THE COLLEGE OF THE BAHAMAS
Course Outline

Title: Senior Thesis I
Abbreviation and Number: JRNT498
School: Communication and Creative Arts
Department: Journalism and Communication
Credits: 3
Course Sequence: ( X ) Fall ( ) Spring ( ) Fall and Spring
Hours Per Week: ( ) Lecture ( 3 ) Seminar ( ) Laboratory ( ) Studio ( ) Kitchen ( ) Other (Specify)
Pre-requisite(s): JRNT340 or permission of Chair/Instructor
Co-requisite(s): None

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Students examine the methods, methodologies and theories of research. They learn about scientific approaches used in the Humanities and Social Sciences, particularly related to the field of communications, and develop analytical skills essential for producing a substantial piece of independent work.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to
1) Identify a range of research methods and methodologies used to explore issues in the field of communications;
2) Identify a study topic;
3) Formulate inquiry questions;
4) Critique scholarly research;
5) Produce a literature review;
6) Select appropriate research design and methodology; and
7) Write a research proposal that includes an introduction, problem statement (significance of the study), literature review, methods section, references and a project timeline.

COURSE CONTENT
I. Introduction to Research
   A. Types of research
   B. Approaches to research
   C. Primary and secondary sources

II. Creating Meaning
   A. Analysing and interpreting data
   B. Basic concepts of data analysis
   C. Importance of context
   D. Basic tools and techniques

III. Theories in Scientific Research
   A. Constructs
   B. Propositions, relationships, hypothesis
   C. Logic-explanation
   D. Assumptions
IV. Issues in Social Science Research
   A. Ethics
   B. Representations of race, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, religion
   C. Bias and subjectivity
   D. Other

V. Analysing Sources
   A. Detecting bias
   B. Relevance
   C. Primary and secondary sources

VI. The Research Topic
   A. Identifying the problem
   B. Writing the problem statement

VII. Formulating Research Question/Hypothesis
   A. Aims and objectives of the research
   B. Getting the question right

VIII. Writing the Literature Review
   A. Reviewing related literature
   B. Evaluating related literature

IX. Research Design
   A. Methods—qualitative, quantitative and critical approaches
   B. Reliability and validity
   C. Data collection

X. Writing the Proposal
   A. Introduction
   B. Problem statement
   C. Literature review
   D. Methods
   E. Reference
   F. Timeline

ASSESSMENT
Class assignments...................... 30%
Mid-semester examination............ 25%
Research proposal..................... 30%
Presentation............................ 15%
Total....................................100%
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REQUIRED TEXTS

SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS/MATERIALS

JOURNALS
American Journalism Review
Communication and Media Studies
Global Journalism Review
Journal of Communication
Journalism Practice
Journalism Studies
Journalism: Theory, Practice and Criticism

WEBSITES
www.cob.edu.bs/library
www.learnerassociates.net/dissthes/