

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY

San Luis Obispo

May 2010

RECREATION, PARKS, & TOURISM ADMINISTRATION

1. **Catalog Description**

RPTA 460 – Research in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism

Research design, literature review, questionnaire and interview schedule construction, sampling methods, data array and analysis, and computer applications. Selection of senior project topic and proposal development. Prerequisite: STAT 217, REC 360 with a C- or better, ENG 310, and senior standing.

2. **Instructor**

Jerusha B. Greenwood/P. Brian Greenwood

3. **Learning Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate entry-level knowledge of the scope of the profession that is the focus of the Program, along with professional practices of that profession (7.01.01).
 - (a) Narrow a topic within their concentration and/or major and prepare a sound research proposal based on their knowledge of that concentration.
- 2) Demonstrate the ability to apply knowledge of professional practice and the historical, scientific, and philosophical in decision making (7.01.03).
 - (a) Use reference services through University and community libraries.
 - (b) Synthesize relevant historical information and scientific research in a review of literature.
 - (c) Draw conclusions and make recommendations for professional practice based on literature review and sound data analysis.
- 3) Demonstrate the ability to evaluate recreation and related professional experience offerings and to use evaluation data to improve the quality of offerings (7.02.03).
 - (a) Apply basic principles of research and data analysis related to recreation, park resources, and leisure services.
 - (b) Use the tools of professional communication.
 - (c) Students will be able to apply current technology to professional practice.

4. **Text and References**

Text

RPTA 460/461 Senior Project Policies and Procedures Manual

Hacker, D. (2009). *A writer's reference*. New York: Bedford/St. Martin's.

References

American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

5. **Topical Schedule**

- (1) Designing a research project
- (2) Reviewing the literature
 - a. Developing a reference list
 - b. Reviewing professional journals

- (3) Research methods and procedures
 - a. Human subjects review process
 - b. Designing instruments
 - c. Pilot testing instruments
 - d. Preparing tables, figures, and graphs
- (4) Presenting research proposals
 - a. Creating professional presentations
 - b. Finalizing research proposals

6. **Delivery Mode**

Lecture, discussion, group problem solving, lab exercises

7. **Course Resources**

Classroom, Smart Room with LCD projector, Internet connection, DVD/video, Blackboard

8. **Assignments & Learning Experiences**

Assigned Reading

The Senior Project Policies and Procedures Manual is the guide for this class. Students should read along according to the sections covered in class (as assigned).

Quizzes

Quizzes are used primarily to ensure accountability for the reading assignments. Quizzes cannot be made up.

Lab Assignments

There are six lab assignments, including the final project proposal presentation at the end of the quarter. Labs are designed to help students utilize library resources, organize research, and practice skills needed to prepare a professional document. Some of the labs are due in class (Labs 1 and 3) and some are due through the assignment submission tool on Blackboard. Labs submitted through Blackboard are due by midnight of the due date.

Project Sections

Because of the enormity of the senior project, the project has been divided into several separate sections, each constituting assignments you will submit for credit. Review the due dates for each section on the course calendar and plan accordingly. We will use class time to review the assignments. Grades on late assignments will automatically be reduced 10% per day (24 hour period) late.

9. **Policies**

Attendance

Class attendance is a vital aspect of academic success. I have similar expectations of you that you (probably) have of me: arrive on time (early, if possible), be prepared, and promote an engaged learning environment. There will be a considerable number of in-class discussions, assignments, quizzes, and activities, each of which will count toward your grade and cannot be made up. Any in-class assignments or quizzes you miss if you do not attend class cannot be made up unless your absence is excused (see the University Senate's description of "excused absences" on the Academic Programs website for more

information: <http://www.academicprograms.calpoly.edu/academicpolicies/Class-attendance.htm>) You will also be responsible for obtaining any lecture notes you miss. Late policy: Please try to be on time for class. We have a lot of information to cover and a short period of time to do it in. I understand that some of you will be racing from across campus and may be late unintentionally. If you are late for class, please enter the classroom quietly.

Academic Honesty

This is an issue that I take very seriously and I hope you will, too. Academic integrity is expected of every student. The University requires me to report any instance of plagiarism to Judicial Affairs. There truly is no excuse for plagiarism, and I believe the most common reasons why anyone plagiarizes are because of poor time management and ignorance. The root of the word *plagiarize* has the same meaning as the root of the word *kidnap*. Please do not “kidnap” someone else’s work and claim it as your own. It diminishes you as a person and it constitutes theft. Give credit where credit is due.

Students with Disabilities

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities who are registered with the Disability Resource Center (Student Services Building 124, 756-1395). The URL for the DRC website is <http://drc.calpoly.edu/>. In order to receive accommodations, students should notify the instructor by the end of the second week of classes.

10. **Grading Criteria**

Grade Scale

A: 93-100%	B-: 80-82%	D+: 67-69%
A-: 90-92%	C+: 77-79%	D: 63-66%
B+: 87-89%	C: 73-76%	D-: 60-62%
B: 83-86%	C-: 70-72%	F: <59%

Course Point Breakdown

	Points	Approximate % of Grade
Project	246	65%
Labs	65	17%
Quizzes	70	18%
Total	381	100%

Topics & Readings Calendar – RPTA 460
Spring 2010

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment/Readings
1	4/1 & 4/3	Orientation to REC 460/461 Selecting a topic – faculty input. Designing a research project Reviewing the literature Using the APA Manual Kennedy Library Homepage tour PolyCat – completed projects Conducting literature searches	Course Manual, Calendar APA Manual: Chapter 1, Appendix A 4/3 Class – Meet in Library Reference Room 111-H
	4/3- Lab	Narrowing down project topics Conducting literature searches Work on Lab 1	Due 4/3: Topic Form/Inventory
2	4/8 & 4/10	Reviewing the literature Developing the reference list Citations and references Formatting the Senior Project, APA requirements Topic Outline Assignment Discussion	Course Manual (pp. 7-14, 36-49) APA Chapter 2 APA Chapter 4 Due 4/8: Lab 1 ♦
	4/10 Lab	Reviewing professional journals, websites, popular sources, newspapers Work on Lab 2, USB Disk Assignment	Meet in Library Reference 111-H Due 4/10: Topic Outline
3	4/15 & 4/17	Literature review continued Reference list review REC 461 Advisors	APA Manual Chapter 3 (3.01-3.10) & 4. Due 4/15: Disk Assignment (on USB Stick) Due 4/15: Lab 2 ♦
	4/17 Lab	Literature search review Individual assistance by faculty Work on Lab 3, Review of Literature Part I	Computer Lab 11-105 Due 4/17: Final Topic Outline Due

4	4/22 & 4/24	Chapter 1 contents and form Review of literature review Reference list review	Course Manual, (pp. 36-49) APA Manual Chapters 2, 3 Due 4/22: Lab 3 Due 4/22: Draft of Review of Literature, Part I
	4/24 Lab	Literature review Literature searches	Computer Lab 11-105 Due 4/24: Review of Literature and Revised Reference List, Part I
5	4/29 & 5/1	Chapter 1 contents and form continued Review of Literature review	Course Manual (pp. 36-49) Due 4/29: Review of Literature and Revised Reference List, Part II ♦
	5/1 Lab	Review of Literature discussion Chapter 1 Questions	Computer Lab 11-105 Due 5/1: Chapter 1 Background ♦
6	5/6 & 5/8	Chapter 2 – Methods and Procedures Chapter 1 review Human Subjects forms and processes	Course Manual (pp. 53-55) Due 5/6: Chapter 1 Design ♦
	5/8 Lab	Developing the instrument Individual meeting with advisor	Computer Lab 11-105 Due 5/8: Review of Literature Revised, Reference List Due at 5:00pm: Consent Letter
7	5/13 & 5/15	Chapter 3 – Presentation of the Data Pilot test instruments Review lab assignment	Course Manual (pp. 60-71) APA 1.10, Figures/Tables Due 5/13: Instrument draft (bring 4 copies with you) Due 5/13: Chapter 1 Background and Design Revised
	5/15 Lab	Preparing tables, figures, and graphs demo Chapter 2 Subjects/Procedures review Chapter 2 Data Analysis discussion	Computer Lab 11-105 Due 5/15: Chapter 2 (Subjects and Procedures) ♦

8	5/20 & 5/22	Chapter 4 – Discussion & Conclusion; Abstract Chapter 2	Course Manual (pp. 72-76) APA 1.07, 1.11, Abstracts, Appendices Due 5/20: Lab 5 Due 5/20: Chapter 2 (Instrument, Description of Instrument, and Analysis) ♦
	5/22 Lab	Workshop – Chapter 2 review	Computer Lab 11-105 Due at 5:00pm: Codebook and Database
9	5/27	No Class – Memorial Day Make-Up (Regular Monday schedule)	
	5/29	Creating the presentation on PowerPoint Chapter 1 and 2 review Summary of Course Materials	Course Manual Bring Drafts Due 3/4: Chapter 2 revised
	5/29 Lab	Finalizing the proposal Summary of Course Materials	Computer Lab 11-105 Course Manual Review drafts, prepare proposal Due at 5:00pm: REC 461 Contract
10	6/3	Summary of Course Materials, Q & A, Final Exam Review	
	6/5	Final Exam	Come to class with all course materials, Scantron, #2 pencil
	6/5 Lab	Senior Project Proposal Presentations	Meet in 11-105 Due 6/5: Senior Project Proposal
Finals Week	6/10	10:10 to 1:00pm Senior Project Proposal Presentations	Pick up proposal, meet with advisor for contract approval and 461 schedule code #.