

**University of Texas Dallas  
School of Economic, Political & Policy Sciences**

**EPPS 2301 Research Design in the Social and Policy Sciences**

***Fall 2016***

**\*\*\*Preliminary Syllabus**

**Instructor:** Jacquelyn Cheun, MS, DTR

**Class time:** Monday & Wednesday 08:30-09:45

**Classroom:** JSOM 1.107

**Office:** GR 3.610

**Office hours:** Monday & Wednesday 1000-1200 or by appointment

**Email:** [jjc150830@utdallas.edu](mailto:jjc150830@utdallas.edu)

**Course Description:**

Approaches adopted by the social and policy sciences to increase understanding and develop actions to improve the world. Topics include: philosophy of science, logic of inquiry, role of theory in attributing cause, articulating answerable research questions, efficient exploration of the research literature, types of research design, qualitative approaches, transforming abstract concepts into measurable indicators, producing reliable data, assessing validity of conclusions, and research ethics and politics. Students completing this course will have a good understanding of systematic inquiry and its capacity to yield useful knowledge and a solid foundation for further study of research methods.

**Course Objectives:**

At the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Familiar with broad range of methods used in social sciences research.
2. Able to respond to challenges to validity of findings when conducting research.
3. Adept at recognizing strengths and weaknesses of alternative research designs.
4. Able to compare and contrast the research designs found in the literature.
5. Skilled at implementing research design.

**Required Course Materials:**

Neuman, W.L. (2011). Social research methods: Qualitative and quantitative approaches (7th ed.).  
Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

You will need to access the following website throughout this course:

Web Center for Social Research Methods: Design

<http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/design.php>.

Additional readings may be discussed/assigned during class. You may be required to visit the university library to obtain additional readings throughout the semester.

**Top Hat**

We will be using the Top Hat ([www.tophat.com](http://www.tophat.com)) classroom response system in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message.

You can visit [tinyurl.com/TopHatStudentGuide](https://tinyurl.com/TopHatStudentGuide) for the Student Quick Start Guide which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system. An email invitation will also be sent to your school email account (if you don't receive this email, you can register by visiting our course website <https://app.tophat.com/e/460811> ).

Top Hat will require a paid subscription, and the standard pricing for the cheapest option is \$24 for 4-months of unlimited access. For a full breakdown of all subscription options available please visit [www.tophat.com/pricing](https://www.tophat.com/pricing).

### **Reading Assignments & Participation:**

Students are responsible for reading the assigned materials from the text *before* each class session. You will be expected to discuss the readings and participate in all class activities. The lecture notes **will not** be available online, so it is in your best interest to attend every class.

### **Exams:**

There will be 2 exams (150 points each). All exams will be posted in eLearning and are open book/notes. Exams will be available from 00:01 – 23:59 the day listed in the syllabus, but you only have 1 hour and 15 minutes to complete the exam once started. While the exams are open book/notes, the expectation is that you treat them as an in-class exam. Students will not have enough time to look-up every answer.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure they have a reliable Internet connection. It is highly recommended students take the exam on campus (in the library or in a computer lab). You are only allowed one exam reset during the entire semester due to Internet connectivity issues.

Make-up exams will not be given without documentation for a serious illness, death in the family, or required university-sponsored event.

### **Comparative Research Design Paper:**

Students will write a 3 page paper (not including title page and reference pages) comparing the research design of *three peer-reviewed articles* on a topic of their choice (the DV must be in the same). Papers must 12pt font, Times New Roman, double-spaced, 1 inch margins. APA citations. The assignment is worth 100 points. ***Papers are due by Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup> by 08:30. Students must print off a copy to hand in.***

### **Annotated Bibliography:**

During class you will be taught how to construct an annotated bibliography. After which instructions will be handed out on the assignment. Students will have to create an annotated bibliography that has at least 3 peer-reviewed articles in APA format due by ***Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup> by 23:59 via eLearning uploaded in PDF. No late submissions.***

It is the student's responsibility to ensure they have a reliable Internet connection and proper upload of submission. If I cannot open your submission it is a zero.

**NO EMAIL SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

### **Attendance and Participation:**

Attendance will be mandatory. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class, via TOPHAT. Students who miss a class must obtain the notes from another student. Excused absences will only be given in the event of a serious illness, an emergency, or a mandatory school function. Documentation is required. Documentation will only be accepted prior to or 1 day after the missed class. Documentation can be turned in-person or via email. **Four or more unexcused absences will result in serious grade reduction. Please see grading for more information.**

### **Grading:**

Exams	2 at 150 points each	300 points	30%
Annotated Bibliography	1 at 100 points	100 points	10%
Attendance & Top Hat Participation	More than 4 unexcused absences = 0	300 points	30%
CRD Paper	1 at 300 points	300 points	30%
Total		1000 points	100%

Range of Points	Range of Percentages	Grade
1000 - 895	89.5% - 100%	A
894 -795	79.5% - 89.4%	B
794 -695	69.5% - 79.4%	C
694 -595	59.5% - 69.4%	D
594 - 0	0% - 59.4%	F

Grades will be posted to eLearning throughout the course- students are expected to be aware of their status in the course as the course progresses. Students should contact the instructor to discuss any concerns with their course grade prior to the end of the semester. Also, in regard to a specific assignment grade (exam, in-class, etc.) the student must wait 24 hours after the grade has been posted to contact the instructor with any concerns. Students have up to five days of the grade being posted to discuss any concerns over specific assignments or within 5 days of the assignment due date if no grade was posted.

### **Extra Credit:**

Extra Credit points will be added to your overall course grade. No individual extra credit will be given.

### **Classroom Etiquette:**

Arriving late in class and leaving early are very disruptive to the instructor and other students. Please let an instructor know prior to the beginning of class if you absolutely must leave early and make sure your exit distracts others as little as possible. Please make every effort to respect others.

Disagreements are allowed and expected, but the focus should be on ideas rather than on the individual who expresses them. Signs of disrespect that will not be tolerated include but are not limited to, having background conversations when others are talking, packing up early when others are still talking or asking questions, and working on material for other classes. **Cell phones must be turned on SILENT.**

### **Contacting the Instructor:**

The best way to contact the Instructor is through the UTD email system. Please put in the subject of your email the course you are in and your topic. For example, EPPS 2301: Question on Syllabus.

Please allow 1-2 *business days* for a response. In regards to grades, please wait 24 hours after grade is posted to email your concerns to the instructor.

### **Acceptable Student Behavior:**

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UTD. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated UTD's Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. UTD's Code of Student Conduct can be found at <http://policy.utdallas.edu/utdsp5003> .

### **Disability Statement:**

Students requesting accommodations and services due to a disability are required to provide the authorization letter issued by the Office of Student Access Ability (OSA) before their requests can be processed. Attempts will be made to meet all certified requirements. For more information contact the Office of Student Access Ability (OSA) at 972-883-2098 or <http://www.utdallas.edu/studentaccess/>.

### **Comet Creed**

*This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:*

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

### **Helpful Resources**

The Office of Student Success operates the Student Success Center (SSC, <http://www.utdallas.edu/studentsuccess>), which offers assistance to students in the areas of writing, mathematics, communication, multiple science fields, reading, study skills, and other academic disciplines. These services are available through individual and small group appointments, workshops, short courses, and a variety of online and instructional technologies. All students enrolled at UT Dallas are eligible for these services.

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## Academic Integrity

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**Academic Dishonesty:** The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrates a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Academic dishonesty can occur in relation to any type of work submitted for academic credit or as a requirement for a class. It can include individual work or a group project. Academic dishonesty includes, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication and collaboration/collusion. In order to avoid academic dishonesty, it is important for students to fully understand the expectations of their professors. This is best accomplished through asking clarifying questions if an individual does not completely understand the requirements of an assignment.

Additional information related to academic dishonesty and tips on how to avoid dishonesty may be found here: <http://www.utdallas.edu/deanofstudents/maintain/>.

### Definitions:

The following were found in UT Dallas's Student Code of Conduct:

**Plagiarism:** The adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, statements, images or works of another person as one's own without proper acknowledgement.

**Cheating:** Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. Academic exercise includes all forms of work submitted for credit or hours.

**Fabrication:** Falsification or creation of any information, data or citation in an academic exercise.

**Collaboration and/or Collusion:** Seeking or providing aid to another student in completion of any assignment submitted for academic credit without permission from the faculty member.

**\*\*\*All assignments including (but not limited to) online discussions and papers will have APA citations and in-text references. If a student fails to submit these with coursework it will be a zero.**

**NOTE:** I reserve the right to alter the syllabus to better suit the needs of the class.

### **Tentative Course Schedule**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Aug 22 Aug 24</b>	<b>Course Introduction Why do Research?</b>	<b>Chap 1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Aug 29 Aug 31</b>	<b>Major types of Social Research Theory and Research</b>	<b>Chap 2 Chap 3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Sept 5 Sept 7</b>	<b>No Class Ethics</b>	<b>Chap 5</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Sept 12 Sept 14</b>	<b>Ethics Literature Review meet in Library MC2.524</b>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Sept 19 Sept 21</b>	<b>Annotated Bibliography Strategies of Research Design</b>	<b>Chap 6</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Sept 26 Sept 28</b>	<b>Measurement Sampling</b>	<b>Chap 7 Chap 8</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Oct 3 Oct 5</b>	<b>Exam 1 (Ch. 1-3, 5-8) Comprehension</b>	
<b>8</b>	<b>Oct 10 Oct 12</b>	<b>Survey Research Qualtrics Demo Day</b>	<b>Chap 10</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Oct 17 Oct 19</b>	<b>Field Research Guest Speaker</b>	<b>Chap 13</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Oct 24 Oct 26</b>	<b>Nonreactive Research and Secondary Analysis</b>	<b>Chap 11</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Oct 31 Nov 2</b>	<b>Comprehension Experimental Research Designs</b>	<b>Ann. Bib due by 23:59 Chap 9</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Nov 7 Nov 9</b>	<b>" " " "</b>	
<b>13</b>	<b>Nov 14 Nov 16</b>	<b>Quasi-Experimental Research Designs Exam 2 (Ch. 10, 11, and 13)</b>	
<b>14</b>	<b>Nov 21 Nov 23</b>	<b>No Class No Class</b>	
<b>15</b>	<b>Nov 28 Nov 30</b>	<b>Peer Review Paper Final Review</b>	<b>CDR Paper due by 08:30</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Dec 5 Dec 7</b>	<b>Final Review Final Review</b>	

**Final Exam day is to be determined.**