

**FYC 4801: Applied Social Research Methods
Spring 2017**

Section: 2406
Meeting Time: TR (9 & 10) 4.05-6.00
Class Location: MCCA 3194
Office Hours: TR 2.00-3.30

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TA:
Office:

Email:
Office Hours:

The instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus in order to meet the objectives of the course.

About the course. Applied Social Research Methods is a 4-credit course in the design, implementation, and interpretation of social research. Students who take this course will “understand and apply the principles of social science research methods. Students learn a variety of research methods and have “hands on” experience with data collection and analysis” (FYCS Undergraduate Handbook, 2015, p.16). As future professionals in the social sciences, it is essential that you develop the capacity to, at a minimum, critically evaluate information that is presented as scientific, and ideally, contribute to our collective knowledge base through involvement in research activities of your own. Employers will expect that you can recognize quality research as you work with your constituents, and your constituents will trust that you are confident in the information you share with them. If graduate school is in your future, you will be expected to conduct research and to share that research with the larger community of scholars. This semester, we will learn to read and communicate social science research and will engage in producing social research data of our own.

Prerequisites: FYC 3001 with a grade of ‘C’ or better or STA 2023

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Design social research using a quantitative methodological approach
2. Collect, analyze, and interpret quantitative data and report the results in writing and orally
3. Design social research using a qualitative methodological approach
4. Collect, analyze, and interpret qualitative data and report the results in writing and orally
5. Evaluate the quality of scientific evidence

All required readings are placed on Canvas.

Grading

Grades will be determined based on the following:

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Attendance | 1 point for each class (30 points) |
| 2. Homework Assignments | 50 points (5 @ 10 points each) |
| 3. Two Exams | 50 points each (100 points total) |
| 4. Research Project | 400 points (<i>point breakdown below</i>) |
| ▪ <i>Quantitative Data Project</i> | <i>95 points</i> |
| ▪ <i>Qualitative Data Project</i> | <i>90 points</i> |
| ▪ <i>Scholarly Paper</i> | <i>120 points</i> |
| ▪ <i>Oral Presentation</i> | <i>25 points</i> |
| ▪ <i>Individual Reflection</i> | <i>50 points</i> |
| ▪ <i>Individual Grade for Paper</i> | <i>70 points</i> |

Grade Ranges:

A = 93.50% and above	C+ = 76.50-79.99%
A- = 90.00-93.49%	C = 73.50-76.49%
B+ = 86.50-89.99%	C- = 70.00-73.49%
B = 83.50-86.49%	D+ = 66.50-69.99%
B- = 80.00-83.49%	D = 63.50-66.49%
	D- = 60.00-63.49%
	E = 59.99% and below

All of the following must be true for the student to be eligible to receive a grade of "I:"

- 1) The student has completed a major portion of the course work with a passing grade (D or better),*
- 2) the student is unable to complete course requirements because of documented circumstances beyond their control, and*
- 3) the student and instructor have discussed the situation prior to the final exam (except under emergency conditions).*

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Policy Regarding Late Work:

- All assignments are to be submitted via Canvas by 12.00pm on the date indicated on the course calendar. Any assignment that comes in after that time will receive an automatic 10% deduction for lateness *per day late (each 24 hour period is a 10% deduction)*.
- No assignment will be accepted beyond one week (7 days) after the due date.
- No work will be accepted for consideration beyond the last class session for the semester, unless specified by me.

UFApps:

Some lectures and activities (in-class and out-of-class) will require the use of a statistical software package. We will use SPSS in this course. You can access SPSS for free using university computers in several computer labs on campus, UFApps or IFAS Virtual Lab. UFApps and IFAS Virtual Lab provide access to software applications from any computing

device--laptops, tablets, desktops, and smartphones--from any location, at any time. To access UFApps go to the following website:

<https://apps.ufl.edu/Citrix/XenAppEXT/auth/login.aspx>

Follow the prompts to obtain access if this is your first time using UFApps.

Alternatively, you can access SPSS by connecting to IFAS Virtual Lab. To access Virtual Lab go the website and follow the directions provided there.

<http://cals.ufl.edu/lab/virtual-lab.php>

It is my recommendation that you set aside time to use one of the computer labs on campus to complete assignments requiring SPSS. My experience is that you will be far less frustrated, even though it might not be as convenient as sitting in your own home.

For the portion of the course where we learn SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences), I will try to schedule lab time for us in the computer lab. If that is impossible to arrange then I will need to ask you to make sure you bring a computing device with you to class. In order to complete some homework, you will either need to be on campus to access SPSS or have installed the capacity to access it from your home. I strongly recommend that you do this. You will need to practice using SPSS in order to really learn it.

Classroom Policies:

- Make sure that your phone is turned to vibrate during class.
- Do not use your phone as your computer in class. No phones will be out during class.
- Stay on task.
- Respect your fellow classmates and instructor.
- Come to class on time.
- All students who are late on exam days (come into class once the first person has left) will not be able to take the exam and may only schedule a make-up at the instructor's discretion.

Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Policy regarding testing accommodations:

- Any student who requires testing accommodations must follow university procedure for securing the accommodations. Please see <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/students> for how to access resources and setting up accommodations.

- Students who require testing accommodations should follow DRC policy for making an appointment to take the test(s) at the DRC. Do not assume that I can provide additional assistance for testing needs. If you fail to follow through on making arrangements with the DRC to take a test, you will take the test with the rest of the class and will be given the same amount of time to take the test as the rest of the class.

Academic Honesty

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, “*We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.*” On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “*On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.*” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

We will do quite a bit of group work in class and I encourage you to work and study with colleagues outside of class. However, on tests and for some assignments you are on your own.

Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university’s resources. The following resources are available at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

Health and Wellness Resources

- U Matter, We Care:
If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392- 1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.
- Counseling and Wellness Center:
<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)
- Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.
- University Police Department, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
<http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.
- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>

- Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>
- Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>
- Student Complaints Campus:
https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf
- On-Line Students Complaints: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>

Online Course Evaluation Process

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.