

QUANTITATIVE DATA COLLECTION
SOCI 3220.001
FALL 2019

Instructor:	Jennifer Knudsen
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Class Time:	Tu/Th 11:00 am 12:20 pm
Classroom:	GAB 330D
Office:	Sycamore Hall 288U
Office Hours:	M/W from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM CST/CDT (or by appointment)

REQUIRED TEXT

Babbie, Earl, (2013) The Practice of Social Research (14th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Canvas: Additional course readings and assignments, quizzes, grades, syllabus, and other materials will be made available on the UNT Canvas.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course introduces quantitative social science research methods. You will learn to use descriptive and inferential statistics to analyze data, the basics of social scientific thinking, the foundations of social science research, and the fundamentals of conducting quantitative social science research. The objectives of the course are:

1. Critically evaluate social research;
2. Conduct research following ethical guidelines;
3. Define unit of analysis and levels of measurement, compare and contrast reliability and validity, and explain conceptualization and operationalization;
4. Use introductory methods of central tendency, dispersion, cross-tabulation, and linear modeling;
5. Describe the sampling techniques used to gather quantitative data;
6. Describe the features of survey research and strengths and weaknesses of this design;
7. Design and implement a basic research project.

COURSE INFORMATION

I am available to meet during my open office hours or by appointment and welcome the opportunity to assist students. Please utilize the message system in Canvas or time before or after class to schedule an appointment. With the exception of weekends and holidays, I check my email, particularly the message system on Canvas, frequently and tend to respond within 24 hours. Except in an emergency, please do not send course-related messages to my UNT email. If you do use Eagle Connect, please be sure to use my faculty email (above) and put the course heading in the subject section. ***This helps me help you***, allowing for faster response times.

Ask questions if there is anything you do not understand or wish to clarify, especially concerning assignments. Do not fall behind in your readings and assignments. If you begin to fall behind or experience difficulty, consult with me. Do not wait until late in the semester, inform me as soon as possible if there are any issues. It is your responsibility to complete the coursework on time. You may not be reminded of the work that you have missed. I value discussion and input into the course and work to create opportunities for you to do so. I also highly value respect. I will treat you with respect and expect that you will do the same for your classmates. This syllabus is not to be treated as a contract and is subject to change with advance notice to the student by the instructor.

IMPORTANT DATES

August 26, 2018	First Class Day
Sept 2, 2018	Labor Day (no classes)
Nov 28-29, 2018	Thanksgiving Break (no classes)
Dec 4-5, 2018	Pre-finals Days
Dec 5, 2018	Last Class Day
Dec 6, 2018	Reading Day (no classes)
Dec 7-13, 2018	Finals

COURSE POLICIES

Etiquette: I highly value respect. I expect that all students will respect the opinions and experiences of other students. When engaging other students you are expected to be respectful, thoughtful and considerate of others. This also includes acknowledging various perspectives even when they are different from your own. Derogatory statements and signs of disrespect will not be tolerated. Ask questions of your fellow classmates for clarification when you disagree with them. The focus should be on the ideas expressed, not on the individual themselves. If you find anything offensive, please let the course instructor know as soon as possible. All discussions are to remain confidential. Respect for your fellow classmates also includes respecting their privacy. Classmates may divulge personal experiences or anecdotes, anything divulged by another person is theirs to tell, not yours to share with others. What your classmates say in class and post in discussions is to remain confidential.

Behavior: Behavior that interferes with the instructor's ability to conduct class or the ability of other students to learn is not acceptable. Students who are being disruptive will be asked to leave the classroom, the instructor can refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to determine if the behavior violated UNT's Code of Students Conduct. The student code of conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr.

Cell phones must be turned off or turned to silent and are to be put away during class. As cell phones ringing during class and texting can be disruptive to instruction and learning, cell phones should be off and put away. Arriving late or leaving early are also disruptive. Please inform the instructor before class if you must leave the class early. If you arrive late please be sure to discuss the reason with the instructor before leaving after class. When leaving, or if arriving late please be sure that your entrance or exit distracts others as little as possible. To best meet this objective please sit close to the door when you plan to leave early or when arriving late.

GRADES AND GRADING STRUCTURE

The final grade for this class will be based on your performance on 1) attendance, 2) fifteen chapter quizzes, 3) four article reviews, 4) one research proposal, 5) class presentation, 6) NIH Training, and 7) the mid-term and final exams.

Readings and Attendance: The student is responsible to complete each week's readings *before* class. In order to fully participate in the class, it is important to keep up with the readings. Although some course material may be available online, lectures will not be available. Material in the course will build from one class to the next. Therefore, it is in your best interest to attend every class session. Attendance will count toward your final grade.

Chapter Quizzes: There will be 15 chapter quizzes this semester, covering each chapter, to assess your progress in the course. Quizzes will be taken in class through the course website. It will be important for you to keep up with your readings, attend class, and maintain a study schedule to best be prepared for the weekly quizzes.

Late Quizzes: Quizzes can be taken late for up to half credit, unless documentation of an **illness, family emergency, or required UNT sponsored event** is provided.

Article Reviews: There will be four (4) article reviews in this course. These assignments will introduce students to the structure of empirical research papers and the practice of social research. Articles are available on Canvas under the folder "Articles for Review." Your review should show that you understand the article, and/or include questions concerning the parts you did not understand. After reading each article, students will respond to the reading by summarizing and interpreting the findings. Each review should show knowledge and understanding of the article, its methodologies, and include any questions that are triggered by the material.

Here are some questions to think about when writing your reviews: Does the research fit within one of the major social science paradigms? What data was used and why? How was the data collected, and why? How was the data analyzed, and why was that method of analysis chosen? How were participants chosen? Was this research ethical or not, and why? Was this research done unobtrusively? Is it evaluation research? Did the researchers use already-existing datasets or generate their own? What are the dependent and independent variables? What is the population, the sample, and the unit of analysis? Did the researchers create indexes, scales, or typologies? Do you think the research could have been better if done differently? If so, why do you think the researchers may not have chosen that method?

Do not write a paper that simply goes down this list answering these questions. These questions are not exhaustive and should be used as a guide as some will not be pertinent to the chosen article. The reviews must be **at least 2 pages**, typed, double-spaced, with 12-point Times New Roman font, and standard 1-inch margins. Save the paper as .doc or .docx with your last name in the file name. Students will submit papers using the Assignments link on Canvas. **Late Reviews:** All late reviews will be graded at half credit. This means that a review that, as graded on time, would receive 20 out of 25 points, would receive 10 out of 25 points.

Research Proposal: You will complete one research paper/proposal due during the course of the semester. The research paper will provide experience in designing and implementing a basic research project. A research proposal is a 10-20 page paper, created entirely by you, asking a research question which has not been previously researched scientifically and outlining the method by which you plan to answer that question. Writing a research proposal is a necessary skill for any scientific or academic work because no agency will fund research without a proposal explaining exactly what research questions will be answered, why the question is important, and how the research will be conducted. Detailed information about how to write a research proposal, instructions, and a rubric will be provided on Canvas.

The paper will be due Saturday at 11:59 p.m. via Canvas on the respective week. Any work turned in at 12:00 a.m. or later will be considered late. **Late Papers:** There will be a 5 point deduction for every day a paper is late, up until half credit at which point the paper will be graded at half-credit.

Class Presentation: At the end of the semester, you will present your research proposal to the class. Students are required to give a 5-minute presentation of their research. The presentation should state the research topic, address some of the relevant literature and how your project contributes to it, your data, data collection methods,

and methods of analysis. Your presentation will be timed and stopped at 5 minutes so everyone has the opportunity to present.

NIH Human Subjects Training: As you prepare to conduct your own research, you are expected to complete the NIH Human Subjects Training online and submit the completion certificate through Canvas. You can access the NIH website at <https://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php>

Mid-term and Final Exam: There are two exams for this course, the mid-term and final. In order to complete and pass this course, you must take both exams. The exams will consist of material from readings, lectures, and quizzes. The exams may include multiple-choice, true/false, fill in the blank, and short answer questions. Both exam will be held in class on their designated dates. The final will be held on Tuesday, December 10 at 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Late Exam: The mid-term can be taken late for half-credit unless documentation of an *illness, family emergency, or required UNT sponsored event* is provided. The final cannot be taken late for any reason.

GRADING POINT SYSTEM

GRADING SOURCE	POINTS (INDIVIDUAL/ TOTAL)		PERCENT %
Attendance	30 @ 2 points each	60	6% (06%)
Chapter Quizzes	15 @ 20 points each	300	30% (36%)
Article Reviews	4 @ 25 points each	100	10% (46%)
Research Proposal		260	26% (72%)
Topic Meeting		10	1% (73%)
Class Presentation		50	5% (78%)
NIH Training		20	2% (80%)
Mid-term & Final Exam	@ 100 points each	200	20% (100%)
Total Points		1000	

GRADING SCALE

GRADE	POINTS REQUIRED
A	1000-900
B	899-800
C	799-700
D	699-600
F	599-000

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty (cheating and/or plagiarism) will not be tolerated at any time. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the policies and procedures set forth by the University of North Texas, the College of Public Affairs and Community Service and the Department of Sociology. You will find the complete provisions of the code in the student handbook.

Plagiarism is defined as the act of taking another's ideas, words, writings, or research findings and not giving them proper credit through quotations or citations. Even when we are paraphrasing another's ideas, we must give credit. To do otherwise is to allow the reader to think these ideas and words are your own when they are not. This act is considered theft of intellectual property. Plagiarism is considered one of the most serious transgressions that can be committed in the educational community. Further information can be found on the website:

<http://www.unt.edu/csrr/development/dishonesty.html>

In the case of plagiarism, there are several options available to an instructor, including verbal and/or written reprimand, assignment of a lower grade with an explanation from the instructor, expulsion from the course with the assignment of a passing grade (WP), expulsion from the course with the assignment of a failing grade (WF), and/or expulsion from the university.

Therefore, all written work should be properly cited when:

1. Describing the ideas of another (even if it is not a direct quotation),
2. Describing the research of another (even if it is not a direct quotation),
3. Using the words, phrases, paragraphs, or pages of another, and/or
4. Quoting the words of another.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

The University of North Texas seeks to provide appropriate academic adjustments for all individuals with disabilities. This University will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines, specifically Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), with respect to providing appropriate academic adjustments to afford equal educational opportunity. However, it is the responsibility of the student to register with and provide medical verification and academic schedules to Disability Support Services (DSS) at the beginning of each semester and no later than the second week of school unless otherwise determined by the coordinator (i.e., no later than September 7th). The student also must contact the faculty member in a timely manner to arrange for appropriate academic adjustments. Appropriate adjustments and auxiliary aid are available for persons with disabilities. Call **940-565-2456** (TDD access **1-800-735-2989**).

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at **940.565.4323**.

RELIGIOUS OBLIGATIONS AND HOLIDAYS

If there are reasons that will cause you to "miss" class sessions for religious reasons, etc., sometime during the semester, you must notify me - in advance - in writing by no later than 5:00 PM, Friday, of the first week of classes.

STUDENT ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES

Links to all of these services can be found on the [Academic Support tab](#) within Blackboard Learn:

- Academic Resource Center: buy textbooks and supplies, access academic catalogs and programs, register for classes, and more.
- Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities: provides Code of Student Conduct along with other useful links.
- Office of Disability Accommodation: ODA exists to prevent discrimination on the basis of disability and to help students reach a higher level of independence.
- Counseling and Testing Services: CTS provides counseling services to the UNT community as well as testing services; such as admissions testing, computer-based testing, career testing, and other tests.
- UNT Libraries: online library services
- Online Tutoring: chat in real time, mark up your paper using drawing tools and edit the text of your paper with the tutor's help.
- The Learning Center Support Programs: various program links provided to enhance the student experience.
- Supplemental Instruction: program for every student, not just for students that are struggling.
- UNT Writing Lab: offers free writing tutoring to all UNT students, undergraduate, and graduate.
- Math Tutor Lab: located in GAB, room 440.
- Succeed at UNT: how to be "a successful student" information.

STUDENT TECHNICAL SUPPORT

The University of North Texas [UIT Student Helpdesk](#) provides student technical support in the use of Canvas and supported resources. The student help desk may be reached at:

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940.565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Our hours are:

Monday-Thursday 8am-midnight

Friday 8am-8pm

Saturday 9am-5p

Sunday 8am-midnight

VOLUNTARY PRODUCT ACCESSIBILITY TEMPLATE (VPAT) Blackboard Learn Release 9.1

The [Voluntary Product Accessibility Template](#)® or VPAT® documents Blackboard Learn 9.1's conformance with the accessibility standards under Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. '794 d), as amended by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (P.L. 105 - 220), August 7, 1998.

COURSE TOPICS, READING AND QUIZ/EXAM SCHEDULE

Week	Month/ Day	Topics	Readings	Discussions, Assignment, & Exams
1	Aug, 27	Human Inquiry and Science	Introduction/ Review Syllabus Chapter 1	
	Aug, 29			Th: Chapter 1 Quiz
2	Sept, 3	Paradigms, Theory, and Social Research	Chapter 2	
	5			Th: Chapter 2 Quiz
3	10	The Ethics and Politics of Social Research	Chapter 3	Th: Chapter 3 Quiz
	12			Sat: Article Review 1
4	17	Research Design	Chapter 4	Mon: NIH Training Due
	19			Th: Chapter 4 Quiz
5	24	Conceptualize, Operationalize, and Measurement	Chapter 5	
	26			Th: Chapter 5 Quiz
6	Oct, 1	Indexes, Scales, and Typologies & The Logic of Sampling	Chapter 6 & 7	Th: Chapter 6 Quiz
	2			Sat: Article Review 2
7	9	The Logic of Sampling	Chapter 7	Tu: Chapter 7 Quiz
	10		Chapters 1-7	Thursday: Midterm
8	15	Experiments	Chapter 8	
	17			Th: Chapter 8 Quiz
9	22	Survey Research	Chapter 9	Th: Chapter 9 Quiz
	24			Sat: Article Review 3
10	29	Unobtrusive Research	Chapter 11	
	31			Th: Chapter 11 Quiz, no class
11	Nov, 5	Evaluation Research	Chapter 12	
	7			Th: Chapter 12 Quiz
12	12	Quantitative Data Analysis	Chapter 14	Th: Chapter 14 Quiz/
	14			Sat: Article Review 4
13	17	Presentations		
	21			Fri: Research Paper
14	26	The Elaboration Model	Chapter 15	Tu: Chapter 15 Quiz
	28-31	Thanksgiving Break		
15	Dec, 3	Statistical Research & Reading and Writing Social Research	Chapter 16 & 17	
	5			Th: Chapter 16 & 17 Quizzes
	10	Final	Chapters 9-17	Tues., Dec. 10 at 10:30a-12:30p