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Soc 331.71W – Intro to Social Research

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2020

Class time MTWRF

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Karista Hughes

Office Location: Online

Office Hours: MTWRF: daily

Office Phone:

Office Fax: 903-886-5330 University

University Email Address: Karista.hughes@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: 24 Hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required

Research Design: Quantitative, Qualitative, Mixed Methods, Arts-Based, and Community-Based Participatory Research Approaches by Patricia Leavy, Guilford 2017, ISBN is 978-1-4625-1438-0 (required)

Optional Texts and/or Materials: Additional and/or supplementary required readings will be assigned and provided during the semester.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to research in the social sciences and practice fields. This course also places an emphasis on ethical considerations in social research and proper

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research writing. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate adequate knowledge on the five separate research methodologies implemented for social research and how to appropriately design social research projects and proposals. Students are expected to plan and carry out their own individual research project.

Student Learning Outcomes

This course is intended to enable you to:

1. Understand the purpose of social research and the ethical considerations involved.
2. Demonstrate a working knowledge of a wide variety of research techniques and designs.
3. Be able to construct and identify the components of a research proposal.
4. To critically analyze research articles.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

The class will use the D2L learning management system. Students in the class may be required to use or be able to perform tasks employing Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and using presentation and graphics programs, etc.

Instructional Methods

All assignments posted into D2L (our online system) must be on time (in most cases 11:59pm) and on or before the last designated due date. There will be no exceptions, and excuses will not be tolerated. There will be no make-up assignments.

This course will provide a variety of activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the outcomes/objectives for the course. Each week you will work toward achieving these outcomes through discussions and comments, a course project, and exams. Below is an explanation of each course requirement including due date, assignment instructions, and other requirements.

- **Reading Summary: (8) @ 45pts. each, 360 pts. total**
Student Learning Outcomes #1, #2, #3, #4: The student will obtain a basic understanding of important social research methods. The student will synthesize learning material. The student will be an active and engaged participant by analyzing and evaluating information presented within the textbook, external readings/resources, student research, and class activities through writing their reading summary.

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The reading summaries are based off the chapter readings, videos, and online readings. Upon completion of the assigned readings and activities, you are expected to summarize what you have learned. Your writing will be graded for quality, timeliness, and detailed analysis.

Reading summaries **are due by Sunday, 11:59PM CST on the week it is assigned. NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

You are required to create your reading summary using your textbook and additional materials (if applicable/required) as your primary source(s). Additional source materials are always welcome and should be cited accordingly and are sometimes required in order for you to complete the assignment. Please read the assignment directions carefully.

Your reading summary for the chapter should be **A MINIMUM of 500 and a MAXIMUM of 800 words in length**. Please keep in mind that your reading summaries must be substantive and meaningful. References are required in-text as well, as a reference section. ASA citation style is required for this course. Proper grammar and word usage are also required. I will take this opportunity to remind you that your chapter summaries are formal assignments and will therefore be graded as such. **Failure to cite will result in an automatic 20 point deduction.**

- **Discussion Board (2) @ 20 pts. each, 40 pts. total**

Student Learning Outcome #1, #2: The Discussion Board (DB) will be utilized twice during the duration of this semester. In Module 1, week 1 it is required for the student to introduce themselves to the class and agree to the syllabus. This will be the time to address any questions one may have regarding the syllabus and the requirements of this course. The second DB will be in Module 1 as well and will be on an additional reading that will be provided regarding research and writing.

Each DB is worth 20 points total. 13 points stemming from your initial response and 7 points from peer responses. **DB initial posts are due by THURSDAYS at 11:59pm and response posts are due by SUNDAYS at 11:59pm.** Further information will be provided in the module.

- **Quizzes (8) @ 20 pts. each, 160 pts. total**

Student Learning Outcome #1, #2: This course contains one quiz in each interdependent learning module containing 10 multiple choice/true-false questions taken from content in that module. There are 8 quizzes during the

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course term. Each quiz is worth 20 points and will open when the module opens and are due on the prospective **SUNDAYS by 11:59pm the week it is assigned.** You can take the quiz only once, and you must complete the test in 30 minutes once you have started it. If you have read the course material, you should be able to recall the answer to the question very quickly (1.0 – 1.5 minutes). This leaves you some time to look for answers, but you will NOT have enough time to scour the text for every answer. The clock will not stop if you take a break. When the time expires, you will have no access to the test. Any issues with the quiz should be captured with a screenshot and provided to your instructor upon request.

- **Research Proposal Topic Selection (40 pts.)**
Student Learning Outcome #3: Instructions on the format to be used in developing your research proposal topic will be provided to you in a separate handout early in the semester.
- **Literature Review Draft (100 pts.)**
Student Learning Outcome #3: Early in the semester you will complete a short version of a literature review. The literature review needs to be 3 to 4 pages (not including title and reference material). Your literature review needs to have a minimum of 4 academic sources. You will later build upon this draft as part of your final course research proposal. More information on this assignment will be made available through D2L.
- **Research Proposal (100 pts.)**
Student Learning Outcome #3: Each student will be responsible for turning in one typed research proposal. The proposal will be worth one hundred (100) points. The proposal will be due by the identified designated date, check the course schedule for that due date. You will compose a 6 to 8-pages research proposal on a topic of your choosing, utilizing one of the methodologies discussed in the class. Your proposal should reflect all you have learned about social research methods over the semester and should demonstrate growth from the initial literature review draft. Further instructions on the format to be used in developing your research proposal will be provided to you in a separate handout later in the semester.
- **Exams: (2) exams @ 100 points = 200 course points**
Student Learning Outcome #1, #2: There will be 2 exams in this course. Exams will be 75 minutes in length. **YOU WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED TO ACCESS THE EXAM ONCE.** See under Course and University Policies/Procedures for more information regarding taking tests on D2L.

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- The Midterm exam will cover Chapter 1-4. The Final Exam will cover Chapters 5-8.
- Assessment Method: Multiple choice, true/false questions, and essay questions.

Each test will be the final coverage of the chapters identified in that section. There will be no comprehensive final. The final exam will be a regular test that covers only the chapters identified in that section. The chapters that students are assigned to read are listed in the Course Schedule section of this syllabus.

There will be no dropping of any tests or grades. Each test will be worth 100 points. Please remain conscious of the test dates, no permission will be granted to take the test any other time. Each test will be timed by the computer. Students will have two hours in which to take each test. Once the test is started, the student must complete the test.

This may be an ideal time to remind the student that since this course is internet based, and since the student will have limited contact with the professor that I encourage each of you to take your time and class work seriously.

No individual extra credit assignments will be permitted. Students should not depend on extra credit assignments being made just to help bring up a student's grade.

If a student encounters a D2L-based problem while taking a test he/she must contact the Helpdesk and seek assistance. If the problem cannot be resolved the student should make sure he/she receives a Helpdesk ticket number. The student should contact me by email and I will get back with him/her within a reasonable time.

Only D2L-based problems will be legitimate enough for me to reschedule a test. Personal computer/access problems are not a legitimate excuse for authorization to re-take a test.

All students must take each test at the scheduled time. A student missing the final test will receive a zero for that grade.

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Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

The student must log into the course multiple times throughout the week to complete weekly assignments and post and respond on discussion boards. Weekly reading is expected as well as taking scheduled quizzes/exams and completing all other assignments.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

Grades earned on each assignment will be added together and will be divided by the total number of points possible in the course. Below is the overall point scale for the course.

Total points possible for the semester = 1000

Letter Grade	Percentage	Points
A	90-100%	900-1000
B	80-89%	800-899
C	70-79%	700-799
D	60-69%	600-699
F	59% and below	599 and below

Assessments

GRADING Assignments for this course will be scored using a points system. Below is an explanation of how each assignment type will be scored.

Assignment Type	# of Assignments	Point Value	Total Points
Discussion Board	2	20	40
Chapter Summary	8	45	360
Quizzes	8	20	160
Research Topic	1	40	40
Literature Review	1	100	100
Research Proposal	1	100	100
Midterm Exam	1	100	100
Final Exam	1	100	100
			1,000

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TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

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Interaction with Instructor Statement

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

No make-up opportunities are allowed. Late work will not be accepted. If a problem arises please contact instructor No Extra credit will be assigned.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

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<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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 requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#)

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document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

**Each Assignment is due by 11:59PM CST on the date provided.
NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS ACCEPTED.**

Week/Date	Topic/Reading	What's Due
Weeks 1&2 August 24- September 6	Module 1 1. Course Syllabus 2. Textbook: Leavy, Patricia (2017) Chapter 1- Introduction to Social Research 3. Video: "Introduction to Sociology - Sociological Research" 4. Online Reading	Introduction DB (#1) posts -Initial posts 8/27 -Responses 8/30 Chapter Summary #1 -9/6 Quiz #1 -9/6
Weeks 3&4 September 7-September 20	Module 2 1. Leavy Ch. 2, Ethics in Social Research	Discussion Board #2 posts -Initial posts 9/10 -Responses 9/13

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	<p>2. Video: “5 Psychology Experiments You Couldn’t Do Today”</p> <p>3. Research and Writing Tools</p> <p>4. Topic Proposal Instructions</p>	<p>Chapter Summary #2 -9/13</p> <p>Quiz #2 -9/20</p>
<p>Weeks 5&6 September 21-October 4</p>	<p>Module 3</p> <p>1. Leavy Chapter 3, Getting Started Designing a Project</p> <p>2. Building a Research Question Based on Existing Literature & How to Access Journal Articles and Finding Literature</p> <p>3. Video “Scholarly and Popular Sources”</p>	<p>Chapter Summary #3 -9/27</p> <p>Quiz #3 -10/4</p> <p>Topic Proposal Selection -9/27</p>
<p>Weeks 7&8 October 5- October 18</p>	<p>Module 4</p> <p>1. Leavy, Chapter 4, Quantitative Research Design</p> <p>2. Literature Review Draft Instructions</p> <p>3. Video "3 Types of Research Questions for Quantitative Research"</p> <p>4. Video “Reliability and Validity”</p> <p>5. Online Reading</p>	<p>Chapter Summary #4 -10/11</p> <p>Quiz #4 -10/18</p> <p>Midterm Exam (Chapters 1-4) -10/18</p>

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<p>Weeks 9 & 10 October 19- November 1</p>	<p>Module 5</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leavy, Chapter 5, Qualitative Research Design 2. Video “Quantitative vs Qualitative” 3. Video “Asking Qualitative Questions” 4. Online Reading 	<p>Literature Review -10/25</p> <p>Chapter Summary -11/1</p> <p>Quiz #5 -11/1</p>
<p>Weeks 11 & 12 November 2- November 15</p>	<p>Module 6</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leavy, Chapter 6, Mixed Methods Research Design 2. Online Reading 3. Video “Content Analysis” 	<p>Reading Summary #6 -11/8</p> <p>Quiz #6 -11/15</p>
<p>Weeks 13-14 November 16-November 29</p>	<p>Module 7</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leavy, Chapter 7, Arts-Based Research Design 2. Online Video “Using Photos as Data to Understand” 3. Online Reading 	<p>Reading Summary #7 -11/22</p> <p>Quiz #7 -11/29</p> <p>Final Research Proposal -11/29</p>
<p>Weeks 15-16 November 30-December 13</p>	<p>Module 8</p>	<p>Reading Summary #8 -12/6</p>

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	1. Leavy, Chapter 8, Community-Based Participatory Research 2.	Quiz #8 -12/6 Final Exam (Chapters 5-8) -12/13
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