to your academic supervisor and peers (PowerPoint)

## Unit 8

### Proposal Revisions

- Revise proposal with agency and review and test data collect instruments.

## Unit 9

### Data Collection

- Begin data collection.

## Unit 10

### Data Editing

- Complete data collection and begin data editing and cleaning.

## Unit 11

### Data Analysis

- Analyze the data.

## Unit 12

### First Draft

- Compile first draft of final report.

## Unit 13

### Final Report

- Revise final report in line with feedback from supervisor/MSID faculty.

## Unit 14

### Final Seminar

- Final presentation to share research findings with peers and MSID faculty (PowerPoint).
- Discussions on skills gained through the experience and how you will use that going forward.
- Discussion of sought-after skills by employers.
- Reflection and debriefing (e.g., comparing theory and practice).

## POLICIES

### 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 on-site syllabus for specific class requirements.

### University of Minnesota Policies & 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.

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