

**Advanced Research Methods (ARM)**  
**MPA**  
**Winter, 2013**  
**Tuesdays, 6-10pm**  
**Course Overview**

**FACULTY**

Cheryl Simrell King (kingcs@evergreen.edu); Seminar II, C2104

**REQUIREMENTS**

This is a required course for the MPA's Public Policy Concentration, and is open as an elective for other MPA students. In order to take this course, students must have completed the MPA first year Core program and either be enrolled in, or completed, the MPA second year Core program. Advanced undergraduate and other potential students will be admitted, with instructor permission, on a space available basis.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Advanced Research Methods (ARM) examines advanced and multivariate statistical methods from a practical viewpoint. The aim is to introduce students to a variety of statistical techniques and research designs that allow users to get at the complexities that lie underneath every simple research/policy question. Students can expect to learn enough about complex design and techniques to be able to know what technique to request, to understand the use of designs and techniques, and to make meaning of complex research output. In addition, students will develop facility with statistical software.

**BASIC EXPECTATIONS**

The majority of learning takes place in class (homework is to prepare for class and to practice techniques/interpretation). Therefore, everyone is expected to attend, and be actively engaged, in all classes.

This class is about developing depth in a particular set of analytical techniques -- it is not about breadth. Readings will be short but will require more than one reading. Don't expect to be able to "read ahead" - doing so is not the most effective way to learn this material. Assignments are designed to allow you to practice and develop facility with software, interpreting results and reading/analyzing other peoples' research. There are no "big" assignments or "big" readings - expect to work steadily and patiently throughout the term.

Students need access to IBM-SPSS software - we do not have access at the college. You will either need to rent a copy (see below) or find access elsewhere

Assignments must be completed and posted/turned in on time.

**REQUIRED TEXT AND SOFTWARE**

**Text:**

Mertler, Craig A. and Rachel A. Vannatta. (2010). *Advanced and Multivariate Statistical Methods: Practical Application and Interpretation* (Fourth Edition). Pyrczak Publishing. ISBN: 9781884585845. ~\$110.00.

Designed for a second-level statistics course, this text shows students how to interpret, present, and write up the results for each statistical technique. Students also learn how to compute them using SPSS software (also known as PASW Statistics). Covers advanced statistics without overemphasizing advanced math.

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**Software:**

IBM® SPSS® Statistics 21

Statistics Standard GradPack (BE SURE TO RENT THE "STANDARD" PACK, NOT "BASE" OR "PREMIUM")

Rent (6 months). and download on web. Recommended site: <http://www.onthehub.com/spss/>.

GradPacks are single-user licenses that provide students with affordable access to statistical analysis, modeling and survey research tools to support their undergraduate or graduate course work. IBM® SPSS® Statistics Standard GradPack - includes: Statistics Base, Advanced Statistics, and Regression

***IBM® SPSS® Statistics Base*** forms the foundation for many types of statistical analyses, allowing a quick look at data and its easy preparation for analysis. Easily build charts with sophisticated reporting capabilities, formulate hypotheses for additional testing, clarify relationships between variables, create clusters, identify trends and make predictions.

***IBM® SPSS® Advanced Statistics*** makes analysis and conclusions more accurate when working with complex relationships in data, it offers powerful and sophisticated univariate and multivariate analysis techniques.

**PREPARATION FOR FIRST CLASS (Tuesday, Jan 8)**

- Read Mertler & Vannatta, Chapter 1
- Come to class with laptop, if you have one, and IBM-SPSS loaded and ready to use.
- Contact Cheryl with any questions

This course overview substitutes for the syllabus - the syllabus will be live on the Moodle site. The Moodle site will be opened to students sometime during the week before classes begin.