

### A. Heading

University of Puerto Rico  
Río Piedras Campus  
College of Humanities  
Department of English  
Undergraduate Program

**B. Course Title** Human Communication Research Methods

Janet MacLennan, Ph.D.

**C. Code** ENGL 4230

**D. Credit Hours** 3

**E. Prerequisites** One of the following: INGL 3103-3104 OR INGL 3011-3012 OR Level 5 on the English Placement Test OR Advanced Placement in English.

**F. Course Description** Exploration, analysis, and practice of methods of investigating communication as both a humanistic and scientific field of inquiry.

**G. Course Objectives** By the end of the course, students will:

1. Understand the essential aspects and differences of human inquiry and scientific inquiry about communication.
2. Establish a framework for evaluating research.
3. Have applied research methods outside of the classroom to everyday communication.
4. Develop communication skills of presentation, critique, and reflection.
5. Gain appreciation, understanding, and experience of the research process.

### H. Course Outline

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Time</u>
I. Course introduction and overview	3 hours
II. Framework for understanding research and communication	9 hours
III. Understanding and practice of the research process	33 hours
Total	45 hours/3 credits

**I. Teaching Strategies** This course will include lectures and class and group discussion (60%) including skill development (40%). Los estudiantes que reciban servicios de **Rehabilitación Vocacional** deben comunicarse con la profesora al inicio del semestre para planificar el acomodo razonable y equipo asistivo necesario conforme a las recomendaciones de la Oficina de Asuntos para las Personas con Impedimento (OAPI) del Decanato de Estudiantes. También aquellos estudiantes con necesidades especiales que requieren de algún tipo de asistencia o acomodo deben comunicarse con la profesora.

**J. Required Resources** Access to all UPR library facilities, electronic search, on-line access, and

interlibrary loan services. In the classroom, a TV/VCR may be used for a few class sessions.

**K. Methods of Evaluation** You will be evaluated through your work in a series of practical assignments that will correspond to the material covered in class. For each assignment you will receive a grade and written feedback. Attendance in class is key for you to carry out these assignments.

Evaluación diferenciada a estudiantes con necesidades especiales.

**L. Grading System** The following grades will be used for this course: A, B, C, D, F.

### **M. Selected Bibliography**

Baxter, L. A., & Babbie, E. (2004). *The basics of communication research*. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth.

Merrigan, G., & Logan Huston, C. (2004). *Communication research methods*. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth.

Urduan, T. C. (2005). *Statistics in plain English*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.

Warren, C. A., & Karner, T. X. (2005). *Discovering qualitative methods: Field research, interviews, and analysis*. Los Angeles: Roxbury.