

FYC4932: Advanced Social Research Methods

Instructors: Dr. Kelly Moore and Dr. Candice Stefanou

Meeting Time: T period 4; R period 4 & 5

Class Location:

Dr Stefanou's Office: 3041B McCarty Hall D

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2.00-3.30

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Dr. Moore's Office: MCCB G081

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 9am-12pm

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The instructors reserve the right to adjust the syllabus in order to meet the objectives of the course.

Course Description. Advanced Social Research Methods is a 3-credit advanced course in the design, implementation, and interpretation of social research. Advanced standing undergraduate students work as part of a social research team. Students collaboratively conduct original social research under faculty supervision and produce a manuscript suitable for submission to a scholarly outlet.

About the course. Advanced Social Science Research Methods is a 3-credit advanced course in the design, implementation, and interpretation of social research. The purpose of this class is to engage advanced standing undergraduate students in a social science research team. The course closely resembles the type of professional teams students will likely be expected to participate in after graduation. This course is designed to provide students with the experience of the research and publication process characteristic of professional scientists. Students enrolled will work together to develop a research question, design and carry out the study, and analyze the data with faculty supervision. The outcome will be a manuscript that is suitable for submission to a scholarly journal and the preparation and presentation of the research project at a scholarly venue.

The course is highly recommended for students considering graduate school, as it will give students an opportunity to further examine social science research procedures and issues that arise during the research process.

Prerequisites: FYC4801 and Instructor approval.

Course Objectives

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

1. Complete the IRB process
2. Pose a researchable social science question
3. Develop hypotheses appropriate to the research question
4. Design social science research

5. Collect, analyze, interpret, and report the results in writing and orally
6. Demonstrate ethical behavior with regard to research activities
7. Determine the appropriateness of various outlets for publication
8. Collaborate effectively on professional research teams

All required readings are located in Canvas. The course operates in the fashion of a problem-based learning course where students develop their learning agenda based on the needs of the problem they are working on. Because of the fluid nature of the course demands and needs, the instructors do not assemble a required reading list ahead of time. The instructors locate readings for the students on an as-is-needed basis, with need determined either by the students themselves or by the instructors based on student questions. What is included here is a sample of readings required in previous offerings of the course.

Bernard, H. R. (1999). Sampling. In H. Russell Bernard, *Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches* (143-183). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

Draugalis, J. R. & Plaza, C. M. (2009). Best practices for survey research reports revisited: Implications of target population, probability sampling, and response rate. *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education*, 73(8), 1-3.

Psychology Writing Center, University of Washington (n.d.). Reporting results of common statistical tests in APA format. Retrieved from https://depts.washington.edu/psych/files/writing_center/stats.pdf

Quick, D. (n.d.). Making tables and figures. Retrieved from <http://web.cortland.edu/hendrick/APA%20Making%20Tables%20and%20Figures.pdf>

Roberts, L. W. (2017). Addressing authorship issues prospectively: A heuristic approach. *Academic Medicine*, 92(2), 143-146. doi:10.1097/ACM.0000000000001285

USC Libraries (n.d.). Organizing your social sciences research paper: The discussion. Retrieved from <http://libguides.usc.edu/writingguide/discussion>

USC Libraries (n.d.). Organizing your social sciences research paper: The methodology. Retrieved from <http://libguides.usc.edu/writingguide/discussion>

USC Libraries (n.d.). Organizing your social sciences research paper: The results. Retrieved from <http://libguides.usc.edu/writingguide/discussion>

Writing Center, UNC College of Arts & Sciences (n.d.). Literature reviews. Retrieved from <https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/literature-reviews/>

Classroom Policies:

- Make sure that your phone is turned to vibrate during class.
- Stay on task.

- Respect your fellow classmates and instructors.
- Come to class on time.
- Come to class prepared.

Grading

Grades will be determined based on the following:

30% Participation	150points
30% Homework	150points
30% Individual Project Deliverables (2 @ 15% per deliverable)	150points
10% Practical Research Issues Discussion	50points

Grade Ranges:

A	93.50% and above (467.5-500 pts)	C	73.50-76.49% (382.49-367.5 pts)
A-	90.00-93.49% (467.49-450 pts)	C-	70.00-73.49% (367.49-350 pts)
B+	86.50-89.99% (449-432.5 pts)	D+	66.50-69.99% (349-332.5 pts)
B	83.50-86.49% (432.49-417.5 pts)	D	63.50-66.49% (332.49-317.5 pts)
B-	80.00-83.49% (417.49-400 pts)	D-	60.00-63.49% (317.49-300 pts)
C+	76.50-79.99% (399-382.5 pts)	E	59.99% and below (299 pts-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).*

Participation (60%)

In this class students depend on one another to have completed their individual responsibilities in order to make adequate progress on the research project each week. Students are expected to actively participate and to sometimes work collaboratively on various aspects of the project both in and out of class. In class participation includes actively contributing to group discussion and arriving to class having completed all individual responsibilities required to stimulate research progress. Out of class participation includes completing required homework and any additional tasks delegated to the individual student.

Individual Project Deliverables (30%)

Each student will be assigned two deliverables they are responsible for completing. One of the deliverables will be to write a section of the final manuscript, individually or in conjunction with another student depending on the section. The other deliverable will be related to the research procedures decided on by the research team. For example, 1-2 students will be responsible for

locating a sampling frame (if available) and drawing the sample. As part of their deliverable they will create a document describing the details of their procedures to assist with writing the methods section of the final manuscript. Two other students will work together to prepare the IRB protocol. All deliverables will be decided upon and assigned by the research team at the start of the semester.

Practical Research Issues Discussion (10%)

Each student will facilitate one, 20-minute class discussion related to a topic or issue in social science research. The purpose of this assignment is to facilitate greater depth of understanding of advanced social research topics relevant to the research procedures being utilized and/or the research process through publication. Students will select the discussion they will facilitate at the beginning of the semester.

Attendance and Make-Up Work

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>.

Individual assignments are essential for the progress of the entire research team. Therefore, all assignments are due in class at the start of the class period. No late assignments will be accepted. In the event a student cannot attend a class period they should make every effort to contact the instructors prior to class and provide their contribution to the day's discussion so as not to hinder team progress.

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/>.

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

Software Use:

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or

criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

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.

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>

