

Introduction to Social Research (01:920:311 Sections 01 & 02)
Fall 2014

Class Meetings:

Lecture: Monday & Wednesday 7:15-8:35PM

Recitation: Sect. 01 – Monday, 8:45-9:40PM; Sect. 02 – Wednesday, 8:45-9:40PM

Instructor: Ms. Brittany Battle

015 Davison Hall (Douglass Campus)

Email: brittany.battle@rutgers.edu (Please allow up to 24 hours for email response)

Office Hours: Monday 7-8PM, Wednesday 3-5PM, and By Appointment

Teaching Assistant: Ms. Teja Pristavec

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Office Hours: Wednesday 6-7PM and By Appointment

Course Overview:

Introduction to Social Research will introduce students to research methodologies in the social sciences, incorporating research from diverse disciplines including sociology, criminal justice, anthropology, social psychology, public policy, education, social work, ethnic and cultural studies, and gender studies. Research ethics and the incorporation of social justice approaches will be discussed. The course will cover each stage of research design from the conceptualization of the research question/hypothesis to the presentation of the findings. We will discuss a variety of methodological approaches including survey methods, experiments, ethnography, interview methods, cultural analysis, participatory action research, and feminist and queer methodologies. The course will incorporate both readings and lectures on the process of research design, as well as readings and class discussion on research in practice.

Course Procedures:

1. All readings are to be done **before** the class date shown on the syllabus below so that students will be prepared to discuss those materials in class. In class, I do NOT repeat the material covered in your readings, but rather, I help you synthesize that information with other assigned material or information from your experience. I am happy to answer questions of clarifications about that material in class or during office hours. All students are expected to actively participate in class discussion.
2. Due dates of assignments are listed on the syllabus below and are shown on the course Sakai site. Unless otherwise specified, assignments are to be **turned in on the course Sakai site by the date and time specified on that site. I do not accept late assignments!!** See me **in advance** if you have a religious or other obligation that conflicts with a due date and we can make alternative arrangements.

3. At times, class discussion may cover sensitive topics. Students are required to show respect at all times to their colleagues (including other students and instructors) while actively engaging as both speakers and listeners.

Grading:

Homework Assignments:	50%
Midterm Exam:	20%
Final Paper:	20%
Class/Recitation Participation:	10%

90-100=A
87-89=B+
80-86=B
77-79=C+
70-76=C
60-69=D
Below 60=F

Assignments:

Instructions for each assignment will be posted to Sakai. Read and follow the instructions carefully as points will be deducted if each requirement is not met, including incorrect document names, formatting, etc. If you have questions about any component of an assignment, contact me or the TA at least 36 hours before the assignment is due (so make sure to review the assignment instructions in advance!).

Human Subjects Certification	2.5%
Literature Search Assignment	10%
Descriptive Statistics Assignment	10%
Interview Assignment	10%
Observation Assignment	10%
Research in Practice Discussion Questions	7.5%

Exam:

The mid-term exam will include approximately 20-30 short answers that will require you to apply the concepts you will learn. Questions will be pulled from assigned readings, lectures and class discussion, and recitation activities.

Final Paper:

The course term paper will require you to conduct a pilot research study on a topic of your choosing. You will choose one of two primary methods of data collection – surveys or interviews – to obtain primary data around your topic. You will then analyze your data using the appropriate

method of data analysis. The paper will be a condensed version of a research article, much like the ones we will review over the course of the semester. Specific instructions for the paper will be available on Sakai as the due date approaches. All final papers will be run through the Turnitin program to check for plagiarism.

Required Course Materials:

1. Textbook: Chambliss, D. F. and Schutt, R. K. 2013. *Making Sense of the Social World: Methods of Investigation*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. (Referred to as C&S in syllabus)
2. Additional Readings, available on course Sakai site (All assigned readings other than C&S will be posted to Sakai site)
3. URLs for assigned online tutorials and resources, available on course Sakai site

Classroom Atmosphere:

The Department of Sociology encourages the free exchange of ideas in a safe, supportive, and productive classroom environment. To facilitate such an environment, students and faculty must act with mutual respect and common courtesy. Thus, behavior that distracts students and faculty is not acceptable. Such behavior includes cell phone use, surfing the internet, checking email, text messaging, listening to music, reading newspapers, leaving and returning, leaving early without permission, discourteous remarks, and other behaviors specified by individual instructors. Courteous and lawful expression of disagreement with the ideas of the instructor or fellow students is, of course, permitted.

If a student engages in disruptive behavior, the instructor, following University Code of Student Conduct, may direct the student to leave the class for the remainder of the class period. Serious verbal assaults, harassment, or defamation of the instructor or other students can lead to university disciplinary proceedings. The University Code of Student Conduct is available at <http://policies.rutgers.edu/PDF/Section10/10.2.11-current.pdf>

University Policy on Academic Integrity:

Students in this class are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. I will not tolerate cheating of any kind in this course, and I will report the incident directly to the appropriate college officer if I believe the university's policy on academic integrity has been violated. Cheating, plagiarism in written work, receiving and providing prohibited assistance, and sabotaging the work of others are among the behaviors that constitute violations of the Policy on Academic Integrity. You are expected to be familiar with this policy. All papers will be run through the Turnitin program to check for plagiarism. If you have questions about specific assignments, be sure to check with me or the TA. For more details, see http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf

Disability Accommodations:

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation:

ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form.

Academic Support:

Rutgers University offers various academic support for everyone including those who may be multilingual, first-generation college students, or working full-time. Please check out and take advantage of Rutgers Learning Centers' resources including peer tutoring, academic and writing coaching, and academic success workshops: rlc.rutgers.edu/student-info/group-and-individual-academic-support. In addition, the Sociology Department's Multi-Generational Mentoring (MGM) Program offers a Writing Clinic where you can receive feedback on writing assignments. For information, please see: <http://sociology.rutgers.edu/undergraduate/multigenerational-mentoring-mgm-program/multigenerational-mentoring-mgm-program>.

A Few Words to the Wise:

1. Complete all readings prior to the lecture for which they are listed. Do not wait until after I have lectured on something to read the assigned material. Come to class prepared to answer questions, ask questions, and contribute to the class discussion.
2. The readings are not substitutes for the lectures and the lectures are not substitutes for the readings. Not all material in the lectures appears in the readings and vice versa. You are responsible for all material provided in both the readings and lectures.
3. If you are having difficulty, please come to me or the teaching assistant as soon as possible. Come to office hours prepared to ask specific questions after having gone over your lecture notes, readings, and assignments. Please keep appointments that you make for alternate office hours. If you cannot make an appointment, please notify me or the teaching assistant as early as possible prior to the meeting.
4. If you miss a class, arrange to get the missed notes from a classmate. I do not post lecture slides and neither myself nor the teaching assistant will not give a condensed version of the lectures you have missed.
5. If you are too tired to stay awake or too distracted to focus in lecture, please stay home.
6. I will not inflate or curve grades during the semester or at the end of the semester. Please do not ask me to; work hard throughout the semester and you will receive the grade that you earned.

THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS NEEDED AT ANY POINT DURING THE SEMESTER. YOU MUST ATTEND LECTURE & RECITATION, AND CHECK THE COURSE SAKAI SITE & EMAIL TO BE MADE AWARE OF ANY CHANGES.

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignment Due	Recitation
Wed. Sept. 3	Course Overview			No Recitation
Mon. Sept. 8	Introduction to Social Research	C&S, Ch. 1 – Science, Society, and Social Research		Generalizability
Wed. Sept. 10	Errors in Reasoning; Generalizability			
Mon. Sept. 15	Ethical Issues in Human Subjects Research	C&S, Ch. 3 – Ethics in Research (pg. 39-53)		Ethics
Wed. Sept. 17	What is a Research Question?; Formulating a Hypothesis	C&S, Ch. 2 – The Process and Problems of Social Research (pg. 17-32)	Human Subjects Certification	
Mon. Sept. 22	Conceptualizing a Research Question and Literature Search; Citing Published Sources			Effective Literature Searches
Wed. Sept. 24	Levels of Measurement	C&S, Ch. 4 – Conceptualization and Measurement (pgs. 59-75)		
Mon. Sept. 29	Reliability and Validity	C&S, Ch. 4 – Conceptualization and Measurement (pgs. 75-80)	Literature Search Assignment	Measurement
Wed. Oct. 1	Causation and Experimental Design	C&S, Ch. 6 – Causation and Experimental Design (pg. 103-114, 119-121)		
Mon. Oct. 6	Survey Methods	C&S, Ch. 7 – Surveys (pg. 128-141, 147-150)	Paper Proposal	Survey Design
Wed. Oct. 8	Sampling and Representativeness	C&S, Ch. 5 – Sampling		
Mon. Oct. 13	Review of Statistics; Planning for Statistical Analysis	C&S, Ch. 8 – Elementary Quantitative Data Analysis		Introduction to SPSS
Wed. Oct. 15	Statistical Analysis			
Mon. Oct. 20	Research in Practice – Quantitative Analysis	Kaplan and Geling – Firearm Suicides and Homicides in the United States		Midterm Review
Wed. Oct. 22	Research in Practice – Experimental Design/Audit Study	Pager et al. – Discrimination in a Low-Wage Labor Market	Descriptive Statistics Assignment	
Mon. Oct. 27	MIDTERM EXAM			
Wed. Oct. 29	Qualitative Methods	C&S, Ch. 9 – Qualitative Methods (pgs. 178-194)		Using SPSS

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Mon. Nov. 3	Qualitative Methods	C&S, Ch. 10 – Qualitative Data Analysis (pg. 205-217)		Observation Techniques
Wed. Nov. 5	Research in Practice - Ethnography	Goffman – On the Run	Questionnaire/ Interview Protocol	
Mon. Nov. 10	Interviewing Techniques	C&S, Ch. 9 – Qualitative Methods (pgs. 195-202)		Interview Techniques
Wed. Nov. 12	Research in Practice - Interviews	Edin and Lein – Work, Welfare, and Single Mothers' Economic Survival Strategies	Observation Write-Up	
Mon. Nov. 17	Feminist and Queer Methodologies	Collins – Learning from the Outsider Within		Organizing Research Paper
Wed. Nov. 19	Research and Social Justice (PAR, Community Based Research)	Baum et al. – Participatory Action Research		
Mon. Nov. 24	Research in Practice – Community Based Research	Starks et al. – Outside the Comfort Zone of the Classroom	Interview Write-Up	No Recitation
Wed. Nov. 26	NO CLASS – HAPPY THANKSGIVING			
Mon. Dec. 1	Archival Research	Babbie – Unobtrusive Research		Paper Questions
Wed. Dec. 3	Cultural Analysis	Babbie – Unobtrusive Research		
Mon. Dec. 8	Research in Practice – Content Analysis	Kubrin - Gangstas, Thugs, & Hustlas: Identity & the Code of the Street in Rap Music		No Recitation
Wed. Dec. 10	PAPERS DUE			