



EPPS 2301.001

Research Design in the Social and Policy Sciences

Term: Fall 2016
Day & Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:30-9:45 a.m.
Location: JSOM 1.117

Instructor: Jeff Moshier
Email: moshj@utdallas.edu
Please include "EPPS 2301" in the subject line of any email.
Office: GR 2.512, *by appointment only.*

Course Description

This course helps students develop a basic understanding of the different research approaches adopted by the social and policy sciences.

Topics include: the philosophy of science, the logic of inquiry, research ethics, the role of theory in research, expressing research questions, types of research design, qualitative approaches to research, creating measurable indicators from abstract concepts, producing reliable data, assessing the validity of conclusions, exploring research literature, the research writing format, and the use of citations.

Students completing this course should understand systematic inquiry and its capacity to yield useful information. They should also develop a solid foundation for the study of research methods and the ability to understand, evaluate and write research papers.

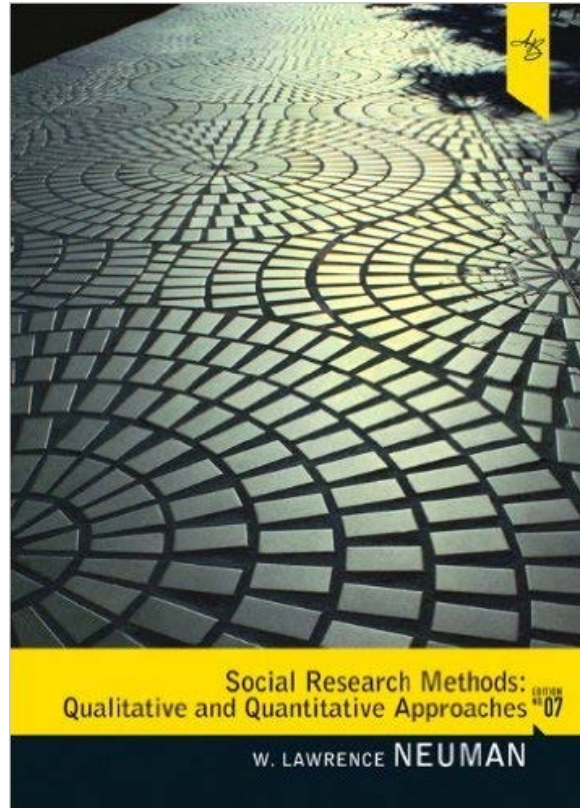
Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

This course is intended to help students:

- Become familiar with the broad range of research design methods used in social sciences;
- Learn how to locate and critically summarize the existing literature;
- Recognize the strengths and weaknesses of alternative research designs;
- Compare and contrast the different designs employed in existing research;
- Develop the skills to implement sound research designs.

Required Textbooks

Neuman, W.L. (2011). *Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches (7th ed.)*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.



Additional Course Materials:

1) You will need to purchase a subscription to the Top Hat classroom response system. (\$24 for 4 months is the least expensive option). This will be used for attendance and class participation (30% of your grade). *You must have this by Sept. 1, 2016.*

<https://tophat.com/>

The course code is: 897432

2) 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 assigned during class. They may be posted on eLearning, or need to be located at the library, or online. Students are not required to print materials available electronically.

Course Requirements

Reading Assignments & Participation:

A *tentative* class and reading schedule appears below. It may be changed if needed. Students will be informed of any schedule changes either in class, on eLearning, and/or by e-mail.

Students are responsible for *reading the assigned materials before each class*. You will be expected to discuss the readings and *participate in class activities using the Top Hat software*. You are also expected to *participate in the eLearning discussion board*. Lecture notes **will not** be available online, so please attend every class.

Annotated Bibliography:

Students will create an annotated bibliography of *two to four peer-reviewed articles*. These papers will focus on the research purpose, question and conclusion, the sample, and the data design used by the researchers. More information and requirements will be given in class. Style requirements for all writing assignments appear below.

A copy of the first page of each article and the printed assignment are due in class on Monday, October 27th by 8:30 AM (no electronic submissions will be accepted).

Exams:

There will be 2 exams which will be posted in eLearning and are open book/notes. Exams will be available from 00:01 – 23:59, 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 advanced notification and documentation for extreme conditions (see below).

Skipped exams will receive a zero.

Comparative Research Design Paper:

Students will write a 3 to 4 page research paper (not including title page and reference list) comparing *four peer-reviewed articles* on a topic of their choice. Students will identify and discuss the purpose, research design, samples, data, and methodological issues for all of the articles. Further requirements of this paper will be discussed in class. Style requirements for all writing assignments appear below.

Students must bring a printed copy of their paper to class on Monday, November 29th at 08:30 AM (no electronic submissions will be accepted).

Unexcused late papers will receive a zero.

Grading Policy

Final course grades will be based on the total points earned throughout the course.

Exams	2 at 150 points each	300 points	30%
Annotated Bibliography	1 at 100 points	100 points	10%
Attendance & Top Hat Participation	Only 4 unexcused absences allowed. After that participation score will be 0.	300 points	30%
Research Paper	1 at 300 points	300 points	30%
Total		1000 points	100%

Grading Scale:

A = 895-1000, **B** = 795-894, **C** = 695-794, **D** = 595-694, **F** = 0-594

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Date	Topic	Assignment
Week 1		
Aug. 23	Introduction	Syllabus
Aug. 25	Why Do Research?	Chap 1
Week 2		
Aug. 30	Types of Research	Chap 2
Sept. 1	Theory	(Must have active Top Hat account.) Chap 3
Week 3		
Sept. 6	Types of Lit Review	Chap 5
Sept. 8	Ethics	
Week 4		
Sept. 13	Ethics movie or Plagiarism & Citations	
Sept. 15	Finding Literature & Refworks Demo	
Week 5		
Sept. 20	Writing Annotated Bibliography and Research Papers	Chap 6
Sept. 22	Strategies of Research Design	
Week 6		
Sept. 27	Measurement	Chap 7
Sept. 29	Sampling	Chap 8

Continued:

Date	Topic	Assignment
Week 7		
Oct. 4	Exam 1 (Ch. 1-3, 5-8)	
Oct. 6	Comprehensive Review	
Week 8		
Oct. 11	Survey Research	Chap 10
Oct. 13	Qualtrics Demo	
Week 9		
Oct. 18	Field Research	Chap 13
Oct. 20	Guest Lecture (Field Research)	
Week 10		
Oct. 25	Nonreactive Research and Secondary Analysis	Chap 11
Oct. 27	Comprehensive Review	Annotated Bibliography Due by 8:30 AM
Week 11		
Nov. 1	Experimental Research Designs	Chap 9
	http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/desexper.php	
Nov. 3	Experimental Research Designs	
Week 12		
Nov. 8	Experimental Research Designs	
Nov. 10	Quasi-Experimental Research Designs	
	http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/quasiexp.php	
Week 13		
Nov. 15	Guest Lecture (Mixed Methods)	
Nov. 17	Exam 2 (Ch. 9, 10, 11, and 13)	
Week 14		
Nov. 22	Fall Break, No Class	
Nov. 24	Fall Break, No Class	
Week 15		
Nov. 29	Paper Due	Comparative Research Paper due 8:30 AM
Dec. 1	Final Review	
Week 16		
Dec. 6	Final Review	
Dec. 8	Final Review	
Final Exam		
	TBD	

Course & Instructor Policies:

Comet Creed

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

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:

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is taken very seriously at UTD because it impacts the value of your degree. The student is expected to know the rules. Please see: <http://www.utdallas.edu/conduct/integrity/>.

Classroom Citizenship

Like academic integrity, debate about opposing views is a cornerstone of higher education. Your opinions matter as well as those of others. Please feel free to express yourself, but with courtesy and respect to all.

Also, large classes can make participation difficult, but it is still the student’s responsibility to engage with the material. This means paying attention and not texting, web surfing, having loud conversations or other disruptive behaviors. These activities will impact your participation grade.

Class Attendance

Students are expected to attend every class having read the assigned material. They are expected to arrive on time and to stay for the whole class. Excused absences will be allowed if the instructor is informed in advance, but the student is responsible for any missed material and all assignments are due on or before their published due dates. Please notify the instructor in advance if you must miss a class, show up late, or leave early. Unexcused absences are discouraged. After four unexcused absences, the student will receive a Zero for their class participation grade.

Late Assignments & Make-up Work

Late assignments will not be accepted and make-up tests will not be given except under extreme conditions such as a failed Internet connection (*1 time*), serious illness, death in the family, required university-sponsored event, or if the student contacts the instructor prior to the scheduled time and is faced with extreme conditions. Documentation will be required.

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities will be available in class throughout the semester. Extra credit is only given to the class as a whole. *No individual extra credit will be given.*

Electronic Device Policy

Electronic devices are allowed provided that they are used for class business only. Recording devices may not be used during class.

HELP

A variety of help is available to all students. EPPS supplies writing information and tips at <http://www.utdallas.edu/epps/resources/writing-resources.html>. Also please explore the [Student Success Center](#), which can provide help with writing, tutoring and group study. If you need help with eLearning look in <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/> or call the help desk at 866-588-3192.

Written Work & Formatting

The quality of written work that you submit is very important to your success as a student. Please make every effort to present your ideas clearly and concisely. Academic writing is more complicated than everyday speech, but writing “like you talk” is a good place to start. Very few people produce quality work on the first try, and it can be a trap for you to try and do this. It is a good idea to get used to writing a first draft and then editing it. In addition, you will be expected to cite the sources of the major ideas that you incorporate, as well as any quotations. Plagiarism detection tools such as *Turnitin* will be used to find written material without attribution. Finally, check and double check your spelling and grammar (*spell check is not sufficient*).

For full credit, please adhere to the following style for all written submissions:

- 12 pt. Times New Roman font
- Double-spaced with paragraphs (no extra space between paragraphs).
- 1 inch margins on all sides
- Aligned left
- Standard paragraph indentation (one tab or 1/2 inch)
- Number each page (centered on the bottom of the page)
- Use in-text citations with a reference list (Turabian or Chicago style).
- A cover sheet is optional, but your name and the assignment must appear on the top of the first page if a cover sheet is not used.
- Staple all papers in the upper left corner.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. It also provides information about your rights and links for a variety of services available to students:

<http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.