The University of Texas at El Paso – Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Spring 2023
SOCI 3311 CRN 13001– Methods of Research

Instructor
Todd Reiser
Contact Information: Blackboard Email
Office Hours: Microsoft Teams meetings by Request

About this Class
The intent of the Methods of Research course is to expose students to fundamental research methods found in the Social Sciences. Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice students and professionals all depend upon similar methodologies and instruments to explain social phenomena. Students will learn the basic procedures of developing research, data accumulation, sampling, and analysis.

Learning Objectives
Upon completion of Sociology 3311, students should be able to:
- Explain the process and procedure of Social Science research
- Produce research questions and implement methods of investigation
- Explain Qualitative and Quantitative instruments used in data analysis
- Review Literature based on the needs of research

Required Texts/Supplemental Materials

Primary Text required for class:

Secondary text articles provided via Blackboard:
- Brown and Strega; Research as Resistance (2005).

Programs and Websites (Free Resources):
- General Social Survey (GSS): https://sda.berkeley.edu/sdaweb/analysis/?dataset=gss21
- CITI: https://www.citiprogram.org/index.cfm?pageID=14&message=64#view
- Proquest: https://www.proquest.com/sociologicalabstracts/advanced?accountid=7121
- Taguette (Qualitative Analysis): https://www.taguette.org/
- AntConc (Text Analysis): https://www.laurenceanthony.net/software/antconc/
- Speech Archive: http://www.emersonkent.com/famous_speeches_in_history.htm

Important note: Additional readings for this course will be available on Blackboard.
Class Policies and Expectations
This class is entirely online with limited instructor interaction. Each student is expected to read and complete the assignments as per the class schedule. I am always available for questions and concerns.

Always use Blackboard to message me with questions or concerns.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any work you do must be your own and if it is not your own it must be properly cited. Any Plagiarism will be immediately referred to the UTEP Dean of Students and you will receive an ‘F’ on the material submitted and possibly the course. Please review the following material:

UTEP’s Academic Honesty Policy –
https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html

How to avoid Plagiarism –
https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/_Files/docs/Avoiding-Plagiarism.pdf

Online Etiquette - This class is conducted online, therefore it is vital that you maintain high standards of etiquette towards all students and participants. All online interaction must be courteous.

ADA policy
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability and need accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass. CASS’ Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

Course and Academic Deadlines:
It is the students’ responsibility to be aware of UTEP’s Academic Calendar. The Instructor will not Drop or Add Students from this course. It is up to students enrolled to determine their continued presence in this course. Students are encouraged to meet with the Instructor to discuss options, grades, or assignments.
https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/registrar/Academic%20Calendars/academic-calendar.html

Assignment Structure

Late Work incurs -2 points for each day late.
All written work must use APA standards for all citations and references.

There are two forms of Weekly assignments in this class: Chapter Questions and Journal Exercises

- Chapter Questions (Assignments): When assigned to read a Chapter from the textbook(s) students will be asked to answer specific questions from the end of that chapter. These will be worth 20 points and will be submitted by Friday at 11:59PM of the week they are assigned. Chapter readings will not be assigned every week and may be sporadically placed throughout the semester so keep an eye on the schedule.

Students must write at least 75 words for each question. Regardless of length the questions must be Fully and Robustly answered, 150 words may rarely be enough.
• **Journal Exercises:**
  Throughout the semester students will keep a Journal. The syllabus and course schedule will specify when to create a Journal entry and what it will contain. Journals will only be graded twice during the semester as part of your Midterm grade and as part of your Final grade.
  There is no word limit to Journal entries, but you must answer the exercises or questions fully. There is an expectation to think through the process and the fundamentals of the exercise assigned. Information taken from the textbook (or texts) should be cited. The journal is not limited to only assigned entries, and I would expect to see ancillary compositions.
  Journals can be handwritten, blog posted, or compiled using a word application. You will be turning these in to be read by me, so while they may be informal and personal they should be written in a professional manner. I will not be grading on whether or not I agree with entries, but on whether or not the assignment was answered, explained, and completed.

• **Tests:**
  There are no tests in this course. Instead students are asked to complete two papers:
  1. Midterm Paper: A 5 page paper that discusses the students Research Question and a Literature Review.
  2. Final Paper: A 5 page Paper that is a class Reflection discussing the students experience and preferred methods of research.

**Grading**

Students grades are based on a total of 720 points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Questions: Assignments</td>
<td>360 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journals</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Project</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

660 points total
Spring 2023 Semester Schedule
Instructor reserves the right to modify the schedule at any time over the course of the semester. Any modifications to this schedule will be announced via Blackboard.

**Week 1: Jan 17-21**
Readings:
1. Openstax: Chapter 2 *Sociological Research*

Assignments:
1. Openstax: Chapter 2 Questions at end of chapter – Answer #2, #6, and #7. [Submit via Blackboard. Due Friday @11:59pm](#)
2. Visit IRB/CITI site and complete Registration: Use ‘Select Your Organization Affiliation’ [https://www.citiprogram.org/index.cfm?m=14&message=64#view](https://www.citiprogram.org/index.cfm?m=14&message=64#view)

**Week 2: Jan 23-28**
Readings:

Assignments:
1. (Journal) Salsa: Complete end of Chapter 1+2 exercises.
2. Complete IRB/CITI Certification and submit via Blackboard. Due Friday @11:59pm

**Week 3: Jan 30 - Feb 4**
Readings:
1. Seale: Chapter 6 *Research questions and proposals*
2. Visit the General Social Survey (GSS) site: https://sda.berkeley.edu/sdaweb/analysis/?dataset=gss21

Assignments:
1. Seale Chapter 6 Questions – Answer #1 #3, and #4. [Submit via Blackboard Due Friday @11:59pm](#)
2. Complete the following requests in GSS then submit and explain your findings. [Submit via Blackboard Due Friday @11:59pm](#)

**Week 4: Feb 6-11**
Readings:

Assignments:
1. (Journal) Salsa: Complete end of Chapter 4 exercise. (What is your question and your “Hook”)
2. Create a Research Question based on two variables. Think about how variables are used in GSS to answer and investigate possible Research Questions. [Submit via Blackboard Due Friday @11:59pm](#):
   - Why this question?
   - What do you think this question answers that may not have been answered before?
   - Why do you think you should be the one to answer the question?
Week 5: Feb 13-18
Readings:
   1. Seale: Chapter 5 Doing a Literature Review

Assignment
1. Seale Chapter 6 Questions – Answer #2, and #4. Submit via Blackboard Due Friday @11:59pm
2. Find 2 Abstracts through Proquest that align with your Research Question, or that may help support the intent of your Research interest, copy the Abstract and summarize it into 2 or 3 sentences. Submit via Blackboard Due Friday @11:59pm

Week 6: Feb 20-25
Readings:
   1. Seale: Chapter 7 Research Design

Assignment
1. Seale Chapter 7 Questions – Answer #2, #4, and #7. Submit via Blackboard Due Friday @11:59pm
2. Select one of the Abstracts you used in Week 5. Summarize the Article related to the Abstract, into two paragraphs of 4 to 5 sentences each. Submit via Blackboard Due Friday @11:59pm

Week 7: Feb 27 – Mar 4
Readings:
   1. Seale: Chapter 14 Doing Ethnography

Assignments:
1. Seale Chapter 14 Questions – Answer #1, #3, and #5. Submit via Blackboard Due Friday @11:59pm
2. (Journal) Conduct social Observation as a Field Researcher and compile Field Notes while Observing a Public area. Refer to page 267 of Seale for Field Note suggestions. You can select any environment; work, public sport, school cafeteria, campus, park, etc. You will be looking at social interaction and noting any and all things that pertain to social interaction. This can include mannerisms, the location of conversations, the environment, how a person walks or where they walk or anything you find important.
   Please select a safe place to do this. I would suggest at least a 45 minute time frame, note the Time and Date and Location.

Week 8: Mar 6-11
Readings:
   1. Schutt: Chapter 11 Qualitative Data Analysis – Read to page 750

Assignments:
1. Schutt Chapter 11 Questions. Submit via Blackboard Due Friday @11:59pm
   ○ Question 1: Explain why Qualitative Analysis may be perceived as an art.
   ○ Question 2: Define the 5 Techniques of Qualitative Data Analysis and briefly discuss their importance.
Week 9: Mar 20 – 25

Assignments:
1. Midterm Paper is due: Submit via Blackboard Due Friday @11:59pm

Contents of the Midterm Paper:
See full Writing and Composition guide for an explanations of the structure and the formatting expectations.

Must be 5 pages of text (at least) with a reference page to include articles, textbooks, and any other works from class used.
1. An Introduction to your Research Question
2. The Process of finding your Articles
3. A Literature Review containing at least 2 Journal Articles
4. Reflection upon how your Research Question may change

Week 10: Mar 27 – Apr 1

Readings:
1. Seale: Chapter 9 + 10, Sampling and Questionnaires and Interviews

Assignments:
1. Seale Chapter 9 and 10 Questions – Answer #1 from Chapter 9 by selecting 3 types of Sampling to outline. Answer #1 and #7 from Chapter 10. Submit via Blackboard Due Friday @11:59pm

Week 11: Apr 3-8

Readings:

Assignments:
1. (Journal) Brown and Strega: After reading the entire article select 2 of the following subheadings listed below from the reading. Then find, define, and discuss 2 terms from each that you were previously unfamiliar with.
   - Modernist Methodologies
   - Poststructural Possibilities
   - Discourse
   - Subjectivity
   - Power

Week 12: Apr 10-15

Readings:
1. Seale: Chapter 25 Finding Themes in Qualitative data

Assignment
1. Seale Chapter 25 Questions – Answer question #1, #3. Submit via Blackboard Due Friday @11:59pm
2. (Journal) Find a Speech via the Speech Archive to code using Themes and Open Coding with Taguette: http://www.emersonkent.com/famous_speeches_in_history.htm
   List the speech you will be using along with it's author, date, length and reason why you selected it.
Week 13: Apr 17-22
Readings:
1. Seale: Chapter 27 Discourse Analysis

Assignment
1. Seale Chapter 27 Questions – Answer question #1, #3. Submit via Blackboard Due Friday @11:59pm
2. Submit your chosen speech with your coded Taguette highlights utilizing at least 6 Codes or Tags. Taguette will let you export your project as a PDF or a DOC file, then submit it as your assignment. Submit via Blackboard Due Friday @11:59pm

Week 14: Apr 24-29
Readings:
1. Seale: Chapter 32 Research Quality

Assignment
1. Seale Chapter 32 Questions – Answer question #1, #5, #6. Submit via Blackboard Due Friday @11:59pm

Week 15: May 1-6
TBA

Week 16: May 8-13
TBA