Title of Course: Research Methods for Public Administrators

I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course:

This course provides a foundation in the theory and practice of applied research methodology for public administrators, from conceptualization to practical data analysis. 3 credit hours

II. Prerequisite (s): Graduate standing.

III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course:

A. Introduce fundamentals of research.

B. Develop skills in research design.

C. Develop competency in quantitative and qualitative data analysis.

D. Develop techniques of program evaluation and application of methodology to practitioner problems.

IV. Expectations of Students:

This course will be administered as a seminar. Although some classes will feature traditional lectures, the emphasis will be placed upon class discussion and interaction. As a result, a high premium is placed upon student participation.

V. Course Content or Outline (3 hours per topic):

A. The Research Question and Models
   a. Research Designs: Descriptive
   b. Research Designs: Explanatory

B. Measurement
   a. Sampling Techniques
   b. Survey Research Methodology
   c. Primary Data Collection
   d. Ethical and Logistical Issues
   e. Secondary Data Analysis

C. Index Construction

D. Univariate Analysis
E. Hypothesis Testing
   a. Measures of Association and ANOVA
   b. Regression and Correlation

F. Paper Presentations

VI. Textbook(s) and/or Other Required Materials or Equipment:

   *Text: Research Methods for Public Administrators, Fourth Edition, O’Sullivan, Rassel, and Berner *(Required)*; Evaluation Research, Weiss *(On Reserve)*. In addition, materials will be placed on reserve and/or online.

VII. Basis for Student Evaluation:

A. Exams: 2 @ 100 pts each = 200 pts.
B. Term Paper = 100 pts.
C. Homework = 100 pts.
D. Article Presentations = 50 pts. (2@25 pts. each)
E. Class Participation = 50 pts.
   Total = 500 pts.

The weight of evaluation criteria may vary at the discretion of the instructor and will be indicated at the beginning of each course.