
Research for Marketing Decisions
MKTG 560 A/B
MKTG 560 C/D

Spring 2015
MW 1:30-3:20
M 6:00-9:20

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Classroom: 395 Paccar Hall
Some classes will be in 190 Paccar Hall (TBA in class)

Required Course Materials

- **Textbook:** *Basic Marketing Research* (8th Edition) by Brown, Suter and Churchill. You can buy from the UBookstore for \$180, rent a hard copy from amazon.com for \$81.44, or rent an etextbook for 180 days through coursesmart for \$115.49 (go to http://www.coursesmart.com/IR/915187/9781133188544?_hdv=6.8).
- **Course Pack.** Available through the UW bookstore for \$36.50 (hereafter referred to as **CP**).
- **SPSS Statistics Base Grad Pack 22.** You can either use the software in the computer lab, at Odegaard or purchase a temporary (6-month) license from <http://www.onthehub.com/spss/> for \$44.24. You can also download a free 14-day trial from <http://tinyurl.com/spss14days>. Alternatively, you can use the UW cloud-based SPSS via the CSDE cluster. It's free for student use and can be accessed from any PC: <https://csde.washington.edu/services/computing/access.shtml>
- **Course website at** <http://canvas.uw.edu> (hereafter referred to as **Canvas**)
You should check this website often. Some readings, announcements, class

Course Prerequisites

Strategic Marketing Management (BA501 or MKTG 501) and Statistical Data Analysis for Management (either BA 500 or QMETH 500) or their equivalents are required. Given the quantitative nature of the material covered in the course, *please make sure that you feel comfortable with the material in the basic statistics course*. You are required to do basic statistical analysis using SPSS throughout this course, which is one of the most commonly used and easiest statistics packages. I will teach you how to use SPSS. Students should also be familiar with spreadsheet software such as Excel.

Course Objectives

The broad objectives of this course are to teach you the ART of marketing research and to provide you with a fundamental understanding of marketing research methods as employed by better-managed firms and proposed by leading academicians. The course is aimed at the manager who is the ultimate consumer of the research and the one responsible for determining the scope and direction of research activities. The techniques of research design, data collection, and data analysis occupy an important space in the work of a marketing manager as well as many other business professionals, such as entrepreneurs (in deciding whether and how to launch new products), and human resource managers (for workforce sizing decision). Indeed, these tools, although tied to the marketing research domain, are broadly applicable across a range of research settings. Overall, this course focuses on helping managers recognize the role of systematic information gathering and analysis in order to make better decisions. Specifically, by the end of our 10 weeks together, students who have mastered course material should be able to design and interpret marketing research in order to make decisions that have a higher likelihood of achieving organizational goals while using fewer real resources (principally time and money) along the way.

The readings and assignments are geared toward giving you the tools necessary to make informed—and thus better—choices regarding the research you request, design, collect, analyze and ultimately use. According to the AMA, marketing research is “the function that links the consumer, customer, and public to the marketer through information--information used to identify and define marketing opportunities and problems; generate, refine, and evaluate marketing actions; monitor marketing performance; and improve understanding of marketing as a process. Marketing research specifies the information required to address these issues, designs the method for collecting information, manages and implements the data collection process, analyzes the results, and communicates the findings and their implications.” Without marketing research—or perhaps worse, with poorly conducted research—there is a great risk of making poor decisions, thereby costing your firm a substantial amount of time and money (and possibly costing you your job!). Consequently, the correct application of the marketing research process is a critical aspect of making informed decisions that have a higher likelihood of success.

Thus, the ultimate goals of this course are that at the end, you will be able to:

- Determine what type of marketing research should (vs. should not) be conducted
- Effectively implement all stages in the marketing research process
- Develop and refine your research design, collection and analytical skills
- Critically evaluate others' research, analyses and strategic recommendations.

Course Content and Organization

Marketing research is simply an organized way of developing and providing information for decision-making purposes. The quality of the information, for example its validity and reliability, depends on the care exercised in executing the various steps of the marketing research process. The steps include problem definition, research design (exploratory, descriptive and causal), data collection methods, and data analysis. For descriptive and causal research, additional steps include questionnaire design, attitude measurement, sampling schemes, and data analysis. Although we will cover both secondary and primary research as well as qualitative and quantitative aspects of marketing research, emphasis is given to primary quantitative research.

You will learn how to collect reliable data efficiently and effectively and how to analyze “real life” data using statistical software. It is imperative that you have a strong understanding of the techniques and issues involved in collecting and analyzing data to judge the adequacy of the information with which you are presented. You will gain hands-on experience in collecting and analyzing data.

If at any point during the course you have any questions regarding the material covered in class or regarding preparation for assignments or the exam, please do not hesitate to contact me or the TA for this course. I strongly encourage communication by e-mail because I check it the most frequently.

Class Format

Each class session will be a combination of lecture and discussion, with some classes incorporating computer-based exercises. Class sessions will be devoted to probing, extending, and applying the concepts covered in the assigned readings. Lecture notes and additional handouts will be made available throughout the quarter. The computer and database exercises are designed to give you “hands-on” experience with marketing research analyses. Students are expected to have read and analyzed all reading material thoroughly prior to coming to class as well as to make progress on the project. Project teams should arrange times to meet with their group regularly outside of class hours.

Group Work

We will divide the class into teams, and the marketing research project will be done within that team. I expect class members to select their own teams. The best group size is four to five people. Each team should strive for diversity. *You should submit to me a list of the persons comprising your group along with your group's name by the end of the first class session.*

Although the differing strengths of group members often have a synergistic effect on group performance, irreconcilable group differences do sometimes occur and should be brought to my attention as soon as possible. Everyone in a team is expected to contribute equally to the research project. Both quantity and quality matter, and everyone should complete an online assessment of each member's contribution to the research project at the end of the quarter. This information will be used as part of the class participation grade (see below). Your answers will be kept completely confidential—only I will see them.

Grading Criteria

Your grade in the course will be based on both individual and group work. Grades will be computed as follows:

A.	Midterm Exam	20%
B.	Marketing research project	45%
C.	Case analyses	20%
D.	Class participation and project contribution	15%

Please note that ***late assignments will not be accepted (unless you have made a prior arrangement with the professor), and the exam will be administered only during the scheduled time/date.*** Please ensure that you will be in town during the dates of the exam, case discussions and presentation. A detailed outline of the evaluation procedure and requirements follows.

Grades will be assigned on the following basis:

>94%	4.0
94%	3.9
93%	3.8
Etc.	

A. Midterm Exam (20%)

The midterm exam is an in-class exam administered only during the scheduled time/date and is designed to test your ability to apply material from the assigned readings, class discussion, and any supplementary readings and exercises presented during the first half of the course. The exam is closed book and closed notes, although you may use one 8 ½ x

11” single-sided page of notes (typed and/or handwritten). This page of notes must be individually prepared. You must turn in this page along with your blue book and exam.

B. Marketing Research Project (45%)

A marketing research field project will be an important component of this course. Each team will find a client and conduct an agreed-upon research project. This project will give you an opportunity to design and conduct a full-fledged piece of marketing research in an area of your own choosing that has both an exploratory and a descriptive (or causal) primary research component. Because the research project will involve a considerable amount of time and effort, it is vitally important that you work on a project that you find interesting. You are expected to meet outside the class throughout the quarter with your group with the purpose of designing, conducting and reporting on an original research project. Note that ***MKTG560 projects successfully completed on behalf of external clients (those outside the University) qualify as one of the three “practical experience activities” required for graduation.***

For this project, your team will act in the role of a marketing research supplier working for a client. Clients can be for-profit or non-profit organizations here on campus, in Seattle or the surrounding areas. There must be an actual person or persons acting as your client(s) with whom you negotiate the details of the research. In working on the project, you will complete all aspects of the marketing research process we discuss in class. Specifically, you will gather secondary research, conduct the primary marketing research studies (both qualitative and quantitative), including sampling, questionnaire development, data collection, data analysis, and finish with a written report and presentation that provides your strategic recommendations based upon your research.

There are five deliverables for this project (see course schedule for due dates).

Specifics of Deliverables

1. Team composition. You should submit: (1) the name of your team, and (2) the names of the 4-5 people in your team.
2. Client information. You should submit the company name and contact information of your selected client. By this time, you must have the client’s approval and have begun a preliminary discussion of the research purpose and objectives. You may select any real business problem provided that it is relevant for marketing and requires gathering primary data.
3. Research brief (5% of final grade). You should complete the “UW Research Brief” template that is available on Canvas. This brief should contain information about a real business problem, which will be the focus of your study. Within this brief, you should clearly identify the marketing issues you are working on and translate these issues into a set of sharply posed and answerable research questions. Be sure the

project is do-able in the time frame you have, and it involves original data collection through (1) focus groups or in-depth interviews and (2) a survey or experiment. In this brief, you should report your secondary research findings (specific statistics and references) from at least 5 sources, one of which should be SimplyMap.

4. Research proposal and presentation (10% of final grade). ***Before any survey or experimental research is undertaken, teams must prepare a project proposal that is approved by the professor and client.*** In your proposal, you should present the specifics of your qualitative research as well as discuss how your exploratory research (both secondary research findings and qualitative research findings) influenced your hypotheses and proposed quantitative research efforts (5 double-spaced pages maximum, 12-point Times New Roman font and 1" margins). You should be specific when describing your qualitative research methods as well as your findings. For example, for the qualitative results, you should explicitly provide overarching themes with illustrative quotes from participants. See details in the Appendix for what you should report for your exploratory primary research.

In addition, you should explicitly state your hypotheses and specify how your research design and questionnaire will help you to test these hypotheses. In particular, you should attach a copy of your questionnaire to the end of your proposal (no more than 15 questions). For each question, you should identify (1) the scale as nominal, ordinal, interval or ratio, and (2) its purpose (e.g., independent or dependent variable needed to test your first hypothesis, to provide sample demographics).

5. Final research presentation, written report, and peer evaluation (30% of final grade). During the last week of the quarter, you will make an oral presentation of your research to the class (15 minutes for presentation and 3 minutes for questions). This allows all class members to learn from each of the various projects. You should ***email to the T.A. your PowerPoint presentation slides no later than an hour before class begins. No changes can be made to this presentation after this point.*** Your PowerPoint document should be saved as "group #_client." For example, if you are group #3 and your client is Starbucks, your file would be saved as "group3_Starbucks." In addition to sending your PowerPoint document to the TA, you should bring to class one presentation handout (with 3 slides per page) to give to the professor at the beginning of class.

You are welcome to invite your client to hear these final class presentations. Otherwise, you should arrange to present your research to your client outside class time.

A hard copy of your final research report is due no later than the scheduled day of the final exam for this class. The written report should be professional and will be graded according to the criteria provided in the Appendix. The report should be no longer than 20 double-spaced pages in total (excluding appendices and references; 12-point Times New Roman font and 1" margins) and should follow the format provided in the Appendix. In addition to turning in your written research report, you should individually

complete the peer evaluation of yourself and your teammates using the link posted on Canvas.

C. Case Analyses (20%)

In addition to the in-class cases that we will discuss in class (which count as part of your class participation grade), there are four graded cases that should be prepared individually. You will need to submit *a hard copy of your analysis at the beginning of class*. Assignment questions will be posted on Canvas. The four cases are:

1. The Coop
2. Boston Fights Drugs
3. Political Polls
4. Gotham Giants

D. Class Participation and Project Contribution (15%)

A substantial part of the benefit that you will derive from this course is a function of your willingness to expose your viewpoints and conclusions to the critical judgment of the class, as well as your ability to build upon and critically evaluate the judgments of your classmates. In addition to completing the in-class cases and assignments, participation in class discussion is extremely important and each student is expected to contribute.

Please feel free to ask questions and to voice your ideas and opinions. In general, you should view preparing cases and exercises as an opportunity to practice using the concepts and tools you will be exposed to during this course. I expect each class member to be prepared at all times to comment in any class session. To reinforce this expectation, I will “cold call” throughout the ensuing discussion (whether or not your hand is raised).

Grading class participation is necessarily subjective. Some of the criteria for evaluating effective class participation include:

1. Is the participant prepared? Do comments show evidence of analysis of the readings? Do comments add to our understanding of the situation? Does the student go beyond simple repetition of facts without analysis and conclusions? Do comments show an understanding of theories, concepts, and analytical devices presented in class lectures or reading materials?
2. Is the participant a good listener? Are the points made relevant to the discussion? Are they linked to the comments of others? Is the participant willing to interact with other class members?
3. Is the participant an effective communicator? Are concepts presented in a concise and convincing fashion?

Keep in mind that your grade for class participation is not simply a function of the amount of "air time" you take up. In general, I will evaluate you on how well you respond

to questions and on how effectively you take into account the comments and analyses of your classmates. In order to obtain a grade for class participation you must attend the class sessions, especially those involving case discussions (please let me know in advance if you cannot attend a session). Disruptive behavior (e.g., talking with classmates when someone else is speaking, failing to turn off your cell phone, arriving late or leaving early) will have a negative impact on your participation grade. Furthermore, because I want to encourage your active involvement in this course and because laptops (and other electronic devices) can be distracting to both the user and those sitting nearby, I subscribe to the School's policy that expects you will not access email, surf the Internet, or instant message others during class.

As mentioned above, your participation grade will also be based upon your contributions to group assignments outside of class. Peer evaluations are the basis for this and must be submitted on the day the final research report is due.

Academic Honesty

Everything that you submit is assumed to be your own, original work—work that has been done solely for the purposes of this class. Proper references are required whenever the ideas of another are used in your submissions (i.e., ideas of anyone other than the author(s) of the submitted work regardless of whether this person is a friend, co-worker and/or a published author). This includes citing the authors of the textbook whenever referring to concepts or examples from the book. Moreover, by submitting an exam, you are pledging that you have neither given nor received specific information about the exam from other students (e.g., answers, information about the difficulty of the exam or hints about the questions asked). You may prepare for the exam as a team. However, the one page of notes that you use during the exam must be completed independently. I employ the policies and procedures espoused by the Foster School of Business Honor Code to maintain academic integrity in the course. This Honor Code expressly prohibits cheating, attempted cheating, plagiarism, and lying to administration or faculty as it pertains to academic work. Suspected violations of the Honor Code will be referred to the Foster Honor Council as outlined within the Honor Code

(<http://www.foster.washington.edu/academic/mba/currentstudents/Documents/Honor%20Code/Honor%20Code%20Booklet%202011-12.pdf>).

Appendix

Organization and Grading of MKTG 560 Marketing Research Report

Your research report should be organized as follows:

- Cover/Title Page
- Table of Contents
- Executive Summary
- I. Background
- II. Overview of Methodologies for Exploratory and Conclusive Research
- III. Exploratory Primary Research
 - a. Methodology
 - b. Findings
 - c. Conclusions and Motivation for Conclusive Research
- IV. Conclusive Primary Research
 - a. Methodology
 - b. Findings
- V. Discussion
 - a. Limitations
 - b. Conclusions and Strategic Recommendations
- References/Bibliography
- Appendices
- Tables
- Figures

Your report will be graded as follows:

Deliverable (Section in Report)	Expectation	Max.
1. Identification of the research purpose (Background)	Your clients may need help in explicating their problem. Note: the company does not need to have a “problem” but may need to make a decision. Many companies will simply want you to get a “feel” of their customers/market. This is a good example of a company that needs help in identifying their problem. Ask them what they would like to do once they have this feel—introduce a new product, change prices, change advertising, etc. With this decision focus in mind, it is fine to get a “feel” of the customers as you know exactly what you will do with this understanding. Without this focus, you are wasting your time and theirs. In this section, clearly state your client’s decision alternatives and how the research you conduct will help to choose between them.	___/ 2
2. Report secondary research (Background)	Identify what information you can get without incurring the cost of primary research by consulting a minimum of five different sources, at least one of which should be from SimplyMap. Conclude by evaluating your secondary sources and from this,	___/ 10

	clearly state the gaps that primary data needs to fill by identifying what you already know and what you still need to find out.	
3. Identification of the research objective (Background)	Explicitly state the research questions and hypotheses that you will address in the conclusive phase of your research as well as the boundaries of your study. Some problems are very large (e.g., market entry decisions) and need a research program. If this is the case for you, then convert the problem into sub-pieces that an individual project could tackle. Choose one of these “sub-pieces” as the focus of your research.	___/ 5
4. Research design (Overview of Methodologies for Exploratory and Conclusive Research)	Evaluate the various research methods to identify which of those would be most appropriate and why. Discuss the role of all three research methods (exploratory, descriptive and causal) at various stages of your research project and mention one strong reason as to why you are using one method over another or are using a mix of methods.	___/ 3
5. Report exploratory primary research (Methodology and Findings for Exploratory Research and Appendix)	This could be two focus groups (with 4-5 participants per group) or in-depth interviews (with 8-10 participants). Provide details as to what the primary goal of the exploratory research is (e.g., to identify later research directions, to get complementary data to help with understanding quantitative results, to assess whether a questionnaire to be fielded later is comprehensive in the issues it covers, to develop or refine hypotheses, etc.), and how this influenced your choice between focus groups or IDIs (avoid explaining your choice by stating what was “easier”). Provide the sample demographics, and include as an Appendix a written script of the focus group/IDI questions. For the results, you should identify themes and provide a few quotes from the discussions/ interviews that best illustrate each theme. At the end, evaluate what you learned from the exploratory research and how this will specifically help you design your descriptive or causal research.	___/ 10
6. Pretest the questionnaire (Methodology for Conclusive Research)	Use a small convenience sample (n = 2-5). Report how you conducted your pretest and the changes made (if any) to the questionnaire.	___/ 3
7. Questionnaire design (Appendix)	Your final questionnaire (included as an appendix) should have an introduction, ask the right questions, in the proper order, worded correctly, using suitable open- and closed-ended scales. BE SURE THAT THE QUESTIONS YOU ASK AND THE MANNER IN WHICH YOU ASK THEM WILL ALLOW YOU TO DO THE ANALYSIS YOU WANT AND ARE REQUIRED TO DO (See #9 on data analysis).	___/ 10
8. Identify sample and sampling plan	Justify your choice of sampling method (convenience, mall intercepts, etc.). Be specific about your sample—how	___/ 5

(Methodology for Conclusive Research)	many were sampled, their demographic profile and how your sample compares to your population. You should aim for a minimum of 50 participants.	
9. Analyze the data (Findings for Conclusive Research and Appendix)	<p>Use SPSS for descriptives, frequencies and cross-tabulations (between two or more variables). You will be graded on the correctness and comprehensiveness of your analyses.</p> <p>You should provide the descriptive statistics for all of your questions, and provide the test statistics involving all of your questions (not including questions included only to describe your sample)—otherwise, you are revealing that you included question(s) that were unnecessary and irrelevant to your research purpose and objectives.</p> <p>Although you may use one test statistic primarily to test your hypotheses, you should report in total AT LEAST THREE of the following four:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tests of mean differences (t-tests or ANOVAs) 2. Tests of proportion/frequency differences (chi-squares) 3. Test of associations (correlations) 4. Test of relationships or to make predictions (regressions) 	___/ 20
10. Identify research limitations (Limitations)	You are not expected to have conducted the perfect research. You are expected to know its limitations, without which you will not know how much in error you may be. List the limitations (both sampling errors as well as nonsampling errors) and what aspects of your conclusions this affects. You should also include areas of future research that address these limitations.	___/ 6
11. Implications and recommendations (Conclusions and Recommendations)	Address how the research helped answer the business problems and research questions identified earlier. Make recommendations to your client based on your research results.	___/ 6
12. Presentation	Your presentation and Q&A session should be engaging, memorable, professional and persuasive while within the time allotted. You should clearly present the methodology, findings and how these lead to your strategic recommendations. At the same time, your presentation should stand out and your recommendations “stick.” Be creative!	___/15
13. Professionalism	Your report should be turned in on time, and free from spelling and grammatical errors. There should be an Executive Summary, Table of Contents, and References/Bibliography in addition to the text and Appendices. The entire report should also be the appropriate page length, follow the required formatting, with all pages bound in a folder/binder.	___/ 5
	TOTAL:	/100