



RESEARCH METHODS

Fayetteville State University
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Sociology
SOC 335
SPRING 2012

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: Tuesday: 10-11 & 12:30-1:30

Wednesday: 10-12

Thursday: 10-11 & 12:30-1:30

(And by appointment)

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

This course is an introduction to 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.

Suggested 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.**

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

IV. Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Identify the important components relevant to social research
2. Understand the ethical considerations in social research
3. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of both quantitative and qualitative research techniques and methodologies, and understand how they are applied to social research
4. Incorporate important sociological research elements into a research project proposal

V. Course Requirements and Evaluation Criteria

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. I suggest uploading assignments as early as possible to avoid last minute problems/complications.

A. Course Requirements

Mini In-Class Assignments

You will be asked to complete unannounced, mini individual and group in-class assignments. You must be in class on time, to receive credit for these assignments. No exceptions! There will also be instances where you will have to complete in-class assignments at home. Therefore, you have to be in class (on time) when the assignments are given and when they are due. You may NOT submit these assignments to my mail box or email.

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. You must complete all exams by the due date. **If I have to reset your exam, I may deduct 5 points from your final exam score.**

The exams cover information from the various chapters in the textbook. You will have 35 minutes to complete 15 multiple-choice questions. The questions are worth 2 points each, for a total of 30 points. You cannot skip questions to go back to them later, so make sure you choose the answer you want the first time around. Finally, be sure to use a secure line, download mozilla, use a desktop computer if possible.

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 submit the certificate to me by 2/2.** 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 (4/27) 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:

- http://www.plagiarism.org/plag_article_what_is_citation.html
- <http://library.camden.rutgers.edu/EducationalModule/Plagiarism/whatisplagiarism.html>
- <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	1/13
Writing Assignment	20	1/19
Mini in-class assignments	10	TBA
Unit Exams	30	2/2-4; 3/1-3; 4/19-21; 4/26-28
NIH Certification	30	2/2
Post-Test	TBA	4/27-30
<u>Proposal (370 Total)</u>		
Phase 1 <i>Proposal</i>	15	1/17 and 1/19 (final)
Phase 2 <i>Articles</i>	30	2/7
Phase 3 <i>Literature Review Outline</i>	15	2/14
Phase 4 <i>Literature Review Document & References</i>	50	3/1
Phase 5 <i>Statement of the Problem</i>	20	3/22
Phase 6 <i>Methods</i>	30	4/10
Phase 7 <i>Complete Proposal(abstract and cover-page)</i>	200	4/27

**Instructions for the various proposal phases will be posted on Blackboard. The instructions will help you understand how I will assess the 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 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 and you must submit late assignments to me during class or office hours (NOT EMAIL) for a “late paper” grade. It generally takes me longer to grade late assignments. 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 4/27. 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 style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">The Writing Center: (Located in the Learning Center) http://www.uncfsu.edu/learningcenter/writingcenter/index.htm Helen T. Chick Building Room 001B Hours: M-TH 9am-7pm, F 9am-1pm (910) 672-1033</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Learning Center: http://www.uncfsu.edu/learningcenter/ Helen T. Chick Building (910) 672-1038</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 (January 9 th – 13 th)

- Tuesday** **Review Syllabus**
Pre-Test Overview-Due Friday, January 13th (no studying required)
Writing Assignment Posted: *You will submit 2 drafts of this assignment*
1. What is the main purpose of social research? (include information for the text for this question-do not use any other sources) 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.**
- Thursday** Discussion about writing in the course
Introduce Phase 1: Proposal (Reference Chapter 4 in the text)
Writing Assignment: 1st Draft due (1/12) –Bring Assignment to Class

WEEK1: THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL RESEARCH (January 16 th - 20 th)

Readings: Chapter 1

- Tuesday** Review Blackboard Website
Discuss Chapter 1
PHASE 1 DUE (1st draft)-(1/17) Submit assignment in class
- Thursday** Chapter 1 Discussion: Continued
PHASE 1 DUE (Final)- (1/19) Submit assignment via blackboard
Writing Assignment: 2nd (Final) Draft due (1/19) –Submit assignment via blackboard

WEEK 2: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THEORY AND RESEARCH (January 23 rd - 27 th)

Readings: Chapter 2

- Tuesday** *Introduce Phase 2: Articles*
Discussion of Library Resources
Chapter 2: 19-28
- Thursday** *Discussion of Library Resources*
Chapter 2: 29-37

WEEK3: ETHICAL ISSUES IN SOCIAL RESEARCH
(January 30th – February 3rd)

Readings: Chapter 3

Tuesday Chapter 3: 39-51
Introduce Phase 3: Literature Review Outline

Thursday Chapter 3: 52-70
NIH Certificate DUE (2/2)
Unit 1 Exam (2/2-2/4)

UNIT 2: The Research Process
(Chapters 5-7)

WEEK 4: CHOOSING A RESEARCHABLE TOPIC & VIDEO
(February 6th – 10th)

Readings: NONE

Tuesday VIDEO
PHASE 2 DUE-(2/7) Submit via blackboard

Thursday VIDEO

WEEK 5: THE IMPORTANCE OF SAMPLING
(February 13th – 17th)

Readings: Chapter 5

Tuesday *Introduce Phase 4: Literature Review Document & References*
Chapter 5: 99-116
PHASE 3 DUE-(2/14) Submit via blackboard

Thursday *Introduce Phase 4: Literature Review Document & References*
Chapter 5: 117-128

**WEEK 6: CONCEPTUALIZING AND OPERATIONALIZING RESEARCH MEASURES
(February 20th – 24th)**

Readings: Chapter 6

Tuesday Chapter 6: 129-146

Thursday Chapter 6: 146-153

WEEK 7: RESEARCH DESIGN (February 27th – March 2nd)

Readings: Chapter 7

Tuesday Chapter 7: 157-172

Thursday *Introduce Phase 5: Statement of the Problem*
Chapter 7: 172-184
PHASE 4 DUE-(3/1) Submit via Blackboard
Unit 2 Exam (3/1-3/3)

MIDTERM BREAK 3/3 - 3/9

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

WEEK 8: QUESTIONNAIRES AND INTERVIEWS (March 12th – 16th)

Readings: Chapter 9

Tuesday
Chapter 9: 211-233

Thursday Chapter 9: 233-249

WEEK 9: APPLIED SOCIAL RESEARCH (March 19th – 23rd)

Readings: Chapter 14

Tuesday Chapter 14: 381-393

Thursday Chapter 14: 393-407
PHASE 5 DUE- (3/22) Submit via Blackboard

WEEK 10: SECONDARY DATA (March 26th - 30th)

Readings: Chapter 12

Tuesday *Introduce Phase 6: Methods*
Chapter 12: 327-339

Thursday *Introduce Phase 6: Methods*
Chapter 12: 340-355

**WEEK 11: INTERVIEWS
(April 2nd – 6th)**

Readings: Chapter 10

Tuesday *Introduce Phase 7: Complete Proposal*
Chapter 10: 251-274

Thursday Chapter 10: 275-290

**Week 12: PROPOSAL WORK WEEK
(April 9th – 13th)**

Tuesday **Library Work Day (Work on phases 5 and 4)**
PHASE 6 DUE-(4/10) Submit via blackboard

Thursday **Library Work Day (Work on title page, abstract, phase 6, and references)**

**WEEK 13: CONTENT ANALYSIS
(April 16th – 20th)**

Readings: Chapter 13

Tuesday Chapter 13: 357-368

Thursday Chapter 13: 368-380
Unit 3 Exam (4/19 – 4/21)

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

WEEK 14: QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE METHODS (April 23rd – 27th)
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Readings: Chapter 15

Tuesday Chapter 15: 411-441

Thursday Chapter 15: 441-463
Unit 4 Exam (4/26 – 4/28)
POST-TEST (4/27-4/30)

FRIDAY PHASE 7 DUE-Submit assignment via Blackboard (TURNITIN) on 4/27 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.