

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY
COURSE SYLLABUS OUTLINE

DEPARTMENT: AGRICULTURE

COURSE NUMBER: AGR 635

CREDIT HOURS: 3

I. TITLE:

Research Methodology

II. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Selection, planning and conduct of investigation with reference to alternative scientific methods. Oriented toward all the disciplines of Industry and Technology. Students present research problems coordinated with their advisor.

III. PURPOSE:

Familiarize students with the various approaches that can be used to conduct a scientific study.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The objective of the course is to train a person to prepare a thesis or research report using principles of the scientific method.

V. CONTENT OUTLINE:

The Scientific Method.
Review a number of statistical procedures used in scientific studies.
Review a number of research problems.
Preparation of a research report.

VI. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Traditional Lecture -- assigned statistical problems

-- guest speakers

-- library assignments

Much emphasis is placed on reviewing the literature.

VII. FIELD AND CLINICAL EXPERIENCES:

None

VIII. RESOURCES:

Classroom
Slide projector
Resource persons for guest lectures
Library

IX. GRADING PROCEDURES:

The grade in this course will be based on the completion of a research paper and one exam. The research paper is to include statement of the problem, a thorough review of the literature, experimental procedure, and statistical methods to be used with this problem.

Since most students will not have had enough time to accumulate sufficient data for their study, the results and discussion part of the report will not be required.

In general the grades in this class are assigned as follows:

90% - A
80% - B
70% - C
60% - D

I may use my professional judgment to lower this curve based on the performance of the high individuals in class.

No extra work may be done to raise an individual's grade.

X. ATTENDANCE POLICY:

This course adheres to the policy published in the MSU Graduate Bulletin.

XI. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:

Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person's materials as one's own), or doing work for another person who will receive academic credit are all impermissible. This includes the use of unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources in order to secure or give help during an examination, the unauthorized copying of examinations, assignments, reports, or term papers, or the presentation of unacknowledged materials as if it were the student's own work. Disciplinary action may be taken beyond the academic discipline administered by the faculty member who teaches the course in which the cheating took place.

NOTE: The Department of Agriculture Faculty have adopted and implemented an Academic Honesty Policy in addition to the University Honesty Policy. The policy sets guidelines regarding acts of dishonesty and the procedure to follow should an event occur. It is each Agriculture Student's responsibility to obtain and read a copy of this document. The Departments Academic Honesty Policy can be obtained by asking for a copy from any Agriculture Faculty member or the Secretary.

XII. TEXT AND REFERENCES:

No text required.

XIII. PREREQUISITES:

It is preferable to have had a course in beginning statistics.