

**Soc 312/Section 001: Elements of Sociological Research  
Spring 2010**

**Class Information**

Applied Science and Arts 118  
MW: 3:00pm-4:40pm

**Instructor Information**

Nadia Amin  
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Office hours: M 12:00-3:00pm  
W 12:00-3:00pm

**Required Texts:**

Patten, Mildred L. *Understanding Research Methods: An Overview of the Essentials, 7th edition*. Pyczak Publishing.

**Course Description:** This course is designed to familiarize you with methods used to conduct social research. We will discuss a variety of research methods and examine strengths and weaknesses associated with using each method. Upon completion of the course, you should be able to present the link between theory and research, outline various techniques of collecting, analyzing, and presenting research, and finally, propose your own study.

**Course Requirements**

**Attendance:** Since lectures will incorporate material from the textbooks and other external resources, your attendance in this class is required. I will take random attendances throughout this semester. Students' participation in the class makes it more exciting not only for instructor but also for other fellow students. I would not want you to lose attendance and participation points either!

**Assignments:** Throughout the semester, you will turn in three assignments which will culminate toward your final research proposal. These three assignments will be on formulating research questions and hypotheses, presenting literature review synthesis, and deciding on a method for your study. See course schedule for dates these assignments are due. After I have read each assignment, I will provide you with feedback which you should take into account before turning in the final proposal.

**Final Proposal:** The format of your final proposal will resemble a typical academic style article; though it will be shorter and will not include an analysis/results and discussion section. The final proposal should not be longer than 15 pages, and should have the following sections: Abstract, Introduction/Literature Review, and Methods. Detailed instructions will be given later in the term. No late proposals will be accepted.

NOTE: I will **NOT** grade any assignment sent to me via email. If you have trouble turning in a hard copy please talk to me before hand.

**In-Class Exercises:** There will be two in-class exercises for this course. These exercises will allow you to exercise your analytical skills. First exercise will deal with interpreting quantitative result findings and the second will be on content analysis. I will elaborate on these exercises in class.

**Exams:** There will be two exams consisting of multiple choice, and true/false questions. Exams may include material from the textbook as well as from the lecture and documentaries shown in the class. The exams will NOT be cumulative, although an understanding of certain key concepts will be required throughout the semester. There will be no makeup exams except at the discretion of the instructor, and any makeup must be completed within one 2 days of the test date. **No make-up exams will be given for the final exam or unexcused absences on regular test days.**  
**NOTE: No INCOMPLETES will be given for the course.**

**Grading Criteria:**

2 Exams	100 points each	200 points
1 Paper		150 points
Attendance & Participation (10+10)		20 points
3 Exercises	10 points each	30 points
2 In-class Activities	10 points each	20
		Total points : 420

The grading scale will be as follows: A=90% and above, B=80% and above, C=70% and above D=69% and below

**Plagiarism:** You are not allowed to copy or use someone else's work without giving them credit for it. I will also discuss the proper citation style in class. Plagiarized work WILL result in a grade of -0- for the assignment. Please see SIUC student code of conduct for details. ([http://www.siu.edu/gradschl/catalog/Student\\_Conduct\\_Code.pdf](http://www.siu.edu/gradschl/catalog/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf))

**Class Discussion Rule:** We will engage in discussion in this course and therefore respect to others and their opinion is expected. Any disruption, disregard and lack of concern for others' opinion will not be tolerated.

*Emergency Procedures.* Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and health environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT's website at [www.bert.siu.edu](http://www.bert.siu.edu), Department of Safety's website [www.dps.siu.edu](http://www.dps.siu.edu) (disaster drop down), and in Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

*Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.*

## **Tentative Course Schedule**

Week 1: Jan. 20

Introduction to the Course

Week 2:

Jan 25— Topics 1, 2

Jan 27—Topics 4, 5 (textbook)

Week 3:

Feb 1: Topics 7-13

Feb 3: Discussion: Research questions

Week 4:

Feb 8— Topics 14-16     **Assignment 1 Due** (Research Questions)

Feb 10—Topics 17-19

Week 5:

Feb 15—Topics 20-23

Feb 17—Topics 24-26

Week 6:

Feb 22—Topics 27, 28, 31

Feb 24 Topics 32-33

Week 7:

Mar 1—Review/Discussion: Introduction/Literature Review

Feb 3— Topic 43-44

Mar 8-10: No Class Spring Break!

Week 8:

Mar 15— Topic 45-46 Exam 1 review **Assignment 2 Due** (literature Review Synthesis)

Mar 17— **Exam 1**

Week 9:

Mar 22—Topics 49-53

Mar 24— **In-class Exercise 1**

Week 10:

Mar 29— Topics 54-57

Mar 31— Review quantitative data analysis

Week 11:

Apr 5—Topics 64-67

Apr 7—Topics 67-70

Week 12:

Apr 12—**In-class-Exercise 2**

Apr 14— Discussion: Methods Section

Week 13:

Apr 19—**Assignment 3 Due** (Methods section)

Apr 21—Topics 71-74

Week 14:

Apr 26—Discussion: Abstract and Final Proposal

Apr 28—No class: work on final proposal

Week 15:

May 3: Final Proposal Due

May 5: Exam 2 review

Final Exam Date to be announced

Note: The instructor reserves the right to make changes in this syllabus if the need should arise. These changes will be announced in lecture.