The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to research for students in the social sciences. Specific objectives are:

1. To understand the variety of empirical research in the social sciences;
2. To further develop understanding of published research articles,
3. To learn to evaluate published research, and
4. To develop a research project to address an issue on a topic of interest.

As members of a seminar we learn from one another, through readings and lectures, and through activities and assignments designed to develop greater understanding of course subject matter.

Conduct of the Class:
Because the course is a summer intensive, all of us will be expected to work diligently over the next three weeks. Each individual class meeting will cover 2 weeks worth of material from a normal semester. Any student who cannot devote 3-4 hours of work per class meeting should consider dropping the class.

Given the size of the class, the course will be conducted in a seminar format that includes a combination of short lectures, general discussion of readings, student presentations on various topics, and classroom activities designed to enhance learning of the subject matter of the course. Around 7:45 each night we will take a short break. Given time constraints, students are expected to return to the class within 10 min.

Office Availability:
I am generally in my office from 3:00 to 5:00 each day for brief walk-in consultations, except Wednesday, my writing day. If you need more than ten to fifteen minutes, please schedule a regular appointment. Because of departmental business, governance meetings, and travel, I suggest you arrange an appointment before coming in. The most efficient way of doing this is to send an Email note suggesting two or three possibilities.
**Course Materials:**


Additional course materials handed out to students during the semester.

**Course Requirements:**

1. Class attendance, reading, and meaningful participation in classroom assignments and discussions. Class participation includes promptness as well as handing in course assignments on time.
2. Completion of quiz questions at the end of each class meeting. Each day at the conclusion of class, we will have a quiz based on the readings and material covered. There are no make up quizzes. Students may miss, skip, or drop 2 quizzes from the total of 8 in order to receive the maximum number of points (12 or 2 per quiz).
3. Each student will assume responsibility for reviewing the highlights of 1 chapter (15-20 min.) for the class. The chapter will be chosen on the 1st day.
4. Completion of 2 reviews of empirical research published in the last 5 years and published in a journal (in preparation for the final project).
5. Completion of the final project, a proposal for a research project in an area of social science research of the student’s choosing.

**Evaluation:**

Following are the maximum points for each assignment:

1. Class participation (includes prompt attendance). 12
2. Quiz scores 12
3. Review of class reading 15
4. Review of 2 articles 25
5. Research proposal 36

Grades will be assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92 &quot;</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89 &quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86 &quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>below 73 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79 &quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tentative Schedule

**Segment one: The variety of social science research**

**1st Class 5/19**
- Introductions, syllabus, assignments
- Overview of the course
- Research questions and methodological choice
- Human Inquiry and social science
- Chapter review signup.
- Quiz

Reading – Chapters 1 and 2 from Stage and Manning (2003)

**2nd Class 5/20**

**Presentation**
- Human Inquiry and social science (cont’d)

**Presentation**
- Paradigms, theory, and social research
- Quiz

Reading – Chapters 1 and 2 from Babbie (2004)

**3rd Class 5/22**

**Presentation**
- The ethics and politics of social research

**Presentation**
- Research Design
- Quiz

Reading – Chapters 3 and 4 from Babbie (2004)

**5/26 – Memorial Day Holiday**

**4th Class 5/27**

**Presentation**
- Conceptualization, Operationalization, and Measurement

**Presentation**
- Indexes, Scales, and Typologies
- Quiz

Reading – Chapters 5 and 6 from Babbie (2004)
5th Class 5/29

Presentation
The logic of sampling

Presentation
Experiments
Review of research articles

Quiz

Reading – Chapters 7 and 8 from Babbie (2004)

6th Class 6/2

Presentation
Survey research

Presentation
Qualitative Field Research
Quiz

Reading – Chapters 9 and 10 from Babbie (2004)

***Hand in article reviews***

7th Class 6/3

Presentation
Unobtrusive research
Elements of a research proposal
Quiz

Reading – Chapter 11 from Babbie (2004)

8th Class 6/5

Presentation
Evaluation research
Work on research proposals
Quiz

Reading – Chapters 12 from Babbie (2004)

6/9 Final Paper Due by noon