

# SPST500

**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.

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## Course Summary

**Course :** SPST500 **Title :** Research Methods in Space Studies  
**Length of Course :** 8 Brian Anderson  
**Prerequisites :** N/A **Credit Hours :** 3

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## Description

**Course Description:** MUST BE TAKEN AS THE SECOND COURSE IN THE SPACE STUDIES PROGRAM. This course is designed to build the student's ability to organize and conduct research in the space studies discipline, and to enable the student to present findings in a clear, concise, coherent manner. It is devoted to thinking about research logically, creatively, critically, structurally and scientifically. Course material covers qualitative research designs, theory building, role of argumentation in presenting a research report (thesis), as well as describing and analyzing quantitative variables. IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY COMPLETED COLLEGE ALGEBRA BEFORE TAKING THIS COURSE

### Course Scope:

At the end of this course you will have a firm understanding of the key concepts and basic theories involved in effective research methods.

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## Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Analyze sources of data/information related to a given research topic
  - Evaluate both quantitative and qualitative research methods
  - Apply select statistical analysis procedures for quantitative data
  - Present findings in a coherent manner using both written text and graphics
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## Outline

### Week 1: Foundations of Research

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Learning Objectives

**LO-1:** Analyze sources of data/ information related to a given research topic

**LO-2:** Evaluate both quantitative and qualitative research methods

Readings

**Text Readings:**

Chapters 1-2

Assignment

Forum #0 – Student Introduction

Forum #1

Chapter Exercises:

Chapter 1 – 6, 8

Chapter 2 – 2

**Week 2: The Theory of Measurement**

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Learning Objectives

**LO-1:** Analyze sources of data/ information related to a given research topic

**LO-2:** Evaluate both quantitative and qualitative research methods

Readings

**Text Readings:**

Chapter 3 - 5

Assignment

Forum #2

Chapter Exercises:

Chapter 3 – 2, 4

Chapter 4 – 2, 4, 6

Chapter 5 – 2, 4, 8

**Week 3: Survey Research and Measures**

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Learning Objectives

**LO-1:** Analyze sources of data/ information related to a given research topic

**LO-2:** Evaluate both quantitative and qualitative research methods

Readings

**Text Readings:**

Chapters 6 & 7

Assignment

Forum #3

Chapter Exercises:

Chapter 6 – 4, 6

Chapter 7 – 2, 6, 8, 12

## **Week 4: Design**

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Learning Objectives

**LO-1:** Analyze sources of data/ information related to a given research topic

**LO-2:** Evaluate both quantitative and qualitative research methods

Readings

### **Text Readings:**

Chapters 8

Assignment

Forum #4

Annotated Bibliography

## **Week 5: Analysis**

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Learning Objectives

**LO-1:** Analyze sources of data/ information related to a given research topic

**LO-2:** Evaluate both quantitative and qualitative research methods

Readings

### **Text Readings:**

Chapter 9 plus...

Chapters 14 and 15 (for work on course paper due during Week 8)

Assignment

Forum #5

Chapter Exercises:

Chapter 8 – 2, 4, 6

Chapter 9 – 2, 4

## **Week 6: Evaluation, Research Synthesis, Meta-analysis, and Evidence-Based Practice**

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Learning Objectives

**LO-3:** Apply select statistical analysis procedures for quantitative data

Readings

**Text Readings:**

Chapters 10 & 11

Assignment

Forum #6

Chapter Exercises:

Chapter 10 – 2, 4

Chapter 11 – 2-10 (even)

### **Week 7: Key Elements of the Research Report**

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Learning Objectives

**LO-4** Present findings in a coherent manner using both written text and graphics

Readings

**Text Readings:**

Chapters 12 – 13 plus...

Chapters 14 and 15 should be read in conjunction with the course paper due during week 8

Assignment

Forum #7

Chapter Exercises:

Chapter 12 – 2-10 (even)

Chapter 13 – 2, 6, 8

### **Week 8: Key Elements of the Research Report**

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Learning Objectives

**LO-4** Present findings in a coherent manner using both written text and graphics

Readings

**Text Readings:**

Review Chapters 8 – 13

Assignment

## Evaluation

### Chapter Exercises:

The end of chapter exercises are found in the book. They test your knowledge of the chapter's material and will be due each week.

### Annotated Bibliography Assignment:

The student will be required to review a total of 10 space studies-related journal articles and write an Annotated Bibliography for each. The student is responsible for finding and choosing the articles for review. Be sure to post the annotated bibliographies within the Assignments area of the classroom.

Please see the following link for an excellent and concise introduction to the concept of writing annotated bibliographies: <http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill28.htm#what>.

### Forum Assignments:

There are a total of eight graded forum postings for this course. You will be graded on your active participation within each posting, and the quality of response for each. **Make sure you respond to at least two other student posts!**

### Final Project:

The Research Project will measure your ability to use the skills learned throughout the course. Specifics of the ten-page research project will be posted no later than Week 6.

### Grading:

Name	Points
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## Materials

**Book Title:** Research Methods and Statistics A Critical Thinking Approach, 5th ed.

**Author:** Sherri L. Jackson

**Publication Info:** Cengage

**ISBN:** 9781305257795

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## 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.

## Identity Verification & Live Proctoring

- Faculty may require students to provide proof of identity when submitting assignments or completing assessments in this course. Verification may be in the form of a photograph and/or video of the student's face together with a valid photo ID, depending on the assignment format.
- Faculty may require live proctoring when completing assessments in this course. Proctoring may include identity verification and continuous monitoring of the student by webcam and microphone during testing.

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## University Policies

### [Student Handbook](#)

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

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