

Research Design and Program Evaluation
Department of Dispute Resolution
Nova Southeastern University

ADRM 5200
Winter 1998
Tuesdays, 6-9 PM
Instructor:

John Lande
Office:
103
(954) 262-301G
lande@ssss.acast.nova.edu

Office hours: Monday and Tuesday 2:30-5:30 PM or by appointment

Note: This course syllabus was developed in collaboration with William Howard, Brian Polkinghorn, and especially Bill Warters in prior years.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION

The principal objective of this course is to enable students to understand and evaluate social science research relating to dispute resolution. Students will also be prepared to conduct simple research appropriate for academic theses and conflict assessments for dispute systems design and intervention. This course helps students develop basic research skills appropriate for dispute resolution practitioners, including using basic research tools, evaluating social science research on ADR, particularly program evaluations.

EXERCISES

Students will complete three exercises to get practical experience with the course concepts. The first exercise will require students to do some observation and provide structured analysis of the observation. The second exercise will require students to develop a survey. The third exercise will require students to administer and analyze the results of a survey. Further instructions will be distributed in class.

GRADING

Class Participation 10% Exercises 25% Midterm exam 40% Final examination 25%

Attendance

Students are expected to participate actively in class discussion and complete the assigned readings. Under School policy, three unexcused absences result in an automatic failure. In this course, for an absence to be excused, the student must provide a written and signed statement stating a valid excuse for the absence. The explanation need not be elaborate; one clear sentence should be sufficient.

DROP, WITHDRAWAL AND INCOMPLETE POLICY

Any student who does not attend the first two class sessions and does not communicate a satisfactory explanation for these two initial absences will be administratively withdrawn from the course. Students may drop a class before completion of 12 hours of class meetings; after that time, students who wish to

drop that class must formally withdraw by completing an official withdrawal form that requires the signature of the instructor and the program coordinator.

A student must make a formal, written request for an incomplete grade for family and other preapproved emergencies; such requests, unless there is an unexpected medical emergency, must be approved before the last regularly scheduled class. A student may request an incomplete, or "I" grade for a period of one semester only. Students must discuss an "I" with the instructor and obtain the instructor's consent and signature before filing the incomplete application form.

The form includes a detailed description of the work that needs to be completed. Faculty shall not be allowed to initiate "I" grades. They must assign a letter grade of "F" if a student has not filed an "I" ~ request form and has not completed the class assignments by the time grades are due. DESCRIPTION OF TECHNOLOGY USE ~

1 Students will learn about research resources on the World Wide Web. Students are encouraged to communicate with the instructor by email. 1 REQUIRED TEXTS

Sommer, Barbara, and Robert Sommer. 1997. *A Practical Guide for Behavioral Research: Tools and Techniques* (4th ed.). New York: Oxford University Press. (Sommer)

Katzer, Jeffrey, Kenneth H. Cook, and Wayne W. Crouch. 1998. *Evaluating Information: A Guide for Users of Social Science Research* (4th ed.). New York: Random House. (KCC)

Articles listed below are on reserve at the East Campus Branch of the library.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND ASSIGNMENTS

The readings are to be completed by the weeks indicated below.

Week Topic (1/6) Introduction to Course

Birkhoff, Juliana. 1995. "Marketing Isn't Everything: The Importance of Research in Dispute Resolution" *SPIDR News*, Vol. 19, (No. 3, Summer), p 1 (handout).

(1/13) Strategies, Ethics, and Debates in Social Research; Accuracy of Information and Sources of Error Sommer, chs. 1-2; KCC, chs. 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9 Rogers, Susan J, and Claire Francy. 1988. "Communication in Mediation: Is More Necessarily Better?" *Mediation Quarterly*, No. 22, pp. 39-50. (1/20) Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods Distribute Exercise 1

Sommer, chs. 4, 12, 13

(1/27) Survey Research *** Take class photos (student participation optional)

Sommer, chs. 8-9

(2/3) Attitude and Rating Scales Distribute Exercise 2 I Exercise I Due

Sommer, chs. 10, 16

(2/10) Sampling and Descriptive Statistics

Sornmer, chs. 17-18; KCC, chs. 13-14

Sander, Frank E A 1995. "The Obsession with Settlement Rates " Negotiation Journal 1: 329-332.

7 (2/17) Experimentation Exercise 2 Due

Sornmer, chs 6-7; KCC, ch. 12

8(2/24) Midterm Exam DistributeExercise3 t 9 (3/3) No Class - Reading Week - have a great time (reading, of course)

)R 300

10 (3/10) Program Evaluation Research I

Rolf, Elizabeth & Moller, Erik. 1995. Evaluating Agency Alternative Dispute Resolution Programs. Rand Institute of Civil Justice. Note: THE APPENDICES OF ~S REPORT WITH SAMPLE QUESTIONNAIRES ETC. ARE ON RESERVE AS A SEPARATE DOCUMENT. THE APPENDICES ARE OPTION~ ~.

O'Doherty, Hugh and the Faculty Consortium on Dispute Resolution Research. 1990.

"Mediation Evaluation: Status Report and Challenges for the Future." Evaluation

Practice, pp. 8-19 Galanter, Marc. 1989. "Introduction: Compared to What? Assessing the Quality of Dispute Processing." Denver University Law Review 66:xi-xiv.

11 (3/17) Program Evaluation Research II Exercise 3 Due

Galanter, Marc. 1988. "The Quality of Settlements.', Journal of Dispute Resolution

1988: 55-84 11

Susskind, Lawrence E. 1986. "Evaluating Dispute Resolution Experiments."

Negotiation Journal 2: 135-139

Lowe, Robert A. & Susan L. Keilitz. 1992. Middlesex Multi-Door Courthouse

Evaluation Project: Final Report Executive Summary. National Center for State Courts. 12 (3/24) Analyzing Research Results I

Box 20-3 in Somrner (p. 301)

Menkel-Meadow, Carrie. 1995. "The Many Ways of Mediation: The Transformation of Traditions, Ideologies, Paradigms, and Practices." Negotiation Journal 11: 217-243

Benjamin, Michael, and Howard H. Irving. 1995. "Research in Family Mediation:

Review and Implications." Mediation Quarterly 13: 53-82.

13 (3/31) Analyzing Research Results II

Emery, Robert E., and Joanne A. Jackson. 1989. "The Charlottesville Mediation Project: Mediated and Litigated Child Custody Disputes." *Mediation Quarterly* No.24: 3-18

Kressel, Kenneth, Frances Butler-DeFreitas, Samuel G. Forlenza, and Cynthia Wilcox. 1989. "Research in Contested Custody Mediations: An Illustration of the Case Study Method." *Mediation Quarterly* No. 24: 55-70.

14 (4/7) Final Examination