INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Dean W. Coble, Forestry Building 213, 936-468-2179. dcoble@sfasu.edu, http://www.faculty.sfasu.edu/cobledean/
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday: 9 – 11am  
Tuesday & Thursday: 1:30 – 4:30pm  
Or by appointment

TIME AND PLACE

When: TR 9:30 – 10:45am  
Where: Forestry Room 225

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to teach natural resource management graduate students general methodologies to conduct scientific research in a quantitative format. Qualitative research designs will also be discussed. Students will learn how to frame a research question then design a study plan to address the question. Students will prepare their study plan then adapt it into a research proposal in SFA format. Students will learn about experimental designs as well as sampling designs. Students will also be exposed to research presentations by various guest speakers.

PREREQUISITES

A graduate-level applied statistics course, such as FOR 517.

GRADING SYSTEM

Grades will be based on the number of points earned in homework assignments and a research proposal. A total of 400 points are possible. Homework assignments are worth 200 points and the research proposal is worth 200 points. Homework assignments will primarily consist of writing assignments on lectures by guest speakers and/or critical reviews of scientific literature. These homework assignments may be assigned on a weekly basis. On a percentage basis, final
Grades will be computed as: 90+ = A, 80 – 89 = B, 70 – 79 = C, 60 – 69 = D. You are encouraged to work with your major professor and/or committee for all appropriate homework assignments as well as the research proposal to help make them relevant to your area of study. You will also be evaluated on your participation in class discussions.

TEXTS


SFA Thesis Guide…available online at http://www.sfasu.edu/graduate/thesisguide2.htm

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT
The Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture at SFASU is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration.

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please see me immediately and make appropriate arrangements with the Office of Disability Services (468-3004).

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Weeks 1 and 2: Design Framework (chapter 1).

Week 3: Literature Review (chapter 2).

Week 4: Writing Strategies (chapter 3).

Week 5: Introduction to Study (chapter 4)
Week 6: Purpose of Study (chapter 5).

Week 7: Research Questions and Hypothesis Statements (chapter 6).

Week 8: Use of a Theory (chapter 7).

Week 9: SPRING BREAK

Week 10: Definitions and Justification (chapter 8).

Weeks 11 to 14: Quantitative & Qualitative Research Methods (chapters 9 & 10).


Week 16: Dead Week – Proposals Due.

Week 17: Final Exam Week (there will be no final exam for this class).