

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CANTON, NEW YORK



MASTER SYLLABUS

SSCI 370 – RESEARCH METHODS IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

CIP Code:
45.0102

Created by: D. Muehl/D. LeBoef-Davis
Updated by: D. McLane, Ph.D.

School of Business and Liberal Arts
Social Sciences Department
Spring 2026

A. TITLE: Research Methods in the Social Sciences

B. COURSE NUMBER: SSCI 370

C. CREDIT HOURS (Hours of Lecture, Laboratory, Recitation, Tutorial, Activity):

# Credit Hours per Week	3
# Lecture Hours per Week	3

D. WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:

Yes	x
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E. GER CATEGORY: None

F. SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:

Fall and Spring	x
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G. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course students will engage in a comprehensive study of the scientific research methods utilized in the social and health sciences. Students are trained to be critical consumers of published research. Topics covered include the scientific method; critically evaluating research; qualitative and quantitative research analysis; operationalization and measurement, sampling techniques, surveys, field research, secondary data analysis, experimental research, correlation; and data management, analysis, and interpretation.

H. PRE-REQUISITES:

ENGL 101, MATH 141 and PSYC 101 or SOCI 101 or ECON 101 or ECON 103 or permission of instructor

CO-REQUISITES: None

I. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]	ISLO & Subsets
a. Compare and contrast the basic qualitative and quantitative research designs commonly used in the social and health sciences.	2 –Critical Thinking [CA]
B. Apply the scientific method to a research question within their discipline.	2 – Critical Thinking [IA]
C. Critically evaluate published research in their discipline.	2 – Critical Thinking [CA]
D. Demonstrate an understanding of one, or more, research method(s) and design(s).	2 – Critical Thinking [PS]

KEY	<u>Institutional Student Learning Outcomes</u> <u>[ISLO 1 – 5]</u>
ISLO #	ISLO & Subsets
1	Communication Skills Oral [O], Written [W]
2	Critical Thinking <i>Critical Analysis [CA], Inquiry & Analysis [IA], Problem Solving [PS]</i>
3	Foundational Skills <i>Information Management [IM], Quantitative Lit./Reasoning [QTR]</i>
4	Social Responsibility <i>Ethical Reasoning [ER], Global Learning [GL], Intercultural Knowledge [IK], Teamwork [T]</i>
5	Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

J. APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT:

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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If yes, select [X] one or more of the following categories:

Research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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K. TEXTS: To be determined by the instructor

L. REFERENCES:

- American Psychological Association. (2020). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.). Washington, D.C: Author.
- Babbie, E.R. (2010). The basics of social research. Belmont CA: Cengage.
- Baumgartner, T. A., & Hensley, L. D. (2012). Conducting and reading research in kinesiology. (5th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Bordens, K. S., & Abbott, B. B. (2008). Research design and methods: A process approach. (7th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Cozby, P. C. (2006). Methods in behavioral research. (9th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Cresswell, J. (2006). Qualitative inquiry & research design: Choosing among five approaches (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Denzin, N.K. & Lincoln, Y.S. (2011). The SAGE handbook of qualitative research (4th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Graziano, A., & Raulin, M. (2007). Research methods: A process of inquiry (with website access (6th ed.). New York: Allyn & Bacon.
- Kaplan, D.W. (2004). The SAGE handbook of quantitative research. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Kranzler, J. (2011). Statistics for the terrified (5th ed.). Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson Prentice Hall.
- Morling, B. (2012). Research methods in psychology: Evaluating a world of information. New York, NY: Norton.
- Shadish, W. R., Cook, T. D., & Campbell, D. T. (2001). Experimental and quasiexperimental designs for generalized causal inference. Boston, Houghton Mifflin.

Spatz, C., & Kardas, E. P. (2008). Research methods (1st ed). New York: McGraw-Hill.

Tashakkori, A., & Teddlie, C. (2010). SAGE Handbook of mixed methods in social and behavioral research (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Wolfer, L. (2007). Real research: Conduction and evaluating research in the social sciences. New York: Pearson Allyn & Bacon

M. EQUIPMENT: University Supplied Equipment and OL Learning Management System

N. GRADING METHOD: A-F

O. SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:
Exams • Quizzes • Assignments/Research Paper • Participation/Discussion

P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:

- I. Scientific Method
 - A. Overview of research process
 - B. Unit of analysis
 - C. Hypothesis and theory
 - D. Deductive and inductive reasoning
 - E. Ethics
 - F. IRB and CITI
 - G. Generating and developing research ideas

- II. Understanding and consuming research
 - A. Using databases
 - B. Interpreting results
 - C. Drawing conclusions
 - D. Evaluating a research article
 - a. Title
 - b. Abstract
 - c. Literature Review
 - d. Methods
 - e. Operationalization
 - f. Sample characteristics
 - g. Research design
 - h. Results
 - i. Discussion

- III. Measurement
 - A. Reliability
 - B. Validity
 - C. Measuring constructs
 - D. Individual differences
 - E. Self-Report measures

- IV. Experimental Design
 - A. Issues in laboratory research (external validity v. control)
 - B. Conditions of causality
 - C. Experiments
 - D. Quasi-experiments

- V. Surveys and interviews
 - A. Survey development
 - a. Psychometric properties
 - B. Interviews
 - a. Structured
 - b. Semi-structured
 - c. Unstructured
 - C. Focus Groups

- VII. Research Designs
 - A. Qualitative research
 - B. Triangulation
 - C. Case studies
 - D. Quantitative research
 - e. Qualitative versus quantitative designs
 - f. Analyzing qualitative and quantitative data

- VIII. Field, Observational, and Archival Research
 - a. Field experiments
 - B. Observational research
 - C. Archival research
 - D. Coding data

- IX. Meta-Analysis
 - o Sources of data
 - o Using secondary data

- X. Data management, analysis, and interpretation
 - a. Storage and management of data
 - B. Appropriate statistical methods and data reporting
 - C. Significance testing and effect size
 - D. Writing a research report
 - a. Title
 - b. Abstract
 - c. Literature Review
 - d. Methods
 - e. Results
 - f. Discussion

- XI. Using research results
 - A. Program evaluation
 - B. Using research as evidence-based practice

C. Publications

- a. Academic
- b. Practitioner-oriented

Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: n/a