

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



MASTER SYLLABUS

SSCI 370: Research Methods in the Social Sciences

Created by: D..Muehl / D. LeBoeuf-Davis

Updated by: Daniel McLane, Ph.D.

**SCHOOL of BUSINESS AND LIBERAL ARTS
SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT
Last Updated: Spring 2015
FALL 2021**

- A. **TITLE:** Research Methods in the Social Sciences
- B. **COURSE NUMBER:** SSCI 370
- C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3 Lecture Hours per Week for 15 Weeks
- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** Yes
- E. **GER CATEGORY:** No
- F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall and Spring

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: *MATH 141

I. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

<i>Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]</i>	<i>ISLO & Sub-Sets</i>
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 [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 - Research

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: Technology Enhanced Classroom

N. GRADING METHOD: A -F

O. SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:

Exams • Quizzes • Assignments/Research Paper • Participation/Discussion

P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:

I. The Scientific Method

- a. Overview of the research process
- b. Units of analysis
- c. Hypotheses and theories
- d. Deductive and inductive reasoning
- e. Ethics
- f. Institutional Review Boards (CITI Certification)
- g. Generating and developing research ideas

II. Understanding and Consuming Research

- a. Using databases
- b. Interpreting results
- c. Drawing conclusions
- d. Evaluation of the Research Article:
 - Title
 - Abstract
 - Literature Review

Methods:

- Operationalization and measurement
- Sample characteristics
- Research design
- Results
- Discussion

III. Measurement

- a. Reliability
- b. Validity
- c. Measuring constructs
- d. Individual differences
- e. Self-report measures

IV. Sampling

- a. Sample size
- b. Representativeness
- c. Sampling distributions
- d. Recruiting your sample

V. Experimental Design

- a. Issues in laboratory research: external validity vs. control
- b. Conditions of causality
- c. Experiments
- d. Quasi-experimental research
- e. Within subjects designs

VI. Surveys and Interviews

- a. Survey development
 - Psychometric properties
- b. Interviews
 - Structured
 - Semi-structured
 - Unstructured interviews
- 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

- Sources of data
- 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
 - Title
 - Abstract
 - Literature Review
 - Methods
 - Results
 - Discussion

XI. Using research results

- a. Program evaluation
- b. Using research as evidence-based practice
- c. Publications
 - Academic
 - Practitioner-oriented