ECON 526 : Development Research Workshop

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Class Meetings and Office Hours: Workshop will meet Sundays 5-7:25 in BEC C111.

Course Description

Economic research is the link between abstract theoretical analysis and actual experience. It is therefore important that research be undertaken systematically and ethically in order to embrace theory that has relevance and reject theory that does not. This course is specifically designed to cater to the needs of students in the M.A. Econ. in International Development program and is a prerequisite for its Practicum requirement (Econ. 590). The course takes the form of a workshop in which selected fundamental concepts and tools of applied research in social sciences are reviewed and practical exercises are assigned to enable students to demonstrate their competence in applying these concepts and tools.

The workshop will deal with quantitative and qualitative techniques most frequently used in researching development issues. Examples will be drawn from such issues as poverty, health, environment, education, and so on. The topics explored include: the process of initial research project formulation, the construction of fundamental research questions relating to that topic, the adoption of proper methodological tools, and the actual presentation of the research in both written and oral forms.

Learning outcomes:

1- To gain familiarity with selected techniques of applied research;

2- To appropriately select those techniques that pertain to given research problems; and

3- To practice the use of techniques chosen and correctly interpret the results of data analysis.

Texts (on Reserve in Library):


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 23, 2011</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to The Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 27, 2011</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Overview of What is Research and Elements of Research Design</td>
<td>Booth-Ch1, Creswell- Ch1</td>
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<td>Mar 6, 2011</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ethics of Research, Positivism and its Critics, and Getting Started on Critical Reading</td>
<td>Readings 1-5</td>
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<td>Mar 13, 2011</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Asking Questions; Asking Questions and Literature Review</td>
<td>Booth-Ch2, Creswell- Ch 2,3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 20, 2011</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>ASSESSED WORK ONE: Research Questions and Literature Review Due</td>
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<td>Mar 27, 2011</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Quantitative Research Methods</td>
<td>Readings 6-13, Creswell-Ch9</td>
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<td>Apr 3, 2011</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Qualitative Research Methods</td>
<td>Readings 14-17, Dewalt and Dewalt, Rubin and Rubin, Creswell-Ch10</td>
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<td>Apr 10, 2011</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>ASSESSED WORK TWO: Research Proposal Due</td>
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<td>May 8, 2011</td>
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<td>ASSESSED WORK THREE: Results and Interpretation Due</td>
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<td>May 15, 2011</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Presentation of First Draft of Research Results For Comments</td>
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<td>May 22, 2011</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>ASSESSED WORK FOUR: Final Draft Due + General Discussion; What Steps Ahead?</td>
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Note:
Evaluation will be based on:
30% Attendance and Participation (Including lead discussant role)
70% Final Presentation, Draft and Assessed Work

**Reading Pack List:**

**Ethics of Research, Positivism and its Critics, and Getting Started on Critical Reading**


**Quantitative Research Methods**


**Survey Methods**


Qualitative Research Methods

