

The University of Texas at El Paso
Sociology 3311-14271
METHODS OF RESEARCH
Fall 2016 (August 23rd - December 1st)
TR, 10:30am - 11:50am
OLD MAIN 214

Instructor: Trinidad Morales III

Office Location: Room 218-C, Mike Loya Academic Services Building (I may be changing offices this semester, may be better to e-mail me before you visit my office)

Office Hours: For the fall term, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00am to 10:00am, or by appointment. You can usually speak to me before/after class.

Office Phone: 915-747-6349 (I attend many meetings around campus during the workday, so telephone may not be the best method of communication (e-mail is preferred). Also, keep in mind I cannot discuss your grades via phone or e-mail, per federal privacy legislation, known as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA)).

E-mail address: tmorales1@utep.edu (or the e-mail client in Blackboard; I check both but tmorales1@utep.edu goes to various e-mail clients and I can reply much quicker)

Class website: Blackboard account (students can start viewing August 22nd)

Course Description: To provide an overview and introduction to methods of research, to assist you with any projects (school or personal) and to prepare you for your master's thesis and PhD dissertation in the near future.

Required Texts:

- Neuman, W. Lawrence. Basics of Social Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches, Third Edition, 2012. Pearson Education Inc. ISBN 0-205-76261-1
- Additional articles may be placed on Blackboard throughout the semester.

Other Required Material:

Access to a printer or copier. You will be printing out material and handing in to me for grading or distributing to your peers for feedback.

Course Goal and Learning Objectives:

To understand, apply, discuss, compare, and critically evaluate methods of research in the social sciences.

Grading:

1) In-class attendance: You are not allowed to miss any days in a semester such as this one. As you can see below, we will move very fast and it is imperative you show up to class for lecture, discussion, and participation. Also, I expect you to show up to class on time. If you anticipate having issues showing up to campus/campus on-time, please rectify the situation or consider dropping the course. After the first few days, I should know your name (via a picture of you) and I will note days you are absent or tardy. **Two or more late arrivals result in a drop in letter grade, every additional two late arrivals will result in drops in letter grades; one unexcused absence will result in a drop in letter grade, with additional drops in letter grade for each additional absence. Only university sanctioned excuses will be accepted and MUST BE SUBMITTED TO ME THE DAY YOU RETURN TO CLASS.**

2) Midterm and final: 0% of total grade. No midterm or final, just mini-quizzes and assignments.

3) Mini-quizzes: 33% of total grade. You will have a mini-quiz on every chapter (the book has 14 chapters total, you will be quizzed on the first twelve chapters), for a grand total of twelve (12) mini-quizzes. The first quiz is only worth 1 point. This is to help you view the format on the quizzes and not adversely affect your grade should you do poorly on the first few quizzes. No mini-quiz will be worth more than three (3) points. Only bring something to write with, you do not need a Blue Book or Scantron. Keep in mind all material may be on the mini-quiz (book material, lectures, discussion, articles, etc.).

4) Assignments, fourteen (14) in total: 67% of total grade. Throughout the semester you will have various assignments of various weights. I will usually release these assignments (via Blackboard) several days before they are due, and usually with accompanying guides to assist you. Of course, you can always e-mail me with questions.

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS: 100

No extra-credit assignments will be offered - please do not ask.

All work (except for the extra-credit) are based on the following scale:

A	=	89% and above
B	=	79% - 88%
C	=	69% - 78%
D	=	59% - 68%
F	=	Below 59%

The above grading is curved 1% in your favor. This also applies to your final grade.

University policies (adopted from Sociology professor's syllabi)

Students with Disabilities: Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify the professor during the first week of class of any accommodations needed for the course. Late notification may cause the requested accommodations to be unavailable.

Guidelines for Courtesy and Respect: In order to create a positive learning environment for all students in this class, please arrive for class sessions on time and stay until the end of the class, unless you have informed me you will need to leave early. You cannot sleep in class, text, check the internet, check your e-mail, play with your phone, have your headphones plugged in (whether you are listening to music or not), log into Facebook, Twitter, etc., or anything else that disrupts me or other students. I reserve the right to ask you to leave class/our classroom for the day if you disrupt our class by doing any of the aforementioned acts. Please ensure your cell phone is turned off before class begins unless there is a special circumstance you have informed me of. To permit all students to stay focused on the lecture, please note that only one person should be speaking at one time. Side conversations are a distraction from the lecture for your fellow students, so please minimize these conversations. Finally, please note we will cover a range of topics in this course. Observing norms of courtesy and openness to diverse perspectives will ensure the class runs in everyone's best interests. I may ask you to save your questions for my office hours or to contact me via e-mail. Our class period is short and I must ensure the assigned material is covered to prepare you for your mini-quizzes and assignments.

Class schedule and assignments:

-----Week 1-----

- Tuesday, August 23rd *AND* Thursday, August 25th

Topic: Course introduction, syllabus, and overview. Read Chapter 1: Doing Social Research (Neuman, 2012).

QUIZ: FIRST QUIZ (Q#1), WORTH ONLY 1 POINT AT THE END OF THURSDAY'S CLASS.

ASSIGNMENT #1: IN-CLASS AND ON BLACKBOARD, 2 PTS.

-----Week 2-----

- Tuesday, August 30th *AND* Thursday, September 1st

Topic: Chapter 2: Theory and Social Research (Neuman, 2012)

QUIZ: SECOND QUIZ (Q#2), WORTH ONLY 2 POINTS AT THE END OF THURSDAY'S CLASS.

ASSIGNMENT #2: IN-CLASS AND ON BLACKBOARD, 2 PTS.

-----Week 3-----

- Tuesday, September 6th *ONLY (NO CLASS ON Thursday, September 8th)*

We only meet on Tuesday of this week. Tuesday will serve as a "wellness" check for you and I. I will obtain feedback from the class on what is working, discuss Twitter, and anything else for the semester going forward. No quiz this week.

Topic: Wellness check, no assigned reading.

QUIZ: No quiz this week, but you are required to attend 9/6 class

ASSIGNMENT: NONE THIS WEEK, ENJOY A SMALL BREAK

-----Week 4-----

- Tuesday, September 13th *AND* Thursday, September 15th

Topic: Chapter 3: Ethics in Social Research (Neuman, 2012)

QUIZ: THIRD QUIZ (Q#3), WORTH 3 POINTS AT THE END OF THURSDAY'S CLASS.

ASSIGNMENT #3: IN-CLASS AND ON BLACKBOARD, 2 PTS.

-----Week 5-----

- Tuesday, September 20th *AND* Thursday, September 22nd

Topic: Chapter 4: Reviewing the Scholarly Literature and Planning a Study (Neuman, 2012)

QUIZ: FOURTH QUIZ (Q#4), WORTH 3 POINTS AT THE END OF THURSDAY'S CLASS.

ASSIGNMENT #4: IN-CLASS AND ON BLACKBOARD, 3 PTS.

-----Week 6-----

- Tuesday, September 27th *AND* Thursday, September 29th

Topic: Chapter 5: Qualitative and Quantitative Measurement (Neuman, 2012)

QUIZ: FIFTH QUIZ (Q#5), WORTH 3 POINTS AT THE END OF THURSDAY'S CLASS.

ASSIGNMENT #5: IN-CLASS AND ON BLACKBOARD, 3 PTS.

-----Week 7-----

- Tuesday, October 4th *AND* Thursday, October 6th

Topic: Chapter 6: Qualitative and Quantitative Sampling (Neuman, 2012)

QUIZ: SIXTH QUIZ (Q#6), WORTH 3 POINTS AT THE END OF THURSDAY'S CLASS.

ASSIGNMENT #6: IN-CLASS AND ON BLACKBOARD, 3 PTS.

-----Week 8-----

- Tuesday, October 11th *AND* Thursday, October 13th

Topic: Chapter 7: Survey Research (Neuman, 2012)

QUIZ: SEVENTH QUIZ (Q#7), WORTH 3 POINTS AT THE END OF THURSDAY'S CLASS.

ASSIGNMENT #7: IN-CLASS AND ON BLACKBOARD, 3 PTS.

-----Week 9-----

- Tuesday, October 18th *AND* Thursday, October 20th

Topic: Chapter 8: Experimental Research (Neuman, 2012)

QUIZ: EIGHTH QUIZ (Q#8), WORTH 3 POINTS AT THE END OF THURSDAY'S CLASS.

ASSIGNMENT #8: IN-CLASS AND ON BLACKBOARD, 4 PTS.

-----Week 10-----

- Tuesday, October 25th *AND* Thursday, October 27th

Topic: Chapter 9: Nonreactive Research and Secondary Analysis (Neuman, 2012)

QUIZ: NINTH QUIZ (Q#9), WORTH 3 POINTS AT THE END OF THURSDAY'S CLASS.

ASSIGNMENT #9: IN-CLASS AND ON BLACKBOARD, 5 PTS.

-----Week 11-----

- Tuesday, November 1st *AND* Thursday, November 3rd

Topic: Chapter 10: Analysis of Quantitative Data (Neuman, 2012)

QUIZ: TENTH QUIZ (Q#10), WORTH 3 POINTS AT THE END OF THURSDAY'S CLASS.

ASSIGNMENT #10: IN-CLASS AND ON BLACKBOARD, 6 PTS.

-----Week 12-----

- Tuesday, November 8th *AND* Thursday, November 10th

Topic: Chapter 11: Field Research and Focus Group Research (Neuman, 2012)

QUIZ: ELEVENTH QUIZ (Q#11), WORTH 3 POINTS AT THE END OF THURSDAY'S CLASS.

ASSIGNMENT #11: IN-CLASS AND ON BLACKBOARD, 7 PTS.

-----Week 13-----

- Tuesday, November 15th *AND* Thursday, November 17th

Topic: Chapter 12: Historical-Comparative Research (Neuman, 2012)

QUIZ: FINAL QUIZ (Q#12), WORTH 3 POINTS AT THE END OF THURSDAY'S CLASS.

ASSIGNMENT #12: IN-CLASS AND ON BLACKBOARD, 8 PTS.

-----Week 14-----

ASSIGNMENT #13: PRESENTATIONS THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK. YOUR PRESENTATION IS WORTH 9 PTS.

- Tuesday, November 22nd - PRESENTATIONS
- Thursday, November 24th - NO CLASS, ENJOY YOUR THANKSGIVING BREAK

-----Week 15-----

- Tuesday, November 29th - PRESENTATIONS
- Thursday, December 1st - PRESENTATIONS

ASSIGNMENT #14: FINAL PAPERS DUE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1ST AT START OF CLASS. FINAL PAPER IS WORTH 10 PTS.

-----Mid-term and Final Exam-----

There will be no mid-term or final exam. This class will use mini-quizzes, assignments, and your semester paper to calculate your semester grade.

*****Miner Buddies Contact Information*****

MINER BUDDY #1

Name: _____

Major: _____

Best way to contact?_____

Awesome fact about this Miner Buddy: _____

MINER BUDDY #2

Name: _____

Major: _____

Best way to contact?_____

Awesome fact about this Miner Buddy: _____

MINER BUDDY #3

Name: _____

Major: _____

Best way to contact?_____

Awesome fact about this Miner Buddy: _____