***SBS 2000 Research Methods for the Behavioral and Social Sciences***

***New York City College of Technology, CUNY***

## Prof. Judith Sedaitis Class hours: 3

## [jsedaitis@citytech.cuny.edu](mailto:jsedaitis@citytech.cuny.edu) Credits: 3

***Mondays 6- 8:30 pm***

**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.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Students will develop in the following areas the ability to:

1. Knowledge: understand how to use scientific methodology and then generalize this knowledge across different social and behavioral disciplines to test hypotheses.
2. Skills: create and evaluate research using various scientific methodologies across different disciplines.
3. Integration: utilize the skills developed during this course to build upon material presented in other courses outside the boundaries of social and behavioral science.
4. Values, Ethics, and Relationships: develop an understanding of the values, ethics and diverse perspectives that lead to an understanding of the conclusions that are based on scientific evidence through working with others in developing and testing hypotheses.

**Student Assessments:**

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Discussion of theories and concepts with a focus on developing the ability to apply theory as a foundation for applied research; Students will be assessed as to how best they articulate these ideas and concepts through in-class and on-line discussions, in written assignments, group participation activities, and a group research project proposal and presentation. |
| 2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the basic types of research methods and to assess which are best suited for particular research questions. Students will be assessed as to how best they articulate these ideas and concepts through class exams, class discussions, and research design projects. |
| 3. Students will be able to formulate questions 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. 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 a problem and relevant variables so that the most appropriate method can be applied to the research proposal. |

**Textbook:**

Required: Title: *Making Sense of the Social World: Methods of Investigation*; Edition: 4th edition, Author: Chambliss, David F. and Schutt, Russell K. Publisher: Pine Forge Press, 2012.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **IN Class** | **HOMEWORK** |
| 1  2/2 | 1. Introduction to Social and Behavioral Research Methodologies    1. Why use the scientific method? 2. Levels of analysis 3. Ethics    1. Why are ethics necessary?    2. CITI certification |  |
| 2  2/9 | 1. Problems in reasoning    1. Two types of Validity 2. The role of theory    1. inductive and deductive reasoning    2. forming a testable question. | Textbook: read and summarizes on paper Chapter 1: focus on p pp2-6; 11-13. |
| 3  **WED**.  2/18 | **FIRST QUIZ; Bring a pencil.**   1. Cross-Sectional, Longitudinal, or Cross Sequential?    1. Constructing the consent form    2. Review of common research methods       1. descriptive       2. correlations       3. experimental | Chapter 2: pp 19-29: Summarize definitions and main points. Then also answer questions 1 and 2, under “Discussing Research.” Study class notes. |
| 4  2/23 | Library workshop: How to conduct a literature review.   1. Using APA Style 2. Literature Review 3. Designing the Research Project | Designing the research project; the role of theory |
| 5  3/2 | Professor Jean Hillstrom on research ethics   1. Ethics of social science research.    1. Milgram    2. Zimbardo | Find one research article on the topic of your group. Summarize the article’s background literature, research question & method. |
| 6  3/9 | Guest speaker on Economic research OR focus groups and marketing research.   1. Levels of Measurement    1. Nominal, Ordinal, Interval, Ratio 2. Descriptive Statistics and Inferential Statistics | Read Chapter 4: esp., pp. 71-80 & summarize. |
| 7  3/16 | **SECOND QUIZ; Bring a pencil.**   1. Surveys and Questionnaires 2. Focus Groups 3. Sampling | Chapter 5: read and summarize pp 90 – 99 & answer Discussing research Questions 1 and 2. |
| 8  3/23 | Group work devising your own hypotheses and survey instruments. How to search for existing measures/ scales. | Read & summarize Chapter 7; 130 – 135. |
| 9  3/30 | Professor Jean Hillstrom on psychology experiments.   1. Experimental Designs 2. Psychology projects experiment in class. | Read summarize Chapter 6. pp.107-123 & answer #1 under “Discussion Research” |
|  | SPRING BREAK!! COLLECT DATA!! |  |
| 10  4/13 | 1. How to analyze and Display Data with SPSS    1. Means test/Anova    2. Frequency & descriptive.    3. Crosstabs    4. Regression | Data collection period for survey research ends. Read Chapter 8 pp 156-172 & summarize. |
| 11  3/20 | Professor Kim Felsenthal on oral history and ethnographic case study.   1. Case Studies, Oral History, Archival Research, Ethnography 2. Interviews and Conversation Analysis | Read and summarize Chapter 9 pp. 179 – 197. Answer Discussing Research question #4. |
| 12  3/27 | Preparation and Organization of Research Project | Read and summarize Chapter 11, pp 272-278. |
| 13  4/4 | Poster Presentation Student Reviews and Comments | ALL individual papers DUE. |
| 14  4/11 | Final Poster Presentation |  |
| 15  4/18 | Final Exam |  |