

**A. Heading**

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

**B. Course Title** Communication Research Methods      Janet MacLennan, Ph.D., *Catedrática*

**C. Code** INGL 4230

**D. Credit Hours** 3

**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. apply research methods outside of the classroom to everyday communication.
4. develop skills of critique and reflection.
5. gain appreciation, understanding, and experience of the research process.
6. know the different purposes of and processes of quantitative and qualitative research methods in communication.

**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. Access to Moodle.

**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 where appropriate. Attendance in class is key for your success with 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. Suggested Reading**

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

Davis, C. S., Powell, H. L., & Lachlan, K. L. (2013). *Straight talk about communication research methods*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt.

Keyton, J. (2015). *Communication research: Asking questions, finding answers* (4<sup>th</sup>). McGraw-Hill.

Lindlof, T. R., & Taylor, B. C. (2011). *Qualitative communication research methods* (3<sup>rd</sup>). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Merrigan, G., & Huston, C. L. (2009). *Communication research methods* (2<sup>nd</sup>). New York: Oxford University Press.