

## McNair Program Syllabus

ENG 285 – TECHNIQUES OF RESEARCH  
Harding University Intersession  
Dr. Jeremiah Sullins  
Dr. Terry Smith  
Mrs. Kim Baker-Abrams

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
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### **Course Description:**

Students in this course will learn the purpose of research and its value to the various disciplines. The aim of this course is to help students learn more about the writing and researching demands of graduate school and academic professions, including:

- Library research skills and educational resource tools – a focus on acquisition of effective and appropriate techniques in finding, analyzing, and using information from several sources. Library skills will also include on-line cataloging, computerized literature searching, periodical indexes, and internet resources.
- Writing skills – a focus on polishing and self-editing rough drafts including appropriate citations through APA and MLA formats. More specifically students will learn to report personal research in accurate form, content, and style.
- Research methodology techniques – a focus on the purpose and value of research and research topics including precise research models consisting of multiple step models as demanded by specific fields of study.

### **Texts:**

Galvan, J. (2003). *Writing literature reviews (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)*. Glendale, CA: Pyrczak.

Patten, M. (2005). *Understanding research methods: An overview of the essentials (5<sup>th</sup> edition)*. Glendale, CA: Pyrczak.

### **Objectives:**

1. Students will write precise, concise, and objective English expository prose.
2. Students will organize text using the key components of a scientific research report.
3. Students will develop a clear problem statement and testable hypothesis.
4. Students will evaluate and select sampling methods and various modes of observation.
5. Students will evaluate and select appropriate methods of data analysis.
6. Students will articulate ethical issues in doing research.

**Course Topics – Tentative Class Schedule:**

Day 1: Presentation of syllabus/ Research Basics / Developing Proposals

Day 2: Access the Literature / APA and other formats / Introduction to Library research

Day 3: Quantitative Sampling and Observation Methods

Day 4: Experimental Design and Quantitative Analysis

Day 5: Qualitative Design

Day 6: Qualitative Analysis

Day 7: Ethics: Informed Consent, Confidentiality and other critical issues

Day 8: Review, Revise and Polish

Day 9: Proposal presentation and feedback

Day 10: Proposal presentation and feedback

**Course Policies:**

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory. Students who must be absent because of an emergency must inform the McNair program office and instructor, in advance if possible. Unexcused absences may reduce a student's final grade by one letter per absence. Arriving late and leaving early will necessitate makeup assignments. Because of the intensity and rigor of the course, makeup assignments will be required even for excused absences.

**Ethical Research Practice:** Plagiarism is the unethical practice of representing someone else's work as your own. Different types of plagiarism include, but are not limited to the following:

- \*Summarizing and/or paraphrasing another author's ideas without proper documentation
- \*Submitting as your own work, a paper or any part of a paper created by another person
- \*Copying text, illustrations, statistics, or facts from another source without proper documentation

**Assessment:** Harding University, since its charter in 1924, has been strongly committed to providing the best resources and environment for the teaching---learning process. The board, administration, faculty, and staff are wholeheartedly committed to full compliance with all criteria of the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The university values continuous, rigorous assessment at every level for its potential to improve student learning and achievement and for its centrality in fulfilling the stated mission of Harding. Thus, a comprehensive assessment program has been developed that includes both the Academic units and the Administrative and Educational Support (AES) units. Specifically, all academic units will be assessed in reference to the following Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose: **The University provides programs that enable students to acquire essential knowledge, skills, and dispositions in their academic disciplines for successful careers, advanced studies, and servant leadership.**

**Assignments:**

1. Statement of research purpose, rationale, and hypothesis (25 points) due day 3
2. Critique of one quantitative research article (50 points) due day 5
3. Introduction and brief literature review (100 points) due day 6
4. Critique of one qualitative research article (50 points) due day 7
5. Journal submission plan (25 points) due day 9
6. Final Literature review/proposal (200 points), due day 9
7. Presentation of research and overview of work (50 points), due day 9 or 10

**Class participation:** Class participation includes all class projects, class attendance, quizzes, class discussions and field trips. Participation will be worth 50 points @ 5 points per day.

**Final Grades:**

Critiques of articles	200
Formative assignments	150
Final Literature review	200
Class Presentation	50
Class participation	50
Total points possible =	650

**Overall Grade will be determined by:**

A = 90% or above  
B = 80-89%  
C = 70-79%  
D = 60-69%  
F = 59% or below

**Students with Disabilities:** It is the policy for Harding University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Therefore, any student with a *documented disability* condition (e.g. physical, learning, psychological, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations, must contact the instructor and the Disabilities Office at the *beginning* of each semester. (If the diagnosis of the disability occurs during the academic year, the student must self-identify with the Disabilities Director *as soon as possible* in order to get academic accommodations in place for the remainder of the semester.) The Disabilities Office is located in Room 102 of the Lee Academic Center, telephone, (501) 279-4019.

**Academic Integrity**

Cheating in all its forms is inconsistent with Christian faith and practice and will result in sanctions up to and including dismissal from the class with a failing grade.

**Time Management Expectations:** For every class hour, the typical student should expect to spend at least two clock hours of problem solving, reading, reviewing, organizing notes, preparing for coming exams/quizzes and other activities that enhance learning.