

University of Texas at El Paso
Leadership and Community Engagement Program

Course Syllabus

Instructor: E. Natalia Strobach Oronoz, Ph.D.

Office Hours: Virtual by appointment

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I. Course Information

MLS 5303: Applied Research Methods

Instruction Method: Online

II. Course Description

This course will deal with understanding the fundamental principles that guide scientific research. We will cover topics ranging from understanding and properly citing research articles, to scientific design and implementation. By the end of our course, you will be able to digest complex scientific literature to draw conclusions. The ultimate goal of this course is to enable you to become a skeptic, informed consumer of scientific information.

III. Course Objectives and University Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to

- Read and understand the scientific literature
- Understand and explain major concepts relating to experimental design
- Talk substantively about research methodologies, findings, and applications
- This course will enhance your critical thinking, communication, and professional writing skills

IV. Required Materials

Bhattacharjee, Anol

Social Science Research: Principles, Methods, and Practices

Available free online at: http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/oa_textbooks/3/

Johnson, Steven

The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic- and How it Changed Science, Cities, and the Modern World

Huff, Darrell

How to Lie with Statistics

V. Assignments and Grading

Chapter Quizzes 25%

How to Lie with Statistics Discussions 25%

Ghost Map Assignments 25%

Final Paper 25%

Grades will be posted on blackboard, you can make an appointment to go over grading or assignments. **All assignments are due on Sunday of each week by 11:59pm.**

VI. Course Policies

Make-up work: Make-up work will be given *only* in the case of a *documented* emergency. Note that make-up work may be in a different format than the original work, may require more intensive preparation, and may be graded with penalty points. If you miss an assignment and the reason is not considered excusable, you will receive a zero. It is therefore important to reach out to me—in advance if at all possible—and explain with proper documentation why you missed a given course requirement. Once a deadline has been established for make-up work, no further extensions or exceptions will be granted.

Technical Issues: I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work (answers to discussion points, quizzes, exams, and essays) in a separate Word document as a back-up. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through the course website, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your back-up document as a last resort.

Absence policy: According to UTEP Catalog, “At the discretion of the instructor, a student can be dropped from a course because of excessive absences or lack of effort. Since our course is completely online, failure to turn in weekly assignments without my prior approval constitutes lack of effort. A grade of “W” will be assigned before the course drop deadline and a grade of “F” after the course drop deadline.” See Policies and Regulations in the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog for a list of excused absences. Therefore, if I find that, due to non-performance in the course, you are at risk of failing, I will drop you from the course. I will provide 24 hours advance notice via email.

Email: Please feel free to email me with questions regarding the lectures or online assignments. I normally answer emails 8:00a.m.-8:00p.m. MST.

Accommodations Policy: The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students who become pregnant may also request reasonable accommodations, in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations and University policy. Accommodations that

constitute undue hardship are not reasonable. To make a request, please register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact CASS at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

Scholastic Integrity: Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#) for possible disciplinary action.

Artificial Intelligence: Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as ChatGPT or DALL-E and all other similar tools, is ***not allowed for assignments in this class.*** Each student is expected to use critical and creative thinking skills to complete tasks and not rely on computer-generated ideas. Any direct use of AI-generated materials submitted as your own work will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

Course Resources: UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. Please refer to the QR code below for a listing of campus resources.

