

University of Swaziland  
Faculty of Humanities &  
Institute of Distance Education  
Department of Theology & Religious Studies

**2015/2016 Supplementary Examination Paper, July 2016**

**Course Code** : TRS 300  
**Course Title** : Research Methodology  
**Duration** : 2 hrs

Instructions

- a. Choose and answer three (3) questions.
- b. Make sure you accurately label the questions you have opted to answer.
- c. Write in clear and grammatically correct sentences.
- d. Indicate on the cover page of your answer script the name of your programme of study and whether you are a fulltime or IDE student.

\*NB: All questions are worth 25 marks.

**DO NOT OPEN THIS EXAMINATION PAPER UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR  
GRANTS YOU PERMISSION TO DO SO.**

## TRS 300: Research Methodology (S), July 2016

### Question 1

Elaborate on the following statement to comprehensively demonstrate the value and importance of conducting research in various settings.

“The purpose of research is to inform action” (*Annual Review of Public Health*, 2009:151)

### Question 2

Explain the necessity of dissemination of research results using helpful illustrations where necessary.

### Question 3

Of the following scenarios, identify those in which use of deception by a researcher(s) would be justified and those in which it would not be. Explain your answer in each case.

- a high failure rate in a particular course has been observed over a five-year period by the course lecturer who needs to diagnose the causes towards identification of teaching and learning strategies that can lead to better student performance
- a flurry of birth defects in a particular community is suspected to result from expectant mothers ingesting a traditional palliative medicine that is administered in the last trimester to facilitate an easy delivery
- behavioural responses of inmates towards HIV and AIDS stigmatisation in a national context where there is an extremely high infection rate
- income levels and quality of life among sex workers in four peri-urban centres in the Manzini region
- dangers of syringe exchanges among drug users within a homeless youth population in an inner city locale

### Question 4

Formulate a feasible research problem from each of the following scenarios:

- in a particular course, a lecturer observes that students commit the same mistakes in the examination that they committed in their continuous assessment work despite that the lecturer had alerted the students of these mistakes through written feedback on their continuous assessment scripts
- citing comparative statistical data, the local electronic and print media reported at the commencement of the annual *Umhlanga* ceremony in mid August 2015 that participation of maidens in this national ceremony has been rising steadily in the past five years
- one of the findings of an ethnographic study by Hilda Kuper (1947) is that Swazi Christian converts are not given to theological analysis of their newly found faith

- in July 2015, the Minister of Home Affairs in Swaziland promulgated a ban on the operations of Christian prophets in response to media reports on the act by one Prophet from one of the Pentecostal and Charismatic Churches in Swaziland instructing congregants to eat objects like grass and hair extensions
- students at the University of Swaziland (UNISWA) have taken to staging prolonged class boycotts every academic year since 2007/2008 leading to periodic closures of the university following breakdown of order and consequent threat to life and property

#### **Question 5**

Discuss some of the common pitfalls attendant to students' development of research proposals.

#### **Question 6**

Explain why informed consent of participants is continuously negotiated during the research task.

#### **Question 7**

Identify and explain the factors on which the choice of a data collection method(s) for any particular study is critically dependent.

#### **Question 8**

Discuss the defining characteristics of inauthentic and poor quality data contained in any research report of a completed qualitative study.

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