Instructor
Todd Reiser
Contact Information: Contact me through Blackboard Email - always
Office Hours: Zoom - Wednesday & Thursday, 1pm-2:30pm

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, 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 and Supplemental Materials

Primary Text required for class:

Secondary Text and Articles found on Blackboard:
- Brown and Strega; Research as Resistance (2005).
Programs and Websites that will be used in this Course (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 for 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 calendar 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.

- **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 6 page Paper that discusses the students Research Question and a Literature Review.

  2. **Final Paper:** A 6 page Paper that is a class Reflection discussing the students experience and preferred research method interests.
Grading

Students grades are based on a total of 640 points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Points Each</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Questions: Assignments</td>
<td>18 total</td>
<td>20 points</td>
<td>360 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journals</td>
<td>2 Submissions</td>
<td>40 points</td>
<td>80 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Project</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>100 points</td>
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640 points total
Week 1: Jan 16 - 20

Readings:
1. Openstax: Chapter 2 Sociological Research

Assignments:
1. Openstax: Chapter 2 Answer the Short Answers 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?pgid=148message=84&view Use this Powerpoint Presentation to assist in the Registration process CITI-Registration1.pptx
For some reason the site has a problem finding UTEP (always has), be sure to type in University of Texas at El Paso exactly when registering.

Week 2: Jan 22 - 27

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

Video Instructions for CITI and IRB registration

Week 3: Jan 29 - Feb 3

Readings:
1. Seale: Chapter 6 Research questions and proposals
2. Visit the General Social Survey (GSS) site: https://oda.berkeley.edu/ssweb/analysis?dataset=gs21
3. GSS Video Instruction: This was recorded in a Virtual Environment to show all screens necessary. Audio starts about 10 seconds in.

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
   1. Row: race, Column: lockedup - Run and Explain
   2. Row: uscitizen, Column: dwellown - Run and Explain
   3. Row: owngun, Column: fear - Run and Explain
Week 4: Sep 18-23 Feb 5 - 10

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 or more variables, and answer the questions listed below. 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 12 - 17

Readings:
1. Seale: Chapter 5 Doing a Literature Review
2. Watch Video on how to use Proquest

Assignments:
1. Seale Chapter 5 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 no less that 3 sentences. Submit via Blackboard Due Friday @11:59pm
3. How to use Proquest to find Abstracts: Remember to complete a Journal entry on every video, the length is up to you. Things to write about would be How the video helped, How it didn't. If you have experience with what's discussed, etc...

Week 6: Feb 19 - 24

Readings:
1. Seale: Chapter 7 Research Design

Assignments:
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 in at least 400 words. You can use a new article from a Proquest search if you would prefer. Submit via Blackboard Due Sunday @11:59pm

Week 7: Oct Feb 16 - Mar 2

Readings:
1. Seale: Chapter 14 Doing Ethnography
2. Watch Video discussing Field Observations and how to write the Midterm Paper.

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 207 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 manners, the location of conversations, the environment, how a person walks or where they walk or anything you find important. Please be thorough with this assignment. I will grade this Journal entry based on how fully you explore the environment (with your words) and the actions and interactions of Social Actors within it.

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 4 - 9**

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 18 - 23**

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

**Contents of the Midterm Paper:**

*Writing guide available in this folder:* See full Writing and Composition guide for an explanation 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 3 Journal Articles
4. Reflection upon how your Research Question may change

**Week 10: Mar 25 - 30**

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

Assignments:
1. Seal 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 1 - 6**

Readings:
   Resistance (Straga, p.189)

Assignments:
1. Brown and Straga: 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. Submit by Friday at 11:59pm
   - Postmodern Methodologies
   - Poststructural Possibilities
   - Discourse
   - Subjectivity
   - Power
**Week 12: Apr 8 - 13**

Readings:
1. Seale: Chapter 24 Content and Text Analysis
2. Seale: Chapter 25 Finding Themes in Qualitative data
3. Watch Video: Finding a Speech and using Tagouette

Assignment
1. Seale Chapter 24 Questions - Answer question #1, #5. Chapter 25 Questions – Answer question #1, #3. Submit via Blackboard Due Friday @11:59pm
2. (Journal) Find a Speech via the Speech Archive: http://www.emersonian.com/famous_speeches_in_history.htm In your Journal list the speech you will be using along with its author, date, length and reason why you selected it and any other reflections. If the link does not work use the following backup (it can be slow): http://web.archive.org/web/20050711181914/3. Install Tagouette: https://www.tagouette.org/ This program will be used to Code the speech you have selected. This will be turned in Week 13 as an Assignment.

**Video: Finding a Speech and Installing Using Tagouette**

![Video](image)

**Week 13: Apr. 15 - 20**

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
2. Speech Coded using Tagouette. Submit via Blackboard Due Friday @11:59pm

**Week 14: Apr. 22 - 27**

Readings:

Assignment
1. Brown and Strega: Chapter 9 Answer the following questions:
   1. Create and describe 4 Keywords that could be used to describe the content of Robina’s Article.
   2. What is the Storyteller Methodology (answer this fully)? Why do you think it is not in our textbook?
   3. What was Robina’s Research Process;
      1. Where/How did she find participants?
      2. How did she gather her information?
      3. How did she save, utilize, and verify her data?

Submit via Blackboard Due Friday @11:59pm

**Week 15: Apr 29 - May 4**

Readings:

Assignment:
Answer these questions regarding the reading assignment: Submit via Blackboard Due Friday @11:59pm
1. What reasons and methods are given by the authors to show that the Social Sciences are less prone to fraudulent research?
2. What factors can contribute to fraud and research malpractice according to the article?
3. Does this article convince you that Social Research is free of fraudulent research? Why or why not.
Assignment:

1. The Final Paper needs to be 6 pages in length, plus a reference page. No late Final Papers will be accepted.

Content and Theme of Paper: Select Four Weeks to write an end of semester Reflection Paper about. From the Weeks you select you can discuss any and all Reading content, Assignments, Terms, Vocabulary, and Programs used. You can be critical about the material, discuss what you liked, learned, or the important points you think you may use in the future.

My grading will be focused on the depth and robustness of your thoughts. In other words, I’ll want you to define the terms you are using - if you choose a week where a program was used you can discuss it’s use and process - if you were asked to conduct ethnography you can discuss that process. Always use in-text citations to present how you know what you know.

The most important thing is to prove to me you learned something from the material in this class.

Video for Final Paper Information: Ignore the dates, this was recorded Spring 2023.

2. Submission of the Journal: Only Journal entries assigned after the Midterm to Week 16 need to be submitted.