

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

EVSP601

Course Summary

Description

Course Description:

This course prepares the student to understand materials and issues associated with but not limited to the scientific method, research design, and qualitative and statistical analysis of data. This course is intended to guide the student through selection of a suitable topic for the capstone project or thesis. Once an approved topic is selected, the student will prepare a formal proposal to be used in the capstone course.

Course Scope:

This course of study will take the student through the steps in developing a capstone proposal. The student will select a specific and appropriate capstone topic on a current issue in environmental policy and management, which will be approved by the instructor. With the approved topic, the student will begin to acquire the basic information and tools necessary in order to complete a research proposal. By accomplishing exercises, the student will gather information, assess materials, and analyze data. This will result in the submission of a final capstone proposal and formal literature review tailored to either the capstone project or capstone thesis end of program options.

Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

- LO-1 Demonstrate the use of selected research methods and tools in researching a given course topic.
- LO-2 Evaluate the usefulness of various research approaches.
- LO-3 Apply the scientific method to the investigation of a research question or hypothesis.
- LO-4 Produce a literature review.
- LO-5 Formulate new research questions, using scientific data, reason and persuasion in a logical argument.
- LO-6 Produce a capstone proposal.

Outline

Week 1: Topic Selection

Learning Outcomes

- LO-1 Demonstrate the use of selected research methods and tools in researching a given course topic.
- LO-2 Evaluate the usefulness of various research approaches.

Required Readings and Resources
Assignments

Forum 1

Research Journal

Week 2: Scientific Method

Learning Outcomes

- LO-3 Apply the scientific method to the investigation of a research question or hypothesis.

Required Readings and Resources
Assignments

Forum 2

Application of the Scientific Method

Week 3: Quantitative, Qualitative, and Mixed Methods of Research

Learning Outcomes

- LO-1 Demonstrate the use of selected research methods and tools in researching a given course topic.
- LO-2 Evaluate the usefulness of various research approaches.

Required Readings and Resources
Assignments

Forum 3

Evaluation of Methods

Week 4: Scholarly Literature

Learning Outcomes

- LO-4 Produce a literature review.

Required Readings and Resources
Assignments

Forum 4

Week 5: Data Analysis

Learning Outcomes

- LO-2 Evaluate the usefulness of various research approaches.
- LO-4 Produce a literature review.

Required Readings and Resources Assignments

Forum 5

Literature Review

Week 6: Presenting Research Ideas I

Learning Outcomes

- LO-5 Formulate new research questions, using scientific data, reason and persuasion in a logical argument.
- LO-6 Produce a capstone proposal.

Required Readings and Resources Assignments

Forum 6

Capstone Proposal

Week 7: Presenting Research Ideas II

Learning Outcomes

- LO-1 Demonstrate the use of selected research methods and tools in researching a given course topic.
- LO-6 Produce a capstone proposal.

Required Readings and Resources Assignments

Forum 7

Oral Defense

Week 8: Next Steps

Learning Outcomes

- LO-6 Produce a capstone proposal.

Required Readings and Resources Assignments

Forum 8

Evaluation

Grading:

Name	Grade %
Discussions	24.00 %

Week 1: Introductions and Topic Interests	3.00 %
Week 2: Topic Ideas	3.00 %
Week 3: Annotating Research: Beyond Summary	3.00 %
Week 4: Data Analysis	3.00 %
Week 5: Peer Review	3.00 %
Week 6: Obstacles and Challenges	3.00 %
Week 7: Science Advocacy	3.00 %
Week 8: Presenting the Capstone Proposal	3.00 %
Preparation Assignments	15.00 %
Research Journal	5.00 %
Application of the Scientific Method	5.00 %
Evaluation of Methods	5.00 %
Literature Review	11.00 %
Literature Review	11.00 %
Capstone Proposal	40.00 %
Capstone Proposal	40.00 %
Proposal Presentation	10.00 %
Oral Defense	10.00 %

Materials

Book Title: Various resources from the APUS Library & the Open Web are used. Links provided inside the classroom.

Author: No Author Specified

Publication Info:

ISBN: N/A

Readings will be identified in the Lessons area of the classroom and include library and web-based resources.

Additional Resources: Please go to the program guides in the APUS Library for additional resources:

Environmental Policy and Management

http://apus.campusguides.com/environmental_policy_management?hs=a

Software Requirements

- Microsoft Office (MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint) - American Public University System provides Microsoft Office 365 to AMU/APU students and faculty at no cost
- Adobe Acrobat Reader

Course Guidelines

Citation and Reference Style

- Attention Please: Students will follow the APA Format as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University. Assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow the citation style cited in the APA Format.

Tutoring

- [Tutor.com](https://www.tutor.com) offers online homework help and learning resources by connecting students to certified tutors for one-on-one help. AMU and APU students are eligible for 10 free hours* of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutors are available 24/7 unless otherwise noted. Tutor.com also has a SkillCenter Resource Library offering educational resources, worksheets, videos, websites and career help. Accessing these resources does not count against tutoring hours and is also available 24/7. Please visit the APUS Library and search for 'Tutor' to create an account.

Late Assignments

- Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. The due date for each assignment is listed under each Assignment.
- Generally speaking, late work may result in a deduction up to 15% of the grade for each day late, not to exceed 5 days.
- As a working adult I know your time is limited and often out of your control. Faculty may be more flexible if they know ahead of time of any potential late assignments.

Turn It In

- Faculty may require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. In some cases professors may require students to use Turnitin.com. This is automatically processed through the Assignments area of the course.

Academic Dishonesty

- Academic Dishonesty incorporates more than plagiarism, which is using the work of others without citation. Academic dishonesty includes any use of content purchased or retrieved from web services such as CourseHero.com. Additionally, allowing your work to be placed on such web services is academic dishonesty, as it is enabling the dishonesty of others. The copy and pasting of content from any web page, without citation as a direct quote, is academic dishonesty. When in doubt, do not copy/paste, and always cite.

Submission Guidelines

- Some assignments may have very specific requirements for formatting (such as font, margins, etc) and submission file type (such as .docx, .pdf, etc) See the assignment instructions for details. In general, standard file types such as those associated with Microsoft Office are preferred, unless otherwise specified.

Disclaimer Statement

- Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

Communicating on the Forum

- Forums are the heart of the interaction in this course. The more engaged and lively the exchanges, the more interesting and fun the course will be. Only substantive comments will receive credit. Although there is a final posting time after which the instructor will grade comments, it is not sufficient to wait until the last day to contribute your comments/questions on the forum. The purpose of the forums is to actively participate in an on-going discussion about the assigned content.

- “Substantive” means comments that contribute something new and hopefully important to the discussion. Thus a message that simply says “I agree” is not substantive. A substantive comment contributes a new idea or perspective, a good follow-up question to a point made, offers a response to a question, provides an example or illustration of a key point, points out an inconsistency in an argument, etc.
 - As a class, if we run into conflicting view points, we must respect each individual's own opinion. Hateful and hurtful comments towards other individuals, students, groups, peoples, and/or societies will not be tolerated.
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University Policies

[Student Handbook](#)

- [Drop/Withdrawal policy](#)
- [Extension Requests](#)
- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Appeals](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

The mission of American Public University System is to provide high quality higher education with emphasis on educating the nation’s military and public service communities by offering respected, relevant, accessible, affordable, and student-focused online programs that prepare students for service and leadership in a diverse, global society.