Nursing Research: Survey Design and Analysis Using Mixed Methods

July 27-31, 2015
Mon-Fri 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

INSTRUCTORS

Dirgha Ghimire
Research Associate Professor
Population Studies Center
University of Michigan
Email: nepdgj@umich.edu
Office: 1018C ISR

William Axinn
Professor of Sociology & Research Professor
Survey Research Center
University of Michigan
Email: baxinn@umich.edu
Office: 1006G ISR

COURSE DESCRIPTION
In this course, participants will review multiple methods of data collection and study approaches for combining multiple methods within a single research project. The course focuses on the integration of survey methods with multiple alternative methods to achieve a single data collection approach using the strengths of some methods to compensate for weaknesses in other methods. The methods of focus will be unstructured or in-depth interviews, semi-structured interviews, focus groups, participant observation, archival research, survey interviews, and hybrid methods. Emphasis will be placed on the specific contribution of each method, as well as the use of combined methods to advance specific research questions. This course is designed for those with a specific causal research question in mind. Throughout the course, participants will be asked to design multi-method approaches to a research question of their choice. By the end of this course, participants will have an overview of multi-method research that will enable them to design, understand, and evaluate multi-method approaches within a single project.

This interactive course uses a combination of lecture, in-class exercises, group exercises and individual participation. Individual consultation will be provided to assist participants with the assignments leading to a grant proposal. Assignments throughout the week should be emailed or handed in as hard copy at 3 pm the day they are due. Feedback will be provided in a timely manner to aid in future assignments.

COURSE MATERIALS

- CTools website with links to additional readings and other resources (http://ctools.umich.edu)

OFFICE HOURS
Both instructors are available to meet and further discuss class topics and assignments. Please make an appointment so we know to expect you.

ASSIGNMENTS
In addition to completing assigned reading for each class, there are five written assignments required during the course.

- RESEARCH QUESTION (up to ½ page, double-spaced): Give a brief statement of your research question. Make sure your question is causal; that is, be clear that the relationship you are trying to explain is between two factors or variables in which factor one causes factor two, or, conversely, that factor two is a consequence of factor one.

*Due Monday, June 22*
- **RESEARCH DESIGN (1-2 pages):** Describe your analytic approach to answering your research question: 1) include one main hypothesis that motivates your project and how it will involve appropriate dependent and independent variables; 2) address issues of operationalization, units of analysis, selection of the sample, and comparisons groups for answering your question; and 3) make clear the pattern of results that would tend to confirm or refute your hypothesis.

  *Due Tuesday, June 23*

- **STRUCTURED/UNSTRUCTURED INTERVIEW DATA COLLECTION PLAN (1-2 pages, double-spaced):** Describe how it would be possible to use both structured and unstructured interviews in a study related to your research question. First tell us a little about how you would carry out the interviews (e.g., how respondents would be selected, topic/s about which to ask questions, etc.). Second, describe how you would use highly structured and unstructured interviews or questions in your study. Third, describe how using structured and unstructured interviews would enhance the overall multi-method project.

  *Due Wednesday, June 24*

- **HYBRID METHOD DATA COLLECTION PLAN (1-2 pages, double-spaced):** Describe how you might incorporate hybrid methods to collect data related to your research question. First describe how you would collect the data (e.g., sample, location, topics, etc.). Second, describe how the resulting data would help answer your research question.

  *Due Thursday, June 25*

- **COMBINED METHOD DATA COLLECTION PLAN (3-5 pages, double-spaced):** Throughout this class we discussed a variety of different ways to combine methods in sequence or within one hybrid method. Focusing on the research question you have been working with throughout this course, write a data collection plan describing how you could use at least two of the research methods we’ve discussed, in tandem. You may use pieces of your other work completed in this course to help you, but make sure your plan flows well. You do NOT have to incorporate every method we discussed—please only select the methods that seem best suited to answering your research question. What we are looking for is a succinct description of your research question, the methods you intend to use, the order in which the methods will be used, and how each method will inform the other(s). If you would like feedback on this assignment, please specify whether you would like us to 1) e-mail (please specify an e-mail address); 2) return your assignment (please specify a mailing address); or 3) hold your assignment for you to pick up at a later date.

  *Due Friday, June 26*

**GRADING**

Grades are assigned as follows:

- **25% Class Participation**
- **10% Assignment 1: Research Question/s**
- **15% Assignment 2: Research Design**
- **10% Assignment 3: Structured and Unstructured Interview**
- **15% Assignment 4: Hybrid Method Data Collection**
- **25% Assignment 5: Combined Method Data Collection Plan**

**Grading Scale:**

- 90-100% = A
- 80-89% = B
- 70-79% = C
- 60-69% = D
- <60% = F
### SCHEDULE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Required Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Foundations of a Mixed Methods Approach</td>
<td>• MMDCS Chapter 1: Mixing Methods as a Data Collection Strategy</td>
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<td>• MMDCS Chapter 2: Fitting Data Collection Methods to Research Aims</td>
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<td><strong>Assignment 1 Due</strong></td>
<td>RESEARCH QUESTION</td>
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<td>Collecting Data</td>
<td>• MMDCS Chapter 3: The Micro-Demographic Community Study Approach</td>
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<td>Understanding Data</td>
<td>• MMDCS Chapter 4: Systematic Anomalous Case Analysis</td>
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<td><strong>Assignment 2 Due</strong></td>
<td>RESEARCH DESIGN</td>
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<td><strong>June 24 (W)</strong></td>
<td>Hybrid Methods:</td>
<td>• MMDCS Chapter 5: Neighborhood History Calendars</td>
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<td>Community Level</td>
<td>• MMDCS Chapter 6: Life History Calendars</td>
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<td><strong>Assignment 3 Due</strong></td>
<td>STRUCTURED/UNSTRUCTURED INTERVIEW DATA COLLECTION PLAN</td>
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<td>Longitudinal Studies</td>
<td>• MMDCS Chapter 7: Longitudinal Data Collection</td>
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<td>• Ghimire, Dirgha, Nathalie Williams, Arland Thornton, Linda Young-DeMarco, and Prem Bhandari. &quot;Innovation in the Study of International Migrants.&quot;</td>
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<td><strong>Assignment 4 Due</strong></td>
<td>HYBRID METHOD DATA COLLECTION</td>
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ADDITIONAL READING
Onwuegbuzie, Anthony J. and Nancy L. Leech. 2005. “Taking the “Q” out of Research: Teaching Research Methodology Courses without the Divide between Quantitative and...
Qualitative Paradigms.” *Quality & Quantity* 29: 267-296.


