

**University of North Texas
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Sociology**

**SOCI 3260.001 Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods
Fall 2017**

Instructor: Nikolitsa Grigoropoulou

Class time: MWF 12:00 - 12:50 pm

Classroom: GAB 550A

Office: Chilton 121

Office hours: Wednesday and Thursday 1:00 – 2:30 pm or by appointment

Email: Nikolitsa.Grigoropoulou@unt.edu

Course Description:

This course introduces quantitative and qualitative social science research methods. You will learn the basics of social scientific thinking, the foundations of social science research, and the fundamentals of conducting quantitative and qualitative social science research. By the end of this course, you should be able to

- ✓ critically evaluate social research,
- ✓ conduct research following ethical guidelines,
- ✓ define units of analysis and levels of measurement, compare and contrast reliability and validity, and explain conceptualization and operationalization,
- ✓ describe the sampling techniques used to gather quantitative data,
- ✓ describe the features of different quantitative and qualitative research methods and the strengths and weaknesses of these designs,
- ✓ construct questionnaires' and undertake interviews, and
- ✓ design and implement a basic social research project

Course Material:

Textbook: Earl Babbie. (2014). *The Basics of Social Research* (6th ed.), Cengage Learning.

Blackboard: Assignments, Datasets, Grades, Syllabus, and other course materials will be provided to the UNT Blackboard at <https://learn.unt.edu/>

Reading Assignments & Participation:

Students are responsible for reading the assigned materials from the text before each class session. It is very important to keep up with readings because the course material is cumulative. That is, later content and information builds on material presented in earlier chapters. The lecture presentations will be available online, but not the lecture notes, so it is in your best interest to attend every class.

Class attendance will be taken in every meeting and counts toward your final grade. You can miss up to 3 class meetings without harming your grade.

Exams: There will be **3 exams** throughout the semester.

Location: Exams will be taken online from Friday at 8:00 am until Sunday at 10:00 pm on the designated dates. The final exam is scheduled online from Monday, December 11 at 8:00 am until Wednesday, December 13 at 11:59 pm.

Format: Exams will cover material from assigned readings, lectures, and class discussions and will typically consist of multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay questions. Make-up exams can be given with appropriate documentation for a serious illness, death in the family, required university-sponsored event, or the instructor's consent.

Research Papers:

Your research papers will give you experience in designing and implementing a basic research project.

Location: Done inside and outside of class and turned in through Blackboard by Thursday, December 7 at 11:59 pm.

Format: Each student will develop **two (2) research papers** during the semester. For the first part of the paper you will be working with quantitative research methods, while for the second part you will be working with qualitative research methods. Designing and conducting these two small-scale projects will enable you to gain deeper knowledge on your research interests and practical experience on the field.

Part I and II of your paper should be 5-6 pages each. Specific guidelines, formatting instructions, and grading criteria will be posted on Blackboard as separate documents later during the semester.

Literature Review: Knowledge of existing literature on the topic of the one's interest is a key component for the design and organization of any research project.

Location: Done outside the classroom and turned in through Blackboard by Friday, October 13 at 11:59 pm.

Format: The literature review should be **2-3 pages** summarizing previous studies relevant to your research project. Specific guidelines, formatting instructions, and grading criteria will be posted on Blackboard as separate documents later during the semester.

Online Meetings: Due to the instructor's absence for scheduled conference participation, there are going to be **two (2)** online meetings throughout the semester. Detailed information will be provided in class and on Blackboard before these meetings. Make sure to follow the weekly schedule in the end of this syllabus to avoid confusing in-class and online meetings!!!

Class Presentation:

Location: Presentations will be given in class.

Format: Students will be required to give an approximately 4-5 min individual presentation briefly describing what they did and what they found in their research projects in a lecture format. PowerPoint presentation is not required, but it is highly recommended. A PowerPoint template with the required elements will be provided by the instructor.

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 Blackboard by **Friday, September 15 at 11:59 pm**.

You can access the NIH website at <https://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php>.

Late papers or assignments:

All papers and assignments must be submitted via Blackboard before the posted deadline to be graded. Students may either submit papers in Microsoft Word or PDF (according to the instructions of each assignment) as attachments or they may cut and paste the content of their papers/assignments into the submission window in Blackboard. If in doubt, cut and paste!

Because life happens, **late submissions will be accepted with a penalty of 5% of the assignment for every additional 24 hours past the due date**. The total penalty can only be up to 50% of the possible grade.

Grading:

Exams	2 @ 75 points each	150 points
Final Exam	100 points	100 points
Research Papers	2 @ 100 points each	200 points
Attendance	33 @ 2 points	66 points
Literature Review	50 points	50 points
Online Meeting #2	14 points	14 points
NIH Training	30 points	30 points
Class Presentation	25 points	25 points
Total		635 points

Range of Points	Range of Percentages	Grade
571 - 635	90% - 100%	A
508 - 570	80% - 89%	B
444 - 507	70% - 79%	C
381 - 443	60% - 69%	D
0 - 380	0% - 59%	F

Classroom Etiquette:

Food and drink are prohibited in the computer lab! Cell phones must be turned on SILENT and put away! Do not use computers for anything other than class work.

Arriving late in class and leaving early are very disruptive to the instructor and other students. Please let the instructor know prior to the beginning of class if you absolutely must leave early and make sure your exit distracts others as little as possible. Please make every effort to respect others.

Disagreements are allowed and expected, but the focus should be on ideas rather than on the individual who expresses them. Signs of disrespect that will not be tolerated include but are not limited to, having background conversations when others are talking, packing up early when others are still talking or asking questions, and working on material for other classes.

Acceptable Student Behavior:

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated UNT's Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. UNT's Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr.

Academic Integrity Policy:

Academic dishonesty is defined as follows by the Office of Academic Integrity on the website: <http://www.unt.edu/csrr/development/dishonesty.html>

- **Cheating:** Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. The term academic exercise includes all forms of work submitted for credit or hours.
- **Plagiarism:** The deliberate adoption or reproduction of ideas, words or statements of another person as one's own without acknowledgement.
- **Fabrication:** Intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.
- **Facilitating academic dishonesty:** Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to violate a provision of the institutional code of academic integrity.

Violations of the policy of academic integrity are taken seriously at UNT and may include (1) failing grades on assignments and/or the course and (2) reports to the VPAA that become a part of the official student record. You should read the procedures and sanctions for academic dishonesty on the website of the Vice President for academic Affairs at <http://vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm>. If you are in doubt about any of the issues related to academic integrity, it is your responsibility to consult with the course instructor regarding these requirements before your assignments are submitted.

Disability Statement:

Students requesting accommodations and services due to a disability are required to provide the authorization letter issued by the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) before their requests can be processed. Attempts will be made to meet all certified requirements. For more information contact the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) at 940-565-4323.

Syllabus as a Contract:

The University attorney advises faculty members to notify students that the syllabus is not a contract and is therefore subject to change. I will try to adhere to the schedule provided, but I reserve the right to alter the syllabus to better suit the needs of the class.

WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Reading / Assignment
Week 1		
M 08/28	Introduction / Review Course Outline	
W 08/30	Human Inquiry & Science	Chapter 1: pp. 1-29
F 09/01		
Week 2		
M 09/04	Labor Day	No Class
W 09/06	Paradigms, Theory, & Research	Chapter 2: pp. 30-60
F 09/08		
Week 3		
M 09/11	The Ethics & Politics of Social Research	Chapter 3: pp. 61-90
W 09/13		
F 09/15		NIH Training Due 09/15 by 11:59 pm
Week 4		
M 09/18	Research Design	Chapter 4: pp. 91-126
W 09/20		
F 09/22	Exam #1 Online	
Week 5		
M 09/25	Conceptualization, Operationalization, & Measurement	Chapter 5: pp. 127-161
W 09/27		
F 09/29		
Week 6		
M 10/02	Indexes, Scales, & Typologies	Chapter 6: pp. 162-193
W 10/04		
F 10/06		
Week 7		
M 10/09	The Logic of Sampling	Chapter 7: pp. 194-236
W 10/11		
F 10/13	Online Meeting #1	Literature Review Due 10/13 at 11:59 pm

Week 8		
M 10/16	Online Meeting #2	Draft of Quantitative Research Questions
W 10/18	Experiments	Chapter 8: pp. 237-258
F 10/20		
Week 9		
M 10/23	Survey Research	Chapter 9: pp. 259-301
W 10/25		
F 10/27	Exam #2 Online	
Week 10		
M 10/30	Constructing Research Questions	In-class work
W 11/01		
F 11/03		Research Paper Part I Due 11/03 at 11:59 pm
Week 11		
M 11/06	Qualitative Field Research	Chapter 10: pp. 302-338
W 11/08		
F 11/10		
Week 12		
M 11/13	Unobtrusive Research & Evaluation Research	Chapter 11: pp. 339-370 Chapter 12: pp. 371-401
W 11/15		
F 11/17		
Week 13		
M 11/20	Qualitative Data Analysis	Chapter 13: pp. 402-435
W 11/22		
F 11/24	Thanksgiving Break	No Class
Week 14		
M 11/27	Quantitative Data Analysis	Chapter 14: pp. 436-461
W 11/29		
F 12/01		

Week 15		
M 12/04	Student Presentations	
W 12/06	Student Presentations	Research Paper Part II Due Thursday, December 7 at 11:59 pm
F 12/08	Reading Day	No Class
Finals Week		
M 12/11 – W 12/13	Final Exam Online The exam will be available from Monday, December 11 at 8:00 pm until Wednesday, December 13 at 11:59 pm	

Have a Great Semester!!!