**Syllabus**

### Instructor Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Dr. Irma Alonso</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td>Contact me through the e-mail available in WebCT. Expect a reply within 48 hours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office location</td>
<td>DM-318A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office hours</td>
<td>TR 10:45 - 12:30, by appointment, and by Chat Room at specified times.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>305-348-2318</td>
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### Course Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course title</th>
<th>Aesthetics, Values, and Authority: Explorations in Research</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course number</td>
<td>IDH 3005-IDH3006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course description</td>
<td>This course serves as a third year seminar of the Honors College, and it is related to the Student Research and Artistic Initiative of the College. This course is inter-disciplinary and will involve the participation of various professors and librarians from different fields. An important objective of the seminar is to provide students with an appreciation of the research and artistic environments at FIU. This will entail visiting, during the Fall semester, a selection of different research labs and creative spaces, to get a “feel” for the “who” and the “what” of research and artistic pursuits in those labs and creative spaces. An additional objective of the course is to give students the opportunity of making effective presentations of their research efforts. Students presenting their papers and projects at the Annual Research Day, the Honors Convocation, and national and international conferences, the last of which will be underwritten by the College, will achieve this.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course date</td>
<td>Monday, August 30, 2004 through Friday, December 10, 2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>PC-432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting day(s)</td>
<td>TR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting time(s)</td>
<td>12:30-13:45</td>
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### Course Goals

In this course we have the following goals:
1. To expose students to different research methods followed in various disciplines as well as to expose them to distinctive artistic initiatives.
2. To offer the tools needed to utilize library and Internet reference resources and services.
3. To offer the students the opportunity to participate in the learning community by presenting major research findings in academic conferences/exhibitions/competitions/etc.
4. To fulfill FIU requirements of getting students involved in oral class presentations and undertaking research over the Internet.
5. To get students involved with the activities of The Honors College as they relate to our class.

**Academic Integrity**

Procedures

FIU is a learning community and we are expected to act as moral beings governed by a sense of ethics. The University's Code of Academic Integrity was adopted by the Student Government Association on November 28, 2001 and reflects the values articulated in the Student Code of Standards.

In this course we follow these standards, and if you decide not to comply with them, you will be recommended for expulsion from FIU.

Citing from a letter to all students from Dr. Ken Johnson we get an explanation of the two most frequent instances of academic misconduct:

**Cheating:**
...which is the unauthorized use of books, notes, aids or assistance from another person with respect to examinations course assignments, filed service reports, class recitations or possession of examination papers of course materials whether originally authorized or not. Any Student helping another cheat may be found guilty of academic misconduct.

**Plagiarism:**
...consisting of the deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without any indication of the source and the passing off of such work as the student's own. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas or materials taken from another is guilty of plagiarism. Any Student helping another to plagiarize may be found guilty of academic misconduct. (*Student Handbook* p. 136)

Students who are brought up on charges of academic misconduct face possible penalties that range from failure of the course to expulsion
If you have a disability and need assistance, please contact the Office of Disability Services for Students (University Park - GC190; Ph 305-348-3532)-(North Campus - W-UC 139, Ph. 305-919-5305). Upon contact, the Office of Disability Services for Students will review your request and contact your professors or other personnel to make arrangements for appropriate modification and/or assistance.

Course Requirements

Introduction
Grading in this course will come from various sources.

Requirements
During the Fall semester, students will be evaluated as follows:

1. Class participation and involvement in the topics under discussion (10%)

2. Review of two articles from research journals (15% each one).

3. Search for Summer undergraduate research programs to select an activity of interest and to start an initial proposal for Summer 2005 (10%).

4. Active participation in the workshops prepared by the FIU Librarians (15%)

5. Review of the presentations by the various researches discussing the methods followed in their respective disciplines (15%).

6. Select to participate in at least three of the four field work activities planned for this term: (a) Review of the Opening Exposition at the Frost Museum on Friday September 9/04; (b) visit to the Wolfsonian Museum with presentations by librarians and curators on Thursday September 30/04; (c) visit to the School of Architecture on Nov. 5/04; (d) visit to the Everglades on Nov. 18/04. (15%)

7. Attendance and submitting reports of activities of the Honors College: (a) Dalai Lama Sept. 22/04; (b) Honors College Convocation Sept. 27/04; (c) others TBA. (10%)

Calendar - Fall 2004

Important dates
Aug. 30 - Classes begin
Sept. 6 - Labor Day - University closed
Sept. 22 - Visit of the Dalai Lama
Sept. 23 - Visit of recruiters from the CIA
Textbook

Although no official textbook will be used in this course, the textbook by W. Trochim (2000), *The Research Methods Knowledge Base, 2nd Edition*, Cincinnati, OH: Atomic Dog Publishing, is an excellent source of reference. This knowledge base (KB) textbook, used at Cornell, is a "comprehensive web-based textbook that addresses all of the topics in a typical introductory undergraduate or graduate course in social research methods. It covers the entire research process including: formulating research questions; sampling (probability and nonprobability); measurement (surveys, scaling, qualitative, unobtrusive); research design (experimental and quasi-experimental); data analysis; and, writing the research paper…. It also addresses the major theoretical and philosophical underpinning of research including: the idea of validity in research; reliability of measures; and ethics… It is a fully hyperlink text that can be integrated easily into an existing course structure…” It is available at: http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/index.htm

Visit of the Dalai Lama

Wednesday, September 22nd, at 9:45 am, His Holiness The Dalai Lama will visit University Park Campus, Golden Panther Arena, to explore Compassion as the Source of Happiness. Because the students of The Honors College will be given priority access to tickets, our course is designating a small component of the class to coincide with this event. A small preparatory reading to precede the visit can be found at the website http://www.tibet.com/DL/
The Planning Committee has requested questions from students to be answered at the event by His Holiness. If you would like your questions to be answered by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, please bring them to class on Sept 21/04.
FIU students will have access to one free ticket with FIU identification. An announcement regarding the tickets for the event will follow.

Lesson 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson</th>
<th>What are the different research methods?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Objectives or Goals</td>
<td>To identify early steps in research.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topics</td>
<td>Identify strengths and limitations of each of the following research methods: (1) Experimental, (2) Correlation, (3) Naturalistic</td>
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Lesson 2

Lesson: Foundations of Research

Objectives or Goals: To study the major issues in research and in evaluation.

Topics: 1. Language of Research  
2. Philosophy of Research  
3. Ethics in Research  
4. Conceptualizing  
5. Evaluation Research

Readings: M. Trochin, Research Methods Knowledge Base, Foundations

Assignments: TBA  
Due date: Sept. 23/04

Lesson 3

Lesson: Library and Internet Searches

Objectives or Goals: To get students to acquire skills needed to undertake research using library and Internet resources.

Topics: Tuesday, Sept. 7 - Assessment session  
Tuesday, Sept. 28 - Session 1 - Introduction (based on assessment results)  
Tuesday, Oct. 5 - Session 2 - Documentation & RefWorks: Part 1  
Tuesday, Oct. 12 - Session 3 Subject session (possibly consultations)  
Tuesday, Oct. 19 - Session 4 Subject session (possibly consultations)  
Tuesday, Oct. 26 - Session 5 RefWorks: Part 2; miscellaneous

Assignments: Active participation in the activities designed by the FIU Librarians.  
Due dates: TBA

Lesson 4

Lesson: Seeking research opportunities

Objectives or Goals: To explore research opportunities with various private and
Goals
Governmental institutions.

Topics
Identify research opportunities, fellowships, employment, internships, assistantships, training or grants that you can apply for.

Assignments
1. Carry out a google search of the 2004 Summer Research Programs for Undergraduates.
2. From your search results, select a program you could apply to for Summer 2005.
3. Find as much information as possible about this program so that you can proceed with the application process once it gets started.
4. Due date: Sept 16/04

Lesson 5

Lesson
Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS)

Objectives or Goals
To learn a statistical package by the use of guided exercises.

Topics
1. Learning the basics of SPSS
2. Looking at Frequency Distributions and Descriptive Statistics
3. Presenting Data in Graphic Form
Note: The other assignments will be undertaken next term.

Readings

Assignments
Due date: Oct. 5/04

Lesson 6

Lesson
Examples of Research in the Social Sciences

Objectives or Goals
To expose students to professional researchers in the field of the Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Topics
1. Research in Clinical Psychology and Social Work:
   Dr. Eric Wagner, Oct. 7/04
   Dr. Lesley DeChurch, Oct. 14/04
2. Research in Economics
   Dr. Manuel Carvajal Oct. 21/04

Assignments
Write a short report evaluating, comparing and contrasting research methods presented.
Due date: Sept 26/04

Lesson 7

Lesson
Examples of Research Methods in the Natural Sciences

Objectives or Goals
To expose students to the methods and procedures followed in the
Goals natural sciences.

Topics
1. Dr. L. McNeilly: Speech Therapy, Oct 28/04
2. Dr. R. Bone, Physics, Nov. 9/04
3. Dr. K. Jaychandran, Ecology and Soils, Nov. 16/04

Assignments Write a short report evaluating, comparing and contrasting research methods presented.
Due date: Nov 23/04

Lesson 8

Lesson Field Trips

Objectives or Goals To develop an appreciation of the research and artistic environments at FIU.

Topics
1. Frost Museum: Lespri Endepandan: Discovering Haitian Sculpture, Sept. 10/04, opening ceremony at 8:00 pm.
2. Wolfsonian Museum: to explore research opportunities using the resources of the Museum. Lectures to be given by the Librarians and the Curators of the Museum, Sept. 30/04. Time TBA.
3. Presentation and visit to the School of Architecture. Professor John Kneski, Nov. 2/04 and Nov 5/04.
4. Visit to the Everglades to study the preservation of the soil, Nov 18/04

Assignments Write a short report evaluating, comparing and contrasting research methods presented.
Due date: December 2/04

Lesson 9

Lesson Reading a Research Article

Objectives or Goals To get students to identify the different steps in research.

Topics Reading a Research Article:
In this activity you will choose two empirical studies from a journal of your interest.
1. Write an "overview" or brief summary of the article. Indicate your assessment of what the study is about and the major findings of the study.
2. According to the introduction, what information was already known about the topic (look for references to previous research).
3. What variables were studied? What were the hypotheses concerning these variables?
4. Who were the participants in this study? Were there any special participant characteristics?
5. What were the procedures used to test the hypotheses? Did you
notice any problematic features of the procedure?
6. Was the experimental or nonexperimental method used? Were there attempts to control any extraneous variables?
7. What were the major results of the study? Were the results consistent with the hypotheses?
8. How do the results relate to the other studies cited in the introduction?
9. How did the researcher interpret the results? Can you think of alternative interpretations?
10. Did the author give suggestions for future research or applications? Can you provide other suggestions?
11. What would you do if you wished to find out more about this research topic?


### Assignments

Due dates:
- Written reports: Nov. 30/04
- Oral presentations and class discussions: Nov. 30/04, Dec. 2/04, Dec. 7/04, Dec. 9/04

### Grade Distribution

100-95 A, 94-90 A-, 89-85 B+, 84-80 B, 79-70 C+, 69-60 C, 59-50 D, 49-00 F.

*Incomplete grades* are given only in cases of medical emergencies with proper documentation from the FIU Health Clinic.