

Social Research: SOCI 3462

Spring 2018

Lecture MWF 9-9:50, UH 02

Lab W 10-10:50, PKH 302

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TA Office Hours: Tuesday: 11:00-12:00

TA Office: 415 University Hall

Course Description and Objectives

This course is an introduction to the basic components of research. In it, you will learn how to conduct a literature review, formulate research questions and hypotheses, design measures, create research instruments, collect data, analyze data and report the results. We will explore a variety of methodological procedures that social scientists use, such as surveys, experiments, interviews and ethnographic observation. By the end of the course, you will be able to critically assess others' research, making you a more informed reader who can evaluate the theoretical and methodological strengths of social science studies.

Course Goals

- Learn how to conduct a literature review
- Learn how to design research questions and testable hypotheses
- Gain exposure to different methods of conducting research
- Gain experience in collecting, analyzing and presenting the results of both quantitative and qualitative data
- Be able to critically evaluate the methodology of social science research

Required Texts and Materials

Textbook: Waters, Mary C., Deborah Carr, Elizabeth Heger Boyle, Benjamin Cornwell, Shelley Correll, Robert Crosnoe, Jeremy Freese, and Mary C. Waters. 2017. *The Art and Science of Social Research*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

Additional materials and assignments will be posted on the course Blackboard site, which you can access at: elearn.uta.edu. For help with Blackboard, go to: <http://www.uta.edu/blackboard/students/>

Course Requirements

1. Research Process Assignments: Throughout the semester there will be assignments that require gaining experience with some part of the research process (e.g., research design, data collection, analysis and/or reporting results). Some of these will be done in groups. There will be five of these worth 40 points each.
2. Exams: There will be a midterm exam and a final exam that will cover material from lectures, videos, class discussions, lab, and the readings. These exams will not be open-book, and you are not allowed to bring notes. The exams will include multiple choice questions and short-answer questions. Each exam will be worth 100 points.
3. Class participation and Activities: Class participation includes attending class, being an active participant by listening carefully and joining discussion, and completing activities. This category is worth 50 points.
4. Lab Participation and Activities: This category includes lab participation and various learning activities in lab. This category is worth 50 points.

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Percent of Grade</u>
Research Process Assignments	200	40%
Exam 1	100	20%
Final Exam	100	20%
Class Participation and Activities	50	10%
Lab Participation and Activities	50	10%
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Total Points	500	100%

Grading scale for course

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% or below	E

Course Policies

As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to amend the syllabus during the semester.

Attendance

Attendance will usually be taken and will count toward the class participation grade. Rather than ask for written documentation to excuse absences, I allow students to miss up to four days total for lab and class combined over the semester without penalty (so, for example 2 for lab and 2 for class, or 1 for lab and 3 for class, etc.). Note this is not 4 days for each (not 4 lab and 4 class, which would equal 8 days). Please use these absences wisely; you cannot use all your four days and then hope if additional missed days occur due to unexpected reasons like illness that I will excuse those days as well. If you prefer to use written documentation instead of the automatic four days, let me know at the beginning of the semester.

Missed Exam

A make-up exam will be scheduled for students who have talked with the professor before the exam and have an approved absence, or have had a documented illness/family emergency. If you do not have an approved absence, you can make up the test but will receive half credit.

Late Work

Late work will be accepted but will drop one letter grade for each day past the due date that the assignment is turned in. For example, an assignment due on Monday that would have received an A if turned in on time on Monday, will receive a B if turned in Tuesday and a C if turned in Wednesday. Assignments must be turned in by class time to avoid the late penalty. I will not accept work more than one week late.

Classroom Courtesy and Respectful Discussion

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and to turn off any personal electronic devices (cell phones) during class. During class, students are expected to be respectful by listening carefully to others and not engaging in disruptive or distracting behavior. Every student has the right to disagree with opinions expressed by the professor or other students, however the student must respond in a courteous, respectful way that ensures a safe and tolerant classroom environment. Hostility, intimidation or derogatory comments absolutely will not be tolerated, and students who do not act in a respectful manner will be asked to leave the class.

Course Outline and Schedule

Introduction

W 1.17.18 Welcome and Introduction to the Course

F 1.19.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 1

Linking Theory To Research and Developing Research Questions

M 1.22.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 2

W 1.24.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 2 cont.

Ethical Issues in Research

F 1.26.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 3

M 1.29.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 3 cont.

From Concepts to Models

W 1.31.18 The Art and Science of Social Research , Ch. 4

F 2.2.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 4 cont.
Research Assignment 1 Due

Reliability and Validity

M 2.5.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 5

W 2.7.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 5 cont.

Sampling

F 2.9.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 6

M 2.12.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 6 cont.

Exam 1

W 2.14.18 Review for Exam 1

F 2.16.18 Exam 1

Experiments

M 2.19.18 Movie: *Quiet Rage* (Stanford Prison Experiments)

W 2.21.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 8

F 2.23.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 8 cont.

M 2.26.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 8 cont.
Class Experiments

W 2.28.18 Zelditch: "Can You Really Study an Army in the Laboratory?"
Class Experiments

Surveys

F 3.2.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 7
Research Assignment 2 Due

M 3.5.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 7 cont.

W 3.7.18 Fowler, Ch. 4 "Designing Good Survey Instruments"

F 3.9.18 Fowler, Ch. 6: "Designing Questions to be Good Measures"

Spring Break: 3/12-3/16

Analysis of Quantitative Data

M 3.19.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 14

W 3.21.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 15

Content Analysis and Materials-Based Methods

F 3.23.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 12
Research Assignment 3 Due

M 3.26.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 12 cont.

W 3.28.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 12 cont.

Ethnography

F 3.30.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 10

M 4.2.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 10

W 4.4.18 Emerson, Fretz and Shaw, Ch. 4: “Writing Up Fieldnotes”

F 4.6.18 Goffman: “On the Run: Wanted Men in a Philadelphia Ghetto.”

Analysis of Qualitative Data

M 4.9.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 16

W 4.11.18 Emerson et al.: “Coding and Memoing”

Interviews and Analyzing Interview Data

F 4.13.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 11
Research Assignment 4 Due

M 4.16.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 11 cont.

W 4.18.18 Esterberg: Ch. 6 “Interviews”

F 4.20.18 Weiss: Ch. 7: “Writing the Report”

Evaluation Research

M 4.23.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 9

W 4.25.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 9 cont.
Research Assignment 5 Due

Social Network Analysis

F 4.27.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 13

M 4.30.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 13 cont.

Communicating Social Science Research Findings

W 5.2.18 The Art and Science of Social Research, Ch. 17

Conclusion

F 5.4.18 Course Conclusion and Review for Final Exam

Final Exam: Wednesday, May 09, 2018 from **8:00-10:30**

Course Bibliography

- Emerson, Robert M., Rachel I. Fretz, and Linda L. Shaw. 1995. *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Emerson, Robert M. 2001. *Contemporary Field Research: Perspectives and Formulations, 2nd edition*. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Press.
- Esterberg, Kristin G. 2002. *Qualitative Methods in Social Research*. Boston: McGraw-Hill.
- Fowler Jr., Floyd J. 2013. *Survey Research Methods*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- Fowler Jr., Floyd J. 1995. *Improving Survey Questions: Design and Evaluation*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- Goffman, Alice. 2009. "On the Run: Wanted Men in a Philadelphia Ghetto." *American Sociological Review* 74(3): 339-357.
- Weiss, Robert S. 1995. *Learning From Strangers: The Art and Method of Qualitative Interview Studies*. New York: The Free Press.
- Zelditch, Morris Jr. 1979. "Can You Really Study an Army in the Laboratory?" Pp. 528-39 in *A Sociological Reader on Complex Organizations*, edited by A. Etzioni. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

Additional Course Information:

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Disability Accommodations: UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a **letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability.

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

Non-Discrimination Policy: *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos.*

Title IX Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or jmhood@uta.edu.*

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code in their courses by having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Campus Carry: Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” are directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students’ anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: for semester-long courses, a period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition,

instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located at either of the main doors to the left or right of the classroom. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include [tutoring](#), [major-based learning centers](#), developmental education, [advising and mentoring](#), personal counseling, and [federally funded programs](#). For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

<p>Emergency Phone Numbers: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at 817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381</p>
