



RESEARCH METHODS

Fayetteville State University
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Sociology
SOC 335
FALL 2011

I. Locator Information

Instructor: Dr. Nicole Lucas

Course: SOCI 335: Research Methods

Semester Credit Hours: 3

Day and Time Class Meets: TH 11-12:15

Helen T. Chick Building 216B

Total Contact Hours: approx. 45

Email Address: nlucas2@uncfsu.edu

Office Location: Taylor Science 204C

Office Hours: Monday: 10-12

Tuesday: 12:30-2

Wednesday: 10-12

Thursday: 12:30-2

Office Phone: 910-672-2973

FSU Policy on Electronic Mail: Fayetteville State University provides to each student, free of charge, an electronic mail account (username@uncfsu.edu) that is easily accessible via the Internet. The university has established FSU email as the primary mode of correspondence between university officials and enrolled students. Inquiries and requests from students pertaining to academic records, grades, bills, financial aid, and other matters of a confidential nature must be submitted via FSU email. Inquiries or requests from personal email accounts are not assured a response. The university maintains open-use computer laboratories throughout the campus that can be used to access electronic mail. Rules and regulations governing the use of FSU email may be found at: <http://www.uncfsu.edu/PDFs/EmailPolicyFinal.pdf>

II. Course Description

An introduction to the various sociological research methods, with emphasis on understanding research design, questionnaire construction, the construction and use of surveys, uses of available data, methods of collecting and analyzing data, the testing of hypotheses, the drawing of inferences, and the writing of a research proposal.

Disabled Student Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ACA) of 1990, **if you have a disability or think you have a disability please contact the Center for Personal Development** in the Spaulding Building, Room 155 (1st Floor); 910-672-1203. Also, please notify me as soon as possible 672-2973 (nlucas2@uncfsu.edu).

III. Textbook

- Adler, Emily S and Roger Clark. 2011. *An Invitation to Social Research: How It's Done*. 4th ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth-Cengage Learning.

Additional Reading:

- Johnson, William A., Richard P. Retting, Gregory M. Scott, and Stephen M. Garrison. 2010. *The Sociology Student Writer's Manual*. 6th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- American Sociological Association. 2007. *American Sociological Association Style Guide*. 4th. Washington, DC: American Sociological Association.
- Norusis, Marija J. 2010. *SPSS 17.0 Statistical Procedures Companion*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall

FSU Blackboard Website: <https://blackboard.uncfsu.edu/>

IV. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of both quantitative and qualitative research techniques and methodologies and how they are applied to social research
2. Design a research project
3. Understand the ethical considerations in social research
4. Explain the important components relevant to social research

V. Course Requirements and Evaluation Criteria
(IMPORTANT: You have until 11:55pm on due dates to post assignments (and complete unit exams) on Blackboard. After the due date/time, the link to upload assignments (and complete unit exams) will no longer be available

A. Course Requirements

Mini In-Class Assignments

You will be asked to complete unannounced, mini individual and group assignments. You must be in class on time, to receive credit for these assignments. No exceptions!

Unit Exams:

Exams will be given throughout the semester. The exams will give me insight on how to better prepare lectures and class activities. You can access the exams by clicking on the **“Exams” tab** on the blackboard website.

NIH Certification: Ethical Issues in Research

The certification process takes approximately 1-4 hours to complete. You have to read material online and successfully complete a series of quizzes. **I would like you to print and turn in the certificate to me by 9/8.** You may access the website using the following link:

<http://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php>

Proposal

You will be required to research an approved topic of interest and prepare a proposal. You must successfully complete **each** phase of the research proposal to receive a passing grade in this course. Assignments should be complete by the beginning of class! **Submit the proposal assignments in class and on blackboard/TURNITIN.**

More detailed information pertaining to this assignment will be located on Blackboard by clicking on the “Proposal” tab. If the final phase of the proposal is not complete on THE DUE DATE (12/2) then you will not receive credit for your proposal!

An Important Note Pertaining to Plagiarism:

For all written work, you will be expected to **cite** any work you reference for your assignments. If you are unsure about your written work and possible plagiarism issues, you must speak with me before turning in the assignment. I would be more than happy to help you cite information correctly. If I determine that you are plagiarizing material by copying someone else’s work (including information from the text and other written material [including information on the internet]) and attempting to pass it off as your own, without citing, then I will give you a **ZERO** on the assignment. I will also take formal action.

Review the information below to ensure that you understand what plagiarism is:

<https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/certificate.phtml>

<https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/test.html> (Test Link)

B. Evaluation Criteria

<i>Component</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Due Dates</i>
Pre-Test	NA	8/17-25
Final 1-Page Paper	20	9/1
Mini in-class assignments	10	TBA
Unit Exams	30	9/9-10; 10/7-8; 11/18-19; 12/1-2
NIH Certification	30	9/8
Post-Test	TBA	11/28-12/3

Proposal (370 Total)	Points	Due Dates
Phase 1 <i>Proposal</i>	15	9/1 & 9/8
Phase 2 <i>Articles</i>	30	9/22
Phase 3 <i>Literature Review Outline</i>	15	9/29
Phase 4 <i>Literature Review Document & References</i>	50	10/20
Phase 5 <i>Statement of the Problem</i>	20	11/1
Phase 6 <i>Analysis Plan</i>	10	11/8
Phase 7 <i>Methods</i>	30	11/17
Phase 8 <i>Complete Proposal(abstract and cover-page)</i>	200	12/2

**Instructions for the various proposal phases will be posted on Blackboard. The instructions for the various phases will help you understand how I will assess the your assignments.

FSU Grading Scale:

A = 92-100 B = 83-91 C = 73-82 D = 64-72 F = 63 and below

Location of Grades:

You can access your grades on blackboard by clicking on the “**my grades**” tab. You are ultimately responsible for making sure you receive credit for completed assignments.

Make Up/Deadline Policy

- 1. Unless you are hospitalized on the due date (s) of an assignment, you will not be allowed to make-up in-class assignments and unit exams.**
- 2. Proposal Phases will be deducted 15 points for every day they are late & you have to email the late assignments to my email address (nlucas2@uncfsu.edu) for a “late paper” grade. It generally takes me longer to grade papers sent to my email address. IMPORTANT: In the subject line of the email make sure to put “335-your last name-Proposal #_____” →example: 335-Lucas-Phase 1. It is my sincere hope that you will submit each phase on time to ensure timely feedback!**
- 3. The final proposal phase must be submitted by 12/2. NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Extra Credit

You will have **one opportunity to earn 20 points extra credit in this course.** You must complete the pretest to participate in the extra credit assignment.

VI. Academic Support Resources & Student Behavioral Expectations

<p>Inform Information Technology & Telecommunications Services (ITTS): http://www.uncfsu.edu/itts/HelpDesk/ (910) 672-2085</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Telephone, web-based chat and e-mail requests will be available 24/7.➤ Call 910-672-2085 on campus➤ Call toll free (855) 877-5811 from off-campus➤ Chat: https://chat.perceptis.com/c/uncfsu➤ E-mail: uncfsuhelpdesk@perceptis.com	<p>The Writing Center: (Located in the Learning Center) http://www.uncfsu.edu/writingcenter/ Helen T. Chick Building Room 216C Hours: M-R 8am-8pm, F 8am-5pm (910) 672-1864</p>	<p>The Learning Center: http://www.uncfsu.edu/learningcenter/ Helen T. Chick Building Room 216C Hours: M-R 8am-8pm, F 8am-5pm (910) 672-1864</p>
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VII. Course Outline and Assignment Schedule

UNIT 1: Introduction to Social Research (Chapters 1-3)

WEEK 0: Syllabus and Class Business (August 18 th)
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Thursday **Review Syllabus**
Pre-Test Overview-Due Thursday, August 25th (no studying required)
Writing Assignment Posted: *Due Tuesday, August 23rd –Bring Assignment to Class*
1. What is the main purpose of social research? 2. What do you expect to learn in this course as it pertains to research methods? **one page, single spaced, 12 point, and “Times New Roman” font.**

WEEK1: THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL RESEARCH (August 22 nd -26 th)

Readings: Chapter 1

Tuesday **Review Blackboard Website**
Introduce Phase 1: Proposal (Reference Chapter 4 in the text)
Discuss Chapter 1
Writing Assignment Due

Thursday Chapter 1Discussion: Continued
Pre Test Due 8/25 by 11:55pm

WEEK 2: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THEORY AND RESEARCH (August 29 th -September 2 nd)
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Readings: Chapter 2

Tuesday Chapter 2: 19-28
Revise 2- page writing assignment

Thursday Chapter 2: 29-37
Final 1-page paper DUE
PHASE 1 DUE-Submit assignment in class and on blackboard

WEEK3: ETHICAL ISSUES IN SOCIAL RESEARCH
(September 5th-9th)

Readings: Chapter 3

Tuesday Chapter 3: 39-51
Introduce Phase 2: Articles

Thursday Chapter 3: 51-70

NIH Certificate DUE
PHASE 1 DUE-FINALIZE TOPIC
Unit 1 Exam (9/9-9/10)

UNIT 2: The Research Process
(Chapters 4-7)

WEEK 4: CHOOSING A RESEARCHABLE TOPIC
(September 12th-16th)

Readings: Chapter 4

Tuesday Chapter 4: 71-88

Thursday Chapter 4: 88-98
Introduce Phase 3: Literature Review Outline

WEEK 5: THE IMPORTANCE OF SAMPLING
(September 19th-23rd)

Readings: Chapter 5

Tuesday Chapter 5: 99-116

Thursday Chapter 5: 116-128
PHASE 2 DUE-Submit assignment in class and on blackboard

**WEEK 6: CONCEPTUALIZING AND OPERATIONALIZING RESEARCH MEASURES
(September 26th-30th)**

Readings: Chapter 6

Tuesday Chapter 6: 129-146
Introduce Phase 4: Literature Review Document & References

Thursday Chapter 6: 146-153
PHASE 3 DUE-Submit assignment in class and on blackboard

WEEK 7: RESEARCH DESIGN (October 3rd-7th)

Readings: Chapter 7

Tuesday Chapter 7: 157-172

Thursday Chapter 7: 172-184
Unit 2 Exam (10/7-10/8)

**UNIT 3: Measurement Instruments
(Chapters 9-14)**

WEEK 8: QUESTIONNAIRES AND INTERVIEWS (October 10th-14th)

Readings: Chapter 9

Tuesday Chapter 9: 211-233

Thursday Chapter 9: 233-249

WEEK 9: APPLIED SOCIAL RESEARCH (October 17th-21st)

NO CLASS 10/18-Midterm Break

Readings: Chapter 14

Tuesday NO CLASS-MIDTERM BREAK

Thursday Chapter 14: All
Introduce Phase 5: Statement of the Problem
PHASE 4 DUE-Submit assignment in class and to TURNITIN

WEEK 10: SECONDARY DATA (October 24th-28th)

Readings: Chapter 12

Tuesday Chapter 12: 327-339

Thursday Chapter 12: 340-355
Introduce Phase 6: Analysis Plan

**WEEK 11: INTERVIEWS
(October 31st-November 4th)**

Readings: Chapter 10

Tuesday Chapter 10: 251-274
PHASE 5 DUE-Submit assignment in class and to TURNITIN

Thursday Chapter 10: 275-290
Introduce Phase 7: Methods

**Week 12: OBSERVATIONS
(November 7th-11th)**

Readings: Chapter 11

Tuesday Chapter 11: 291-311
PHASE 6 DUE-Submit assignment in class and on blackboard

Thursday Chapter 11: 311-326

**WEEK 13: CONTENT ANALYSIS
(November 14th-18th)**

Readings: Chapter 13

Tuesday Chapter 13: 357-368

Thursday Chapter 13: 368-380
Introduce Phase 8: Complete Proposal
Unit 3 Exam (11/18-11/19)
PHASE 7 DUE-Submit assignment in class and on blackboard

UNIT 4: RESEARCH METHODS SUMMARY *****
(Chapter 15)

WEEK 14: PROPOSAL WORK WEEK
(November 21st-25th)
NO CLASS 11/24-Thanksgiving Break

Readings: NONE

Tuesday Peer-Review: Statement of the Problem, Literature Review, Methods, and References
POST-TEST POSTED (11/28-12/3)

Thursday NO CLASS-THANKSGIVING BREAK

WEEK 15: QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE METHODS
(November 28th-December 2nd)

Readings: Chapter 15

Tuesday Chapter 15: 411-441

Thursday Chapter 15: 441-463
Unit 4 Exam (12/1-12/2)

FRIDAY PHASE 8 DUE-Submit assignment to TURNITIN by 11:55PM.

VIII. Teaching Strategies

This course will involve- PowerPoint slides, exams, in-class assignments, and a paper (proposal).

IX. Bibliography

1. Bailey, Carol A. 1996. *A Guide to Field Research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.
2. Norusis, Marija J. 2010. *SPSS 17.0 Statistical Procedures Companion*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
3. Sweet, Stephen A. and Karen Grace-Martin. 2003. *Data Analysis with SPSS: A first Course in Applied Statistics*. Boston MA: Pearson Education, INC.
4. George, Darren nd Paul Mallery. 2006. *SPSS for Windows Step-by-Step: A Simple Guide and Reference 13.0 Update*. Needham Heights, MA: Allyn and Bacon.