

*Nova Southeastern University
Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences*

Course Syllabus

**MCTE 690 –Research Methodology - 3 credits-Online format
Summer 2003**

June 23 – September 12, 2003, online

Instructor:

Frank W. Nasuti, Ph.D., CPA, CFE
Special Adjunct
6100 Griffin Road
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33314
NJ Home Office: (856) 782-9358 (use for both voice and fax)
Email: nasutif@nova.edu

Note: The preferred method of communication to me is through email. I am listing my NJ home office number and fax for emergencies only, or if you cannot contact me by email for some reason. You SHOULD NOT call me to tell me that you cannot send an assignment in on time or for discussions that can be handled by email.

Office hours: *Since this is an online course, there are no office hours. However, you may email me at any time to discuss anything that you like. I check my email daily, so I should respond to your email within 24-48 hours.*

Instructor / Class Web Site: <http://www.scis.nova.edu/~nasutif>

Class Location and Format:

This class is an online course and will be conducted through the Internet, the World Wide Web (WWW) and through the NSU/GSCIS website.

*The course forum environment must be consulted by students a **minimum of three times each week. Weekly access and weekly written participation in the course forum is a course requirement.** No online synchronous classes or activities are scheduled for this course. The course forum will be available throughout the term for peer to peer and student/ professor communications.*

Class Hours: *not applicable*

Class Web Site: <http://www.scis.nova.edu/~nasutif>

Publisher Textbook Web Site: <http://www.prenhall.com/creswell>

Course Description: (from catalogue)

MCTE 690 Research Methodology (3 credits)

This course is an introduction to research, statistical analysis, and decision-making. Close attention is paid to data types, data contributions, the identification of variables, and descriptive data presentation techniques. Students are introduced to both parametric and

nonparametric data analysis procedures including independent and dependent sample t-tests, chi-square analysis, and simple analysis of variance. Hypothesis testing and the use of statistical software packages are emphasized.

Additional Content:

The course description above appears to have more emphasis on quantitative research; however, qualitative research is becoming more popular, especially in certain fields like education. As a result, I will supplement the above description with a heavier emphasis on qualitative research.

Required Textbook(s):

Title:	Educational Research: Planning, Conducting, and Evaluating Quantitative and Qualitative Research - Required
Author:	John W. Creswell
ISBN:	0137905025
Edition:	1st
Publisher:	Prentice Hall

Required Software:

- *Internet access using any ISP for access to the GSCIS and class website.*
- *I prefer that all assignments be written in a Microsoft Office product, including Word, Excel, and Powerpoint. You may also submit assignments in pdf format. If you do not have access to these products, send me a sample of the file for the product you have to see if I can open it and read it at least two weeks before the first assignment is due.*

Objectives and Exit Competencies:

At the conclusion of this course, you will be familiar with the research methodologies needed by a researcher in performing high quality scholarly qualitative and quantitative research.

Outcome: *Students who successfully complete the MCTE 690 course will have:*

1. *An overview of Education Research*
2. *Knowledge of how to do quality scholarly research, including:*
 - *Identifying a research problem*
 - *Reviewing the literature*
 - *Specifying a purpose and research question or hypotheses*
 - *Collecting either qualitative or quantitative data*
 - *Analyzing and interpreting qualitative or quantitative data*
 - *Reporting and evaluating research*
3. *Knowledge of the various research designs*

Instruction Methods and Tools:

- *Internet (Required for online courses)*

- Graduate Student Forum for instruction, discussions, participation, etc
- ESET for submitting assignments
- Nova Southeastern University Online Library

Schedule:

Week	Readings	Assignment 1 Forum Postings	Assignments 2,3 & 4	Due Date
Week 1 June 23-29	Chapter(s) 1	Forum posting 1: Introduce yourself		June 29
Week 2 June 30- July 6	Chapter(s) 2	Forum posting 2		July 6
Week 3 July 7-13	Chapter(s) 3-5	Forum posting 3		July 13
Week 4 July 14-20	Chapter(s) 6,7	Forum posting 4 Post forums 2-4 to ESET		July 20
Week 5 July 21-27	Chapter(s) 8-10		Assignment 2	July 27
Week 6 July 28- Aug 3	Chapter(s) 11,12	Forum posting 5		Aug 3
Week 7 August 4-10	Chapter(s) 13,14	Forum posting 6		Aug 10
Week 8 August 11-17	Chapter(s) 15,16		Assignment 3	Aug 17
Week 9 August 18-24	Chapter(s) 17,18	Forum posting 7		Aug 24
Week 10 August 25-31		Post forums 5-7 to ESET		Aug 31
Week 11 September 1-7			Assignment 4 Research Paper	Sept 7
Week 12 September 8-12	Semester ends Sept 12, 2003	Final forum posting		Sept 12

Assignments:

There will be four assignments required in the course.

Assignment One will be an on-going assignment throughout the semester and consist of postings to the forum by the professor and students. Details for this will be posted on the forum and assignment sheet. Grading will be based on content and timeliness of your postings, including originality and contribution to new ideas. You should not rehash what previous students or the author say, unless you are expanding or disagreeing with the comments.

Assignment two, three, and four will be scholarly research to demonstrate your knowledge of research methodology. These assignments will be posted at the Assignments link on the class website throughout the semester as needed.

NOTE: Links to assignments below will be made live on the class website as needed during the semester or emailed to students by the Instructor.

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Task</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>Composed of weekly posting to topics, posted by the professor, to the MCTE Graduate Student Forum.</i>	<i>25 pts</i>	<i>Postings weekly. See course schedule for submission dates</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Literature search and paper</i>	<i>25 pts</i>	<i>See schedule</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>To Be Announced</i>	<i>25 pts</i>	<i>See schedule</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>Research Paper</i>	<i>25 pts</i>	<i>See schedule</i>

Grading Criteria:

Student grades will be determined based upon performance in meeting the following course requirements:

- *Deliverable submitted reflects the required content and knowledge.*
- *Compliance with specified course assignment requirements.*
- *Organization of deliverables.*
- *Scholarship (citations and references list where appropriate).*
- *Scholarly writing style.*
- *Timely submissions- Assignments submitted after the due date deadline will be subject to a late penalty. The late penalty will be applied to submissions beginning on the first day following the due date deadline. See Late Submission policy below.*
- *Each forum will remain open for two weeks; once a forum is closed it may not be contributed to.*
- *A student may not do additional work or repeat an assignment or examination to raise a final grade. An assignment may be resubmitted if it is done before the due date and has not been grade. Once an assignment has been graded or the due date has passed, no resubmission of assignments will be accepted*

Late Submission:

- ***No extensions for assignment submission will be granted.*** *All late submissions of assignments, regardless of the reason, will be penalized as noted below.*
- ***Late submission of any assignment will be penalized by 2% of the total course grade for each week of delay.*** *Yes, this is severe, so do not wait until the last minute and get your assignments in on time.*

- *No assignment will not be accepted if submitted in excess of two weeks past the scheduled due date. The last assignment is due as scheduled and will not be accepted after the cutoff date.*

Grading Scale:

<i>A</i>	<i>A -</i>	<i>B+</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>B-</i>	<i>C+</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>C-</i>	<i>F</i>
<i>100-94</i>	<i>93-90</i>	<i>89-87</i>	<i>86-83</i>	<i>82-80</i>	<i>79-77</i>	<i>76-73</i>	<i>72-70</i>	<i>69-BELOW</i>

Note that this grading scale does not contain a grade of "D". This reflects compliance with the SCIS grading scale that appears in the 2001 - 2002 SCIS Graduate School Catalog.

- ***Class/Course*** not be submitted for credit.

Intellectual Rules:

- *Course postings and assignment product may be submitted only one time; multiple postings and assignment submissions are not permitted.*
- *Course requirements must be completed and posted or submitted on or before specified due date and delivery time deadline.*
- *Due dates and delivery time deadlines are defined as 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time (as used in Fort Lauderdale, Florida).*
- *Students living in distance time zones or overseas must comply with this course time and time and due date deadline policy.*
- *No course requirement products will be accepted after the last day of the semester, unless an incomplete contract has been accepted.*
- *Civility is required in public and private course communications.*
- *Work products submitted previously or developed for the workplace prior to this course may property referenced or directly cited in course products must be documented using the guidelines of the APA and GSCIS dissertation guide.*

In addition students should refer to the school's catalog for all other academic policies. See http://www.scis.nova.edu/NSS/pdf_documents/Catalog_2002_2003.pdf

Bibliography:

Ackerman, E., & Hartman, K. (2002). *The Information Searcher's Guide to Searching + Researching on the Internet + W3*. Wilsonville, OR: Franklin, Beedle & Associates

Alexander, J., & Tate, M. (1999). *Web wisdom, how to evaluate and create information quality on the Web*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.

American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication manual of the American psychological association*. (5th Ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Creswell, J. (2002). *Educational Research: Planning, Conducting, and Evaluating Quantitative and Qualitative Research*. Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall

Gay, L. & Airasian, P. (2000). *Educational Research*. Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall

Hock, R. (2000). *The Extreme searchers guide to Web search engines: A handbook for the serious searcher*. Medford, NJ: CyberAge Books.

Sekaran, U. (2000). *Research Methods for Business*. New York: John Wiley & Sons

SCIS Policy:

1. **Standards of Academic Integrity** (For complete policy, see Code of Student Conduct and Academic Responsibility, p. 45. Also see the sections on student misconduct, p. 10, and the NSU Student Handbook.)

Each student is responsible for maintaining academic integrity and intellectual honesty in his or her academic work. It is the policy of the school that each student must:

- Submit his or her own work, not that of another person
- Not falsify data or records (including admissions materials)
- Not engage in cheating (e.g., giving or receiving help during examinations, acquiring and/or transmitting test questions prior to an examination)
- Not receive or give aid on assigned work that requires independent effort
- Properly credit the words or ideas of others according to accepted standards for professional publications.*
- Not use term paper writing services or consult such services for the purpose of obtaining assistance in the preparation of materials to be submitted in courses or for theses or dissertations
- Not commit plagiarism (*Webster's* defines plagiarism as “stealing or passing off ideas or words of another as one’s own” and “the use of a created production without crediting the source.”)*

*When using the exact words of another, quotation marks must be used for short quotations (fewer than 40 words), and block quotation style must be used for longer quotations. In either case, a proper citation must also be provided. When paraphrasing (summarizing, rewriting, or rearranging) the words or ideas of another, a proper citation must be provided. *The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Fifth Edition*, contains standards and examples on quotation methods (pages 117 and 292) and on citation methods (pp. 207–214).

Extreme caution must be exercised by students involved in collaborative work to avoid violation of this policy.

See Catalog for *Policy on Acceptable Use of Computing Resources*, and *Policy on the Use of Material in Web Pages*.

2. Writing Skills

Each student must demonstrate proficiency in the use of the English language in all work submitted for this course. Grammatical errors, spelling errors, and writing that does not express ideas clearly will affect your grade. The professor will not provide remedial help concerning writing problems that you might have. Students who are

unable to write correctly and clearly are urged to contact their program office for sources of remedial help.

3. Communication by Email

Students must use their NSU email accounts when sending email to faculty and staff and must clearly identify their names and other appropriate information, e.g., course or program. When communicating with students via email, faculty and staff members will send mail only to NSU email accounts using NSU-recognized usernames. Students who forward their NSU-generated email to other email accounts do so at their own risk. SCIS uses various course management tools that use private internal email systems. Students enrolled in courses using these tools should check both the private internal email system and NSU's regular email system. NSU offers students Web-based email access. Students are encouraged to check their NSU email account daily.

4. The Temporary Grade of Incomplete (I)

The temporary grade of Incomplete (I) will be granted only in cases of extreme hardship. Students do not have a right to an incomplete, which may be granted only when there is evidence of just cause. A student desiring an incomplete must submit a written appeal to the course professor at least two weeks prior to the end of the term. In the appeal, the student must: (1) provide a rationale; (2) demonstrate that he/she has been making a sincere effort to complete the assignments during the term; and (3) explain how all the possibilities to complete the assignments on time have been exhausted. Should the course professor agree, an *incomplete contract* will be prepared by the student and signed by both student and professor. The *incomplete contract* must contain a description of the work to be completed and a timetable. The completion period should be the shortest possible. In no case may the completion date extend beyond 30 days from the last day of the term for master's courses or beyond 60 days from the last day of the term for doctoral courses. The *incomplete contract* will accompany the submission of the professor's final grade roster to the program office. The program office will monitor each *incomplete contract*. If a change-of-grade form is not submitted by the scheduled completion date, the grade will be changed automatically from I to F. No student may graduate with an I on his or her record. The grade of I does not apply to master's thesis or doctoral dissertation registrations.

5. Grade Policy Regarding Withdrawals

Course withdrawal requests must be submitted to the student's program office in writing (via postal mail or email) by the student. Requests for withdrawal must be received by the program office at least three weeks prior to the last day of the term. Program offices will publish specific withdrawal deadline dates for each term (see Academic Calendar on page ii of the catalog). Withdrawals sent by email must be sent from the student's assigned NSU email account. Requests for withdrawal received after 11:59 p.m. est on the withdrawal deadline date will not be accepted. Failure to attend classes or participate in course activities will not automatically drop or withdraw a student from the class or the university. Students who have not withdrawn by the withdrawal deadline will receive letter grades that reflect their performance in

the course(s). When a withdrawal request is approved, the transcript will show a grade of W (*Withdrawn*) for the course. Students with a history of withdrawals risk dismissal. Depending on the date of withdrawal, the student may be eligible for a partial refund. For a complete list of withdrawal deadline dates, please see the academic calendars located at:

http://www.scis.nova.edu/NSS/pdf_documents/AcadCal.pdf