

Assignment 5: Reflection - Key Lessons Learned (100 points)

Objectives: Reflect on the lessons learned and value (or not) of the learning experience in this class.

We spend the first half of this course focusing on key concepts of research methodology. We practice two key methods of collecting data used in the social sciences – one that is generally considered a “quantitative” method (development of an index) and one that is usually considered “qualitative (an interview or focus group).” We then examine a number of other methods of data collection that are frequently used. You will develop three reviews during this latter part of the course. In this final submission, the reflection, I am asking you to consider what you learned during this course – what you take from the course that you will use in your own professional work. The assignment is to submit a document with three components: (1) key concepts and techniques that you think you need to use consistently in your research, (2) how (if at all) this course changed the way you assess and evaluate the social research literature, and (3) key lessons learned about research that you would stress in a presentation to undergraduate students taking a basic research methods class.