

Research Methods

ORGB-C360-A52

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1st 8 Weeks [8-18 to 10-13]

Tuesday 6¹⁵ – 10¹⁵

Monroe Hall 535

Required Text:

Babbie, E. (2004). The practice of social research (10th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson.

Course Description & Objectives:

This course, Research Methods, is designed to offer the undergraduate student the opportunity to delve into the realm of research as undertaken in an academic setting. Existing social policy and the laws under which we live on a daily basis are derived from academic research. Therefore, it is imperative for the student of social sciences to understand the underlying mechanisms from which political social policy is derived.

This course will expose the student to a variety of differing research methodologies as well as more unusual research options undertaken by some, more venturesome researchers with large budgets. Initially, students will read the traditional textbook, outlining the basic concepts of research in an effort to gain an understanding of fundamental uses of social research, and the ethics by which any social researcher must abide. As the semester progresses, students will be required to read articles written by social researchers in a variety of fields in an effort to critically analyze the methodologies utilized and the ethical underpinnings of such research.

Attendance & Participation:

Class attendance is expected. A student cannot expect to pass this course without attending class. This course is quite fast paced. If a student has any expectation of earning a passing grade they must be attendance for all class periods.

Assignments & Exams:

Students will be asked throughout the course of this semester to complete a variety of small article assignments. The due dates for these are listed on the

syllabus. Each assignment will be detailed on a separate sheet of paper and will be handed out in class as the semester progresses. Students will be given plenty of time to complete each assignment. Late assignments will be penalized by 50%.

Exams/quizzes will initially consist of a mixture of multiple choice and true/false items. As students gain a broader knowledge of the material test items will become more complex with short answer and essay items appearing. The final exam will be discussed at a later date. It will be a combination of all test items from the previous 4 exams.

Make-Up Exams/Quizzes:

Any student requiring a make-up exam must contact the instructor PRIOR to the regularly scheduled exam period. Contact may be made via e-mail, telephone, or written note. Quizzes requested after the regularly scheduled exam period may be permitted based on instructor discretion.

Grading:

Grading will be on a points scale. There will be no curving of grades. Each of the 4 exams/quizzes will be worth 100 points and the final will be worth 200 points. The 3 small article assignments will be worth 25 points.

The grading scale is below:

Total Points	675
A	675 – 607
B	606 – 540
C	539 - 506
D	505 – 405
F	404 - Below

Class Schedule:

August 19

Opening remarks, syllabus
Part I – An Introduction to Inquiry
Chapter 1: Human Inquiry and Science
Chapter 2: Paradigms, Theory and Social Research
Chapter 3: The Ethics and Politics of Social Research
Read ‘Readings in Social Research Methods’ Chapter 1: Intro,
Chapter 2, pgs. 19 – 22
Review for Exam/Quiz #1: Part I

August 26

Exam/Quiz #1: Part I
Begin Part II – The Structure of Inquiry
Chapter 4: Research Design
Chapter 5: Conceptualization, Operationalization, and
Measurement

Read 'Readings..' Chapter 3: Ethics; Chapter 4, pgs. 79 – 82,
Chapter 5, pgs. 101 – 110
Article Assignment #1: Tuskegee Experiment & Nazi Medical
Research [Due September 9]

September 2

Finish Part II – The Structure of Inquiry
Chapter 6: Indexes, Scales and Typologies
Chapter 7: The Logic of Sampling
Read 'Readings...', Chapter 6, pgs. 133 –136 & 141 – 147;
Chapter 7, pgs. 155 - 158
Begin Part III – Modes of Observation
Chapter 8: Experiments
Read 'Readings..' Chapter 8, pgs. 174 – 177 & 194 - 199
Review for Exam/Quiz #2: Part II

September 9

Exam/Quiz #2: Part II
Continue Part III – Modes of Observation
Chapter 9: Survey Research
Chapter 10: Qualitative Field Research
Chapter 11: Unobtrusive Research
Read 'Readings..' Chapter 9, pgs. 201 –205; Chapter 10, pgs.
235 – 237 & 248 – 255;
Article Assignment #2: Census & Election Surveys [Due Sep. 23]

September 16

Finish Part III – Modes of Observation
Chapter 12: Evaluation Research
Begin Part IV – Analysis of Data
Chapter 13: Qualitative Data Analysis
Chapter 14: Quantitative Data Analysis
Read 'Readings..' Chapter 11, pgs. 257 - 272
Review for Exam/Quiz #3: Part III
Article Assignment #3: Boot Camp Evaluation [Due Sep. 30]

September 23

Exam/Quiz #3: Part III
Continue Part IV – Analysis of Data
Chapter 15: The Elaboration Model
Chapter 16: Social Statistics
Chapter 17: Reading and Writing Social Research
Read 'Readings..' Chapter 12, pgs. 283 - 291
Review for Exam/Quiz #4

September 30

Exam/Quiz #4: Part IV
Closing Remarks and Review for Final Examination

October 7

Final Exam