



# BABCOCK UNIVERSITY

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COURSE OUTLINE TEMPLATE PREPARED BY THE AVP, INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

**SCHOOL:** School of Science and Technology

**DEPARTMENT:** Agriculture and Industrial Technology

**SEMESTER /SESSION:** 2016-2017 (First Semester)

**COURSE CODE AND TITLE:** RESEARCH METHODS IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND EXTENSION (2 Credits)

**DAY OF CLASS:** WEDNESDAY **VENUE FOR CLASS:** Soil Lab

**TEACHERS' NAME:** Babalola, D. Akinola. (PhD)

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## OUR VISION STATEMENT

A first-class Seventh-day Adventist institution, building servant leaders for a better world.

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Building leadership through Christian education; transforming lives, impacting society for positive change. To achieve our mission, we are committed to:

- Achieving excellence in our teaching, research program, and service delivery
- Imparting quality Christian education
- Instilling Christ-like character to the members of our Community

## OUR CORE VALUES

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|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| • Excellence                  | -Our Culture    |
| • Integrity                   | -Our Promise    |
| • Accountability              | -Our Moral      |
| • Servant Leadership          | -Our Strength   |
| • Team Spirit                 | -Our Dignity    |
| • Autonomy and Responsibility | -Our Passion    |
| • Adventist Heritage          | -Our Commitment |

## OUR PHILOSOPHY

Babcock University's philosophy is anchored on the harmonious development of the intellectual, physical, social, and spiritual potentials of our students, inspiring stable and noble character needed for effective leadership and service in the society.

**CORPORATE IMAGE STATEMENT:** A center of excellence for character development and scholarship; a socially responsive, responsible, and accountable institution in matters of commitment and action.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

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Result oriented projects/studies; Problem definition and conceptualization; Hypothesis formulation and objectives; Data gathering methods; Appropriate methods of analysis; Time-chart and scheduling; Conclusion and implementable suggestions.

## **COURSE CONTENT/GOAL**

This course is designed to introduce students to principles of research methodology as it applies generally to agriculture and particularly to Economics and Extension. The course is also intended to equip the students for research. The application of a world view that is biblically and faith based is also incorporated into the course presentation and teaching approach.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

At the end of the course, students should be familiar with:

1. How to choose a research topic and appropriate methodology.
2. How to formulate and analyze research objectives & hypotheses
3. Data gathering methods
4. Ethics in research, including biblical ethics

## **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/JOURNALS**

1. Nachmias Chava & Nachmias David. 2009. *Research methods in the social sciences*. Hodder Educ, Hachette UK
2. Trochim. 2001. *The research methods knowledge base*. Atomic Dog Publishing, USA
3. Obrimah. 2014. *Understanding research design and choice of methodology: A theory based practical approach*. Jamiro Press Link, Lagos Nigeria
4. Olayinka, Poopola & Ojebode. 2008. *Methodology of basic and applied research: Proceedings of a workshop*. The PG School, University of Ibadan.
5. Kothari. 2004. *Research methodology methods & techniques*. New Age Int'l Ltd Publishers. New Delhi, India
6. Ranjit. 2011. *Research methodology: A step-by-step guide for beginners*. Sage Publishers, Washington DC
7. *Survey Methods and Practices*. Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics, Canada. Catalogue no. 12-587-X ISBN 978-1-100-16410-6 Minister of Industry, 2010

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

**CLASS ATTENDANCE:** - "Every student is required to attend classes regularly and punctually, unless ill or prevented by some recognized emergency. Students who absent themselves from class for more than three weeks during the semester shall merit an F grade. Authorized leave of absence from campus does not excuse the student from classes, or relieve the student of the required course work' (*BU Academic Bulletin 2012-2015 p.13*).

**PARTICIPATION:** -Students are to actively engage in topic discussion and sharing of ideas in class.

**TARDINESS/CONDUCT OF STUDENTS IN CLASS:** - Lateness to class is unacceptable; students are not allowed to operate their cell phones, iPods and other electronic mobile gargets during classes, except with the permission of the teacher. Eating and chewing off bubble gums and drinking (water exempted) is also not allowed except with the

permission of the teacher. Very importantly, students are required to dress in compliance with the university dress code and wear their identity cards while in class.

SHORT DEVOTIONALS/PRAYER: - Spiritual nurture is a part of whole person development, and team spirit is our strength; thus, every student is required to participate in the devotional exercise and prayer in class.

SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENT: The teacher will give directive for submission of assignment.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: Assignments could be turned in earlier, but not later than the deadline set by the teacher.

GUIDELINE FOR WRITTEN WORK: Guidelines will be set for specific assignments.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/HONESTY:** “Babcock University has a zero tolerance for any form of academic dishonesty. Morally and spiritually, the institution is committed to scholastic integrity. Consequently, both students and staff are to maintain high, ethical Christian levels of honesty. Transparent honest behavior is expected of every student in all spheres of life. Academic dishonesty include such things as plagiarism, unauthorized use of notes or textbooks on quizzes and examinations, copying or spying the test or paper of another student (formal or take-home), talking to another student during examinations. Academic matter would automatically results in a failing grade for the examination, and suspension, or outright dismissal from the university. Academic dishonesty issues are referred to SPEAM (Senate Panel on Examination and Academic Misconduct) who investigates and makes recommendations to Senate. Penalties for examination and academic misconduct are spelt out in the *student’s handbook* and in other regulations as published from time to time” (BU Academic Bulletin2012-2015 p.18).

### GRIEVANCEPROCEDURE

“Students who believe that their academic rights have been infringed upon or that they have been unjustly treated with respect to their academic program are entitled to affair and impartial consideration of their cases. They should do the following to effect a solution:

1. Present their case to the teacher(s) concerned
2. If necessary, discuss the problem with the Head of Department
3. If agreement is not reached at this level, submit the matter to the School Dean
4. Finally, ask for a review of the case by the Grievance Committee
5. A fee is charged for remarking of scripts. If a student’s grievance is upheld after an external examiner has remarked the script, the grade would be credited to the student. The lecturer will be given a letter of reprimand and will be asked to refund the fees to the student. If the student’s grievance is not sustained, the student will be given a letter of reprimand and the original grade retained” (BU Academic Bulletin2012-2015 p.18).

**TEACHING/LEARNING METHODOLOGIES:** Lectures and class discussions

### COURSE ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION

#### Continuous Assessment:

Class Attendance:	5%}	} =40%
Quizzes & Tests:	10%}	
Assignments:	10%}	
Mid-Semester Exam:	15%}	
Final Semester Exam:	60%	

## GRADE SCALE

Currently, the 5-point gradingsystemadoptedbythe University Senate translates as follows:

Grades	Mark Quality	Range Points	Definition
A	80-100	5.00	Superior
B	60-79	4.00	Above Average
C	50-59	3.00	Average
D	45-49	2.00	Below Average
E	40-44	1.00	Pass
F	0-39	0.00	Fail

**INCOMPLETE GRADE:** An incomplete grade may only be assigned to a student upon request, due to an emergency situation that occurred within that semester, which prevented completion of an/some assignments, quizzes, or examination. Such a student would complete a contract form, obtainable from the Registrar, after agreement with the teacher. The form must be signed by the teacher, the student, the HOD, the dean, the Registrar, and the Senior Vice President (SVP) before contract begins. The original copy of the incomplete form will be sent to the Registrar with copies to the teacher, the student, the HOD, the dean, and the SVP. An incomplete grade(I) reverts to the existing grade if contract is not completed by the end of the following semester (including summer semester, except for examinations), (*BU Academic Bulletin 2012-2015 p. 20*).

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY

“Babcock University seeks to provide a conducive environment for optimal living and learning experience. While the university is working towards facilities that accommodate persons with disabilities, provisions will be made for students with disabilities under the following conditions. Students with disabilities are to:

- Report to Student Support Services for assessment, and obtain a clearance/recommendation at the commencement of the semester or as soon as disabling incidence occurs
- Show the clearance/recommendations to relevant university officials at the commencement of the semester or as soon as disabling incidence occurs
- Maintain ongoing contact with Student Support Services” (*BU Academic Bulletin 2012-2015 p. 20*).

## PROPOSED DAILY/WEEKLY OUTLINE OFSCHEDULE:

DATE	TOPIC	CLASS ACTIVITIES & ASSIGNMENTS	ASSIGNMENT DUE
<b>Week 1</b>	Result oriented projects and studies: Meaning of research; choosing a research topic; overview of elements and organization of a research	Lecture & Class Discussion	
<b>Week 2 &amp; 3</b>	Problem definition and conceptualization: Conceptual foundations of research; research problem; design & development of conceptual framework	Lecture & Class Discussion Assignment: Critically discuss What makes people to undertake research	assignment given due by 4 <sup>th</sup> week

<b>Week 4</b>	Hypothesis formulation and objectives: Basic element of research (variables, hypothesis etc)	Lecture & Class Discussion Assignment: (1) what are you to put into consideration when selecting a research topic? (2) Formulate a topic. State at least 2 objective and one hypothesis related to the topic	assignment given due by 6 <sup>th</sup> week
<b>Week 5&amp; 6</b>	Data gathering methods: Questionnaire design; validity and reliability measurement; sampling methods; methods of data collection (observation, survey); secondary data analysis; scaling methods; interviews (role, training, kit, conducting)	Lecture & Class Discussion Assignment: What are important aspects to consider when designing a survey? Describe advantages and disadvantages with the approach.	assignment given due by 7 <sup>th</sup> week
<b>Week 7</b>	Appropriate methods of analysis: Data preparation & analysis (Coding, use of computer packages)	Lecture & Class Discussion	
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>Mid Semester</b>	Half time Examination	
<b>Week 9 &amp; 10</b>	Appropriate methods of analysis: the role of statistics – univariate, bivariate & multivariate analysis; inferences	Lecture & Class Discussion Assignment: Students to interpret output of a data analysis	assignment given due by 11 <sup>th</sup> week
<b>Week 11</b>	Time chart and scheduling: time line; budget and justification; Conclusion and implementation	Lecture & Class Discussion Assignment: Students to use their research proposal to construct time line; budget and justification	assignment given due by 13 <sup>th</sup> week
<b>Week 12</b>	Writing research report (introduction, literature review, referencing styles); ethics in research	Lecture & Class Discussion	
<b>Week 13</b>	<b>Revision</b>		
<b>Week 14</b>	<b>Examination</b>		
<b>Week 15</b>	<b>Examination</b>		