

AMBERTON UNIVERSITY
e-COURSE SYLLABUS

RGS6035.E2 Theory & Application of Research Methods
Fall 2026

PROFESSOR INFORMATION:

Professor: Dale L. Gooden
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Amberton Email: dgooden@Amberton.edu

COURSE INFORMATION:

RGS6035.E2 Theory & Application of Research Methods

Level: Graduate

Beginning Date of Session: Saturday, Sept. 12, 2026

Ending Date of Session: Thursday, Nov. 19, 2026

Student access available to the Student Portal: Saturday, Saturday, Sept. 12.26

Students enrolled in distance learning courses are not assessed any additional fees for security or identity verification.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

None

TEXTBOOK(S) AND REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Title: Research Methodology, Techniques, and Trends
Author: Umesh Kumar B Dubey, D P Kothari
Publisher: Routledge
Year Published: 2022
Edition: Edition Number
ISBN: 10: 9781032233406 or 13: 9781315167138 or eText ISBN: 9781351682060
Price: Available at <http://amberton.ecampus.com>

Students should verify enrollment in course before purchasing textbooks. Textbook information and ordering options are available through the Amberton Virtual Bookstore. Since no books are sold on campus, students should plan accordingly and purchase their books in advance of the first day of class, allowing time for shipping.

APA Requirement

APA (American Psychological Association) style is most commonly used to cite sources within the social sciences. This resource, revised according to the 7th edition, offers examples for the general format of APA research papers, in-text citations, endnotes/footnotes, and the reference page. For more information, please consult the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, (7th ed.). All coursework at Amberton University will comply with the standards contained in the APA Publication Manual.

COURSE COMPETENCIES:

This course presents the issues relevant to the understanding and application of research methods in the study of human behavior and organizational variables. It provides students with a comprehensive overview of both quantitative and qualitative data analysis methods, emphasizing the principles and practices of research methods across diverse fields. Special attention is given to conducting research online, equipping students with the skills to locate, analyze, and apply data from digital sources. Through this research methods course students will gain hands-on experience with the tools and techniques needed to succeed in today's data-driven environments.

UPON COMPLETION OF THE COURSE, THE STUDENT WILL BE COMPETENT IN:

1. Describing and discussing the research process and the scientific method.

2. Selecting procedures to locate unsolved research problems in given areas of interest.
3. Listing and describing the components of a sound research plan.
4. Writing hypotheses and research questions related to a given research problem.
5. Identifying ethical questions or principles in research situations.
6. Conducting literature reviews on a given topic.
7. Identifying sections of research reports indicating bias or contamination.
8. Describing and using appropriate sampling procedures.
9. Defining types of validity and reliability and their influence on research.
10. Identifying significant research methods.
11. Constructing and applying research questionnaires.
12. Evaluating threats to internal and external validity.
13. Creating experimental designs with specifications for random assignments.
14. Writing in APA format and achieving the intended purpose of research reports.
15. Understanding the available sources of data and their locations.
16. Demonstrating critical evaluation competencies in research.
17. Understanding how artificial intelligence (AI) can assist in data analysis and research methodology and evaluating the reliability of AI-generated research findings in professional environments.

ACQUIRED SKILLS:

1. Critical thinking in Research Methodologies
2. Data Analysis Using Quantitative and Qualitative Methods
3. Writing Structured Research Reports in APA format

COURSE POLICIES:

(All assignments must be turned in by the due date by 11:59 EST. Any assignment submitted after the due date will automatically lose a letter grade unless arrangements are made with the instructor. All assignments submitted after the second week they are due will automatically receive a failing grade unless arrangements are made with the instructor. No assignments will be accepted after the last day of class unless the instructor grants an extension. Since this is a research course, you must conduct independent research for any resources you cite. If you choose to reference AI, paraphrase, and cite it as described in the university AI policy above. For this course, you are also required to include at least one reference found from our library that validates the content generated from AI, along with screenshots walking you through the process of using the library and finding the reference. In addition, you are also required to discuss why it relates in at least 300 words to show that you checked its validity. You must also include screenshots of your prompts and output from AI that you paraphrased. This must be submitted as an APA 7 formatted appendix to your assignment or discussion. The reason for this is simple. AI can generate false information, so if you choose to use it, you must validate it or avoid the use of AI.)))

Student's Responsibilities

This syllabus contains information, policies, and procedures for a specific course. By enrolling, the student agrees to read, understand, and abide by the policies, rules, regulations, and ethical standards of Amberton University as contained in the current university catalog and schedule of classes.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Regular and punctual class attendance and engagement is expected at Amberton University. In case of an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the professor as soon as possible. If a student intends on withdrawing from a course, it is the student's responsibility to follow the university's policy on formally withdrawing from a course. **Ceasing to attend classes does not constitute an official withdrawal.**

Attendance in a distance learning course is defined as active participation in the weekly online class sessions. "Active participation" can be defined as: submitting an academic assignment, taking an exam, engaging in an interactive tutorial, participating in an online discussion forum (or chat session), or initiating (or responding to) a communication with a faculty member about an academic assignment or the subject matter of the course. A student not meeting these requirements may be assigned a grade of an "F" or withdrawn at the discretion of Amberton University.

PLAGIARISM POLICY

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as though it were your own. If you use another person's words, ideas, or information; or if you use material from an outside source – whether a book, magazine, newspaper, business publication, broadcast, speech, or electronic media – you must acknowledge that source. Plagiarism is a violation of the University's code of student ethical conduct and is one that is taken seriously. Amberton University operates on an honor system; therefore, honesty and integrity are essential characteristics of all who are associated with the institution. All Amberton students are expected to abide by the honor system and maintain academic integrity in all their work. Amberton University and its instructors monitor student work for plagiarism and reserve the right to submit such work to technology-based plagiarism detection services and applications at any time.

Self-plagiarism means reusing work that you have already published or submitted for a class. It can involve:

- Resubmitting an entire paper
- Copying or paraphrasing passages from your previous work

Self-plagiarism misleads your readers by presenting previous work as completely new and original. Students may not submit the same paper in substance in two or more classes without prior written permission of the instructors involved.

Amberton University students who use Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated content must adhere to the following policies:

Originality: Students must avoid presenting AI generated content as their own original work. It is essential to acknowledge the involvement of AI in the content creation process in order to maintain academic and ethical standards.

Paraphrasing: When using AI generated content, students must rephrase and/or modify the generated text. Paraphrased AI generated content should also be properly cited.

Acknowledgement: When using AI generated content in any assignment, proper credit must be given to the AI system that generated the content. <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>

Students agree that by taking this course, all required assignments may be subject to submission for a textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism and self-plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in future papers. Use of Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com website.

Turnitin is a writing improvement and plagiarism prevention tool which uses special algorithms, to compare text-based student submissions to the Turnitin database and other online sources. Turnitin produces a detailed **similarity report** that can be customized and viewed by instructors and students.

Turnitin "Draft Coach" is a Google based add-on to Turnitin which supports students in developing high-quality academic writing; and serves as an integrity coach. Draft Coach helps address errors and improve the quality of student's writing by highlighting grammar mistakes, identifying incorrectly cited sources, and scanning for similarity across several databases. By providing formative feedback on how to address citation issues, incorrect grammar, and matches with the Turnitin database, Draft Coach provides explanations to help students become more confident writers, capable of producing higher quality work both in academics and in the workplace.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR:

Week	Topic	Assignment	Competencies Covered	Due Date
Week 1	Introduction to Research Ethics in Research	Discussion Board	1,3,4,6	September 17, 2026

Week 2	Research Process Research Design.	Discussion Board	1,3,4,6	September 24, 2026
Week 3	Qualitative Research Sampling Design Secondary Data Survey Research Questionnaire	Discussion Board Written Assignment	2,5,8	October 1, 2026 October 2, 2026
Week 4	Measurement Concepts in Research Measurement of Attitude	Discussion Board	3,5,7	October 8, 2026
Week 5	Experimentation	Discussion Board	3,5,7	October 15, 2026
Week 6	Data Preparation and Preliminary Analysis Concepts of Hypothesis Testing Hypothesis Testing: Tests of Differences	Discussion Board	10, 13	October 22, 2026
Week 7	Correlation and Regression Analysis Multivariate Analysis	Discussion Board Written Assignment	10, 13	October 29, 2026 October 30, 2026
Week 8	Research Reports	Discussion Board	6-7, 14	November 5, 2026
Week 9	Research Study Design and Methodology Final	Written Assignment	14,16,17	November 12, 2026 November 13, 2026
Week 10	Research Study Design and Methodology cont..	N/A	14,16,17	N/A

GRADING CRITERIA:

Graduate	
92 – 100	A
82 – 91	B
72 – 81	C
62 – 71	D
Below 62	F

GRADE NOTIFICATION AND INSTRUCTOR FEEDBACK:

Students should review instructor feedback provided through Moodle or Amberton CampusWeb Portal. Final grades are processed approximately one week after the session and may be viewed through the student

portal. Grades will not be released by phone or through unsecured channels. University instructors will not leave a message with comments or grades in any type of media that is not secure.

For questions regarding grades after the semester has ended, students should use their university email account and contact the instructor at the faculty email address as provided above in Professor Information area.

INCOMPLETE GRADES

An "I" (Incomplete) grade is granted only at the professor's discretion for emergencies or illness.

Students have 30 days from the end of the session to complete the course requirements. If the conditions are not met within this 30-day window, the "I" automatically converts to an "F".

HOW TO WITHDRAW FROM A COURSE

To be official, the class withdrawal must be in writing and signed by the student requesting the withdrawal; no withdrawal is accepted verbally. Please review the "Schedule of Classes" (online or in-print) for procedures for class changes or withdrawals and the refund policy and schedule.

COURSE DELIVERY METHODOLOGY:

This course is delivered through Moodle. Students are expected to have reliable internet access, basic computer skills, the ability to upload/download files, use Amberton email, and submit assignments in the required format. Students needing assistance should use the Amberton SSO support/ticket process.

HOW TO ACCESS YOUR COURSE:

SINGLE SIGN-ON (SSO) INSTRUCTIONS FOR AMBERTON UNIVERSITY

Students should access Amberton systems through the Single Sign-On portal at <https://sso.amberton.edu>. After logging in, students can access Moodle, Amberton email, CampusWeb, and other assigned applications. Students who need help accessing SSO should submit a support request through the SSO support option or contact support@amberton.edu.

MOODLE TUTORIAL:

Upon successful log in and access to the Moodle learning platform, there is a Student Moodle Tutorial course available, to learn about the basics of Moodle. Simply click on the link for the Student Moodle Tutorial and read through the various learning topics: Navigating; Communicating; Assignments & Exams; Grades; and Student Resources.

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS:

Students will communicate with faculty through the Moodle Learning Platform or the Amberton University email system.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION

Students are expected to use their Amberton email account and Moodle for course communications. Students must use their official university email account for all university related communication and should check their Amberton emails regularly for course and university notices.

Upon completion of a session, all communication and course specific information is removed from the Moodle system. If a student needs to maintain a record of communications or assignments, the student is strongly encouraged to print out or download these items to a disk for their own records.

FORMAT AND SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignments must be submitted through the appropriate Moodle assignment link unless otherwise directed by the instructor. Students are responsible for submitting files in the format required by the instructor.

INSTRUCTOR/COURSE EVALUATION:

Students will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous course and instructor evaluation near the end of the session. Instructions and dates will be provided through Moodle and/or Amberton email.

RESEARCH RESOURCES:

The Amberton Library provides access to full-text articles, peer-reviewed databases, and research tools, with options like Interlibrary Loan (ILL) and TexShare for items outside its collection. For research assistance, students can connect with library staff during operating hours via email (Library@amberton.edu), phone (972-279-6511 ext. 185), "How-to" videos, live online chat, or in person at the Garland campus. The online library is available through Single Sign On (SSO).

MICROSOFT OFFICE 365 EDUCATION:

Amberton University students may access Microsoft 365 Education resources as provided by the university.

GOOGLE WORKSPACE FOR EDUCATION:

Amberton students are assigned a Google Workspace for Education account, including Amberton Gmail, Google Drive, Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides. Students should use their Amberton Google account for course-related work when required.