

SOC 331 01W/PSCI 347, Intro to Social Research

Online

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Julia Meszaros, Ph.D.
Office Location: SS 230
Office Hours: Online by Appointment, Tuesdays:
University Email Address: Julia.Meszaros@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: Email and Zoom
Communication Response Time: 24-48 Hours; Monday to Friday 9-5

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required: Babbie, Earl. 2010. *The Basics of Social Research*, 5th edition. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth Publishing. ISBN: 0495812242. ANY EDITION should work

Course Description

An introduction to the process, logic, and skills of social science research inquiry. The range of research designs, their strengths and weaknesses, the specific research tools needed for the collection of sociological data, and introductory analytical techniques are examined. Required of all majors and a prerequisite for Sociology 332.

Student Learning Outcomes (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

1. Students will be able to conduct ethical research within the bounds of the ethical expectations set forth by the Institutional Review Board. They will complete IRB training at TAMUC online and then file an exempt IRB as part of their course assessment.
2. Students will be able to define and explain the fundamental concepts of the methods used in social science research. This SLO will be assessed through the two exams for the course.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

3. Students will be to critically read and evaluate research reports and publications. This SLO will be assessed in weekly in class assignments and projects.
4. Student will be able to apply different research methods to a research question. This SLO will be assessed by their final project and weekly in class assignments and projects.

Classroom Expectations:

1. Students must be prepared to participate in group work and be prepared to take notes and complete work with their peers.
2. Students must come prepared to learn. That's why it is essential to participate in class discussions online and by reading the chapter ahead of time.
3. Please treat everyone with respect. Disrespectful behavior towards anyone in the classroom will not be tolerated. You will be asked to leave the course if disrespectful behavior persists.

Assessments:**Weekly In-Class Projects (200 Points)**

Each week the course will have an in class assignment or project that is an applied learning opportunity. Research methods need to be learned through experience, not just reading about it. Thus, come to class prepared to work with other students and by yourself on various in class assignments and mini projects.

Attendance and Participation (100 Points)

Real success in this course depends on your active attendance and participation. We learn from our peers and everyone has an important contribution to provide their classmates..do not deny them your unique perspective. Attendance and participation will be assessed based on random attendance quizzes, WHICH CANNOT BE MADE UP. Please do not ask to make them up if you have to miss a class, unless you have a medically documented issue.

Problem Statement and Research Questions: Total of 100 points

Since the problem statement, abstract and research questions are shorter, they will be worth 100 total. The problem statement 50 points, the Research Questions will be worth 40 points, and your writing style will be worth 10 points. Follow the guidelines for a problem statement (why does this research question matter?) and your hypotheses?

Literature Review: 200 points

This draft will include an argument crafted out of the *scholarly* (online sources are NOT valid) literature that already exists about your research topic. You want to demonstrate in your argument that the literature is missing an important piece about the topic you are choosing to pursue and help to illuminate.

Methods Section: 100 points

This draft will include a detailed description of the methods you will be employing in your research and why those methods are the most appropriate ones to utilize to answer your research questions.

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Final Research Proposal: 200 points

The outcome of the previous sections of the proposal will be put together into one polished draft that is ready for IRB approval. You must incorporate the comments from the professor and your peer reviewers in your final draft. You will be graded upon how well you have incorporated feedback into your project]

Final Presentation of Proposal: 100 points

Must do a ten to fifteen minute presentation of the research proposal, including all elements listed: hypothesis, background, research questions, literature review and proposed methods.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To be successful in the course you must be able to use D2L, and using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint. Attendance will also be crucial in order to complete in-class assignments.

Instructional Methods

This course will be delivered partially online. You must have access to D2L in order to complete the requirements for this course.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

You must log into D2L multiple times a week in order to be successful in this course. All course communications and assignments will be completed through D2L. If you have questions regarding access to D2L or technical requirements, information to reach out to Campus IT is provided below.

Grade Policies: For incompletes, you must speak with me ahead of time and have completed most of the course work. **I do not round grades**, and I do not change grades after they have been submitted. Grades are available on D2L so you can track your up to date progress in the course.

EXTRA CREDIT

You are allowed to attend three on campus events and write a paragraph relating them to Sociology. Each paragraph is worth 5 points and will be graded at the end of the semester.

GRADING

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

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

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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>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

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](#)
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 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/)

<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](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

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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.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week One: Human Inquiry

- Read Chapter One
- Weekly Assignment DUE FRIDAY 8/28

Week Two: Social Science Theories

- Read Chapter Two
- Weekly Assignment DUE FRIDAY 9/4

Week Three: Ethics of Social Science Research

- Read Chapter Three

Week Four: Research Design

- PROBLEM STATEMENT DUE (9/11)
- Read Chapter Four

Week Five: Conceptualization and Measurement

- Read Chapter Five
- Weekly Assignment DUE (9/18)

Week Six: Indexes, Scales, and Typologies

- Read Chapter Six
- Weekly Assignment DUE (10/2)

Week Seven: The Logic of Sampling

- Read Chapter Seven
- Weekly Assignment DUE (10/9)

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Week Eight: Experiments

-Read Chapter Eight

- Weekly Assignment DUE (10/16)

Week Nine: Survey Research

-Read Chapter Nine

- Weekly Assignment DUE (10/23)

Week Ten: Qualitative Field Research

-Read Chapter Ten

-LITERATURE REVIEW DUE (10/30)

Week Eleven: Unobtrusive Methods

-Read Chapter Eleven

- Weekly Assignment DUE (11/6)

Week Twelve: Qualitative Data Analysis

-Read Chapter Twelve

- Weekly Assignment DUE (11/13)

Week Thirteen: Quantitative Data Analysis

-Read Chapter Thirteen

-METHODS SECTION DUE (11/20)

Week Fourteen: Writing Research

NO ASSESSMENT FOR THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY (11/27)

-Read Chapter Fourteen

Week Fifteen: Doing Own Research

- PRESENTATIONS OF RESEARCH AND FEEDBACK

Week Sixteen: FINALS WEEK

FINAL PAPER DUE 12/8

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