

Research Methods for the Social and Behavioral Sciences
SBS 2000 ID
Spring 2017
Course Syllabus

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Meeting Times and Locations: M230-5pm, Nam 922

M 6pm-830pm, Midway 322

W 6pm-830pm, Midway 322

Course info and documents are all available on Blackboard

Course Description: An introduction to the research methodologies utilized in the social and behavioral sciences, beginning with the fundamentals of research design, through data collection, analysis, interpretation, and the final reporting of results. Both quantitative and qualitative designs are examined using software to aid in inquiry and analysis.

Interdisciplinary Course*: The interdisciplinary theme of this course will be on creating and evaluating research using various scientific methodologies across disciplines, but with a principal interest in focusing on the perspectives of Psychology and Economics in research design, data collection and analysis/interpretation of findings.

Required Readings:

Title: Making Sense of the Social World: Methods of Investigation

Edition: 5th edition (4th edition is okay)

Author: Chambliss, David F. and Schutt, Russell K.

5 Additional scholarly articles will be assigned over the semester.

Capstone Course Statement:

This course fulfills the LAA/LAS Associate Capstone requirement, though it can also be taken for other requirements and electives. The City Tech LAA/LAS Associate Capstone is designed for students entering their second year in the program. LAA/LAS Associate Capstone courses are meant to prepare students to continue their studies in a bachelor's degree, third-year, or junior, level. In addition, Associate Capstone courses are meant to help students develop an awareness of the importance of knowledge, values and skills developed in general education courses; and to integrate this knowledge, these values and

these skills into their advanced academic study and professional careers. Please ask the instructor if you have any questions about what the LAA/LAS Associate Capstone requirement entails.

Learning Objectives:

LEARNING OUTCOMES	ASSESSMENT METHOD
1. Students in the course will examine and understand the theoretical approaches underlying research methods in a historical, cultural, and ethical context; an introduction to the various types of research methods	1. Classroom discussion of theoretical approaches; to identify factual material; in-class and Open Lab participation in discussion or readings on theoretical approaches.
2. Describe and understand the importance of ethics in research from historical, political, social and cultural perspectives and to critically analyze risks vs benefits of conducting research.	2. Classroom discussion surrounding studies on ethics; in-class or on-line group discussion in response to the ethics of studies and conducting research with human subjects; discuss of informed consent form to be included in with project; certification conducting research with human subjects-Institutional Review board.
3. Examine quantitative and qualitative research designs; understand the differences between the two and develop an understanding of when and how to apply each design technique.	3. Class discussion examining current research articles and projects that use quantitative, and/or qualitative, research design; in-class or on-line group discussion and participation activities of the benefits/drawbacks of each.
4. Examine survey/questionnaire creation using reliability and validity measures including appropriate data collection methods and analysis.	4. Classroom discussions of appropriate Likert scale construction, reliability and validity; in-class group discussion.
5. Understand the purpose of correlational methodology and analysis of appropriate use of correlational designs.	5. Classroom discussions about cause and effect vs. correlation between variables.
6. Examine the logic behind the construction and use of experimental designs and quasi-experimental designs.	6. Classroom discussions on experimental and quasi-experimental designs; in-class discussion on assigned reading on experimental design.
7. Understand the proper procedures for preparation, construction and completion of an APA style for annotated bibliography, final in-class presentation and Emerging Scholars poster presentation.	7. Classroom discussions; review of APA style of documentation. Student poster presentations of research projects. *Extra credit will be given for all students who also present their research in the Emerging Scholars Poster Presentation.

8. Understand the concept of causality and how to determine causality utilizing empirical data	8. Students will be able to distinguish between the concepts of causality and correlation among variables. This can be tested through discussion of sample problems.
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GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT:

LEARNING OUTCOMES	ASSESSMENT
1. Knowledge: To develop an understanding of the key concepts and methods of analysis used in conducting research; to develop analytical and critical thinking capabilities through comparing and contrasting the application of various theories and concepts to the understanding of social problems	1. Discussion of theories and concepts with a focus on developing the ability to distinguish major differences; Students will possess the ability to articulate these ideas and concepts through class and on-line discussions, in written assignments, participation activities, and the group research project proposal
2. Skills: Develop and apply the requisite tools and skills necessary to identify and understand the types of methods best suited for investigating different types of problems and questions.	2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the basic types of research methods and to assess which are best suited for particular research questions. They should also develop the ability to clearly express in writing, on exams and in class discussions, their research design and why it is the most effective method to address their research proposal goals.
3. Integration: Development of student's ability to create research questions that are based upon and build upon a critical appraisal of existing research across disciplines.	3. Students will be able to formulate questions and build upon a critical appraisal of existing research across disciplines. that are appropriate to different types of research projects in related disciplines; assessment of this ability will be measured via the final research project, on exams and in class discussions and participation activities focused on this learning outcome.
4. Values, Ethics and Relationships: Develop an understanding of the fundamental concepts of research design and to apply these concepts to an understanding of how the scientific method can be applied to understanding human behavior and social systems; work creatively with others in group problem	4. By the end of the course, students will demonstrate an understanding of the scientific method in the context of the term research proposal. This will involve identifying the problem and relevant variables so that the most appropriate method can be applied to the research proposal.

solving; develop a respect for diverse viewpoints and apply the skills and concepts covered in the course to the analysis of real-world issues and concepts across disciplines.	
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Academic Integrity at City Tech:

Students and all others who work with information, ideas, texts, images, music, inventions, and other intellectual property owe their audience and sources accuracy and honesty in using, crediting, and citing sources. As a community of intellectual and professional workers, the College recognizes its responsibility for providing instruction in information literacy and academic integrity, offering models of good practice, and responding vigilantly and appropriately to infractions of academic integrity. Accordingly, academic dishonesty is prohibited in The City University of New York and at New York City College of Technology and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, suspension, and expulsion.

NYCCT statement on academic integrity

What is academic dishonesty?

Academic dishonesty occurs when individuals plagiarize or cheat in the course of their academic work.

Plagiarism is the presenting of someone else's ideas without proper credit or attribution.

These ideas could come

from:

1. Information obtained from books, journals or other printed sources.
2. The work of other students or of faculty.
3. Information from the Internet.
4. Software programs or other electronic material.
5. Designs produced by other students or faculty.

Cheating is the unauthorized use or attempted use of material, information, notes, study aids, devices or

communication during an academic exercise. Examples of cheating include:

1. Copying from another student during an examination or allowing another to copy your work.
2. Unauthorized collaboration on a take-home assignment or examination.
3. Using notes during a closed-book examination.
4. Taking an examination for another student, or asking or allowing another student to take an examination for you.
5. Changing a graded exam and returning it for more credit.
6. Submitting substantial portions of the same paper to more than one course without consulting each instructor.
7. Preparing answers or writing notes in an exam manual before an examination.

8. Allowing others to research and write assigned papers or do assigned projects, including the use of commercial term paper services.
9. Giving assistance to acts of academic misconduct/dishonesty.
10. Fabricating data.
11. Unauthorized use of electronic devices such as cell phones, text messaging devices, palm pilots, computers or other technologies to retrieve or send information during an exam.

Course Requirements:

Citi training in the first 4 weeks of semester: 10%

Chapter quizzes on black board: 20%

Midterm and final Exams: 40% (20% each)

In class participation/journal discussion: 10%

Independent research final project which is worked on all semester: 20%

Participation and Attendance:

A student may be absent without penalty for 10% of the number of scheduled class meetings during the semester as follows:

Class Meets:	Allowable Absence:
1 time/week	2 classes
2 times/week	3 classes
3 times/week	4 classes

Attendance and class participation will account for 10% of this class. If you miss more than 4 classes you will be docked roughly 1 point off your final grade for each class missed.

Policies:

-There will be no make up for missed exams without proper documentation!!! This means that if you have to miss an exam for ANY reason I will need proper documentation to give a make up exam (Dr's note, photocopy of Obituary, sports schedule, etc.). Also, there will be absolutely no papers accepted late for any reason. The same thing goes for quizzes taken during class.

-if you are registered with the Office for Students with disabilities, please email me and set up whatever accommodations you need with me PRIOR to exams and assignments. The letter grade equivalent for your final grade will be assigned according to the following scale:

GRADE	NUMERICAL RANGES
A	93-100
A-	90-92.9
B+	87-89.9
B	83-86.9
B-	80-82.9
C+	77-79.9
C	70-76.9
D	60-69.9
F	59.9 and below

Schedule of Classes

Week 1	Introduction to Research in Social Science/ Choosing a Project
Week 2	The Scientific Approach/ Journal Article #1
Week 3	Ethics in Social Science, IRB and certification <i>Guest Speaker: Eva Egolf Ed.D - Observational research on How DJs learn</i> Citi Training Due
Week 4	Problem Formulation and Theory Development Conducting a Literature Review Hypothesis Testing and Operationalizing Variables Writing an Introduction Blackboard Quiz #1
Week 5	Sampling, Selection Bias; Observational Methods Archival Research Case Studies

Guest Speaker: Angela DeSouza- Anthropology

- Week 6 Constructing a Methods Section/ **Journal Article #2**
- Week 7 Quasi-Experimental Designs
Midterm Exam
- Week 8 Survey Research & Questionnaire Construction
Guest Speaker: Walter Gomez MSW-UCSF
- Week 9 Introduction to Data Collection and Qualitative Analysis
Bi-variate Distributions
Writing a Results Section
- Week 10 Introduction to Research Design: True Experiments
Guest Speaker: Keith Whitmoyer- Philosophy
Blackboard quiz #2
- Week 11 Writing the Full Research Report, Implications
Journal Article #3
- Week 12 Conclusions and Future Directions
Guest Speaker: Jon Rendina Phd, Hunter CHEST program.
- Week 13 Group Research Presentations/Papers Due
- Week 14 Group Presentations
- Week 15 Final Exam