



**SOC 331—INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL RESEARCH
SECTION 01E-- CRN # 20293
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2018**

Instructor: Dr. Jiaming Sun

Office Location: SS 205

Face to Face Office Hrs: T & Th: 9:30 am-11:00 pm; T & Th: 2:00 pm-4:30 pm

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COURSE INFORMATION

Lectures (Web-Enhanced): T R 11:00am-12:15pm
(SS312) 1/16/2018 through 5/11/2018

This syllabus intends to help you clearly understand the course goals, expectations, testing methods and topics we are going through so you may maximize your performance. It should also help you avoid mistakes and misunderstandings that may affect your grade adversely.

Course Description

An introduction to the process, logic, and skills of social science research inquiry. The range of research designs, their strengths and weaknesses, the specific research tools needed for the collection of sociological data, and introductory analytical techniques are examined.

Text W. Lawrence Neuman. *Social Research Method*. 7th Ed. Publisher: Pearson, 2009 ISBN-10: 0205615961; ISBN-13: 978-0205615964. (required). It can be purchased through Amazon for the 7th edition.

- Jiaming Sun. *Global Connectivity and Local Transformation*. University Press of America. ISBN 0-7618-4008-7 (optional).

Additional materials will be posted on the course website.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

This course provides an introduction to research methods and focuses particularly on the application of social research, developing fundamental, conceptual and empirical research skills in both quantitative and qualitative research methods. The course will provide students with tools to be able to apply in their own research and to understand scholarly work produced by others. The main goals of the course are (upon successful completion of the course the student will):

- Understand the relationship between theory and research as they apply to social science as well as to public policy;
- Demonstrate a wide variety of research techniques and design issues that are utilized in social science research;
- Describe survey instrumentation and be able to develop a quality survey questionnaire;
- Enable to use appropriate techniques to answer research questions;
- Identify the components of and be able to construct a research proposal;
- Identify as well as evaluate a variety of reference materials, including journals and valid internet sites that are used in social science research endeavors.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

This course is an eCollege online supporting course (a hybrid course or web-enhanced course). eCollege is a campus wide web-enhanced internet teaching and learning support system. Students taking this course will be able to surf the online course website, get reading material, download and upload assignments, take online quizzes and exams, check grades and cumulative points with percentiles anytime online while having regular face to face in class lectures. If you are not familiar with the use of eCollege or the Library Online Services, please avail yourself of the online tutorials which is available through your MyLeo web page.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu

Lecture Slides (PowerPoint)

The PowerPoint lessons used during classes will be transferred into HTML file and uploaded into eCollege after each chapter finished. These online lessons should help you keep track of the course content

and the topics we lectured. Keep in mind, however, these online lessons should NOT keep you from taking your own notes or from attending classes. Most questions in your quizzes and exams will be discussed in lectures in classes.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

As per the university rule, students taking one course with three credit-hours are expected to spend six hours weekly (three hours in class, and three hours out of class) on studying lecture online, watching videos clips, reading chapters, doing assignments, and preparing quizzes and exams.

Attendance and Participation- Students are required to attend all in class lectures and participate in online activities assigned by the instructor (your online activities will be counted partially as class participation). Recovering missed lecture content or assignment information is the responsibility of the student. Office appointments will not be used to substitute for class attendance or online study. Fellow students may be asked for providing notes for recovery of missed information.

There will be 2-3 points for each **full attendance** of class. The attendance points will not be given to those who are tardy or packing up early. Excessive tardiness may result in a further loss of points from your overall performance points. It can mean a difference of a final letter grade. Take it seriously.

Writing and Presentation of a Research Proposal- As part of the course work students must complete a research proposal. It is based on your cumulative knowledge and skill of social research learned in this course. Students will be arranged in person discussing with the professor (named "Meet the Professor") and to present their research proposals before the end of the semester. The instructor will provide assistance during office hours and, if necessary, additional appointments can be set up for any question related to writing a research proposal.

Assignments and Quizzes – Assignments will include reading chapters, writing reading summary, and doing chapter exercises, etc. Doing these exercises helps understand

class material and prepare the exams. Assignments are due on specific dates, as assigned. You will have a plenty of notifications sent by emails. If you know you are going to be out of town and unable to access a computer, plan ahead. Late submission will cause a minimum 20% deduction of penalty for the first week, and then 10% each subsequent week late (up to 50 % deduction). No late submission will be accepted by the day and after taking the exams.

Online quizzes will be given to evaluate what have been covered in previous lectures. In order to do well on your quizzes and tests, be sure to bring your textbook to class, take notes, read chapters, and highlight important materials in the text and alternate reading materials. The style of quizzes will be multiple choices, true/false. Open questions with page numbers will be given to students looking for answers for after-class reading. Those questions will be included in quizzes and exams also. Make-ups will be given for students who have extraordinary circumstances but the grading will be an average of the two quizzes.

Exams- There will be two exams during the semester. These exams are close-book format with multiple choices, short essays questions that based on class lectures, readings, and those quizzes you have taken. These exams will be taken in a computer lab (or online). Students may use one sheet of compact notes arranged in convenient reference form. Students may not share notes with another student during the exams. The final exam is not cumulative and will cover the lectures presented after the midterm exam. Students will be provided with a study guide prior to the exams. Make-ups will be given for students who have extraordinary circumstances but the grading will be an average of the two exams.

Class Behavior – As stated in the student handbook: “all students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment” (See student Guide handbook, pp. 67 - 73, Policies and Procedures, Conduct, for more information.)

When you are in class, you are expected to abide by common-sense rules of courtesy and respect. They include: 1. No tardiness: no one likes it when somebody walking into class after the lecture has been started. 2. No early departures, unless you and the instructor have an agreement on it beforehand. 3. No chatting, corresponding with your friends and classmates while lecturing. 4. Turn off your cell phone during the class time. These behaviors will be disturbing the class while lecturing.

Student Performance Expectations

Students enrolled in this course will automatically be entered in a Stimulative Grading Scheme (SGS). This scheme provides an incentive to students who are excelling academically in this course. The SGS provides students with "Distribution Points to Date" three or four time in the semester, so students will be easily having a perception of his/her performance with a percentile rank in the class. So students are highly encouraged to have great user activities, submitting all assignments on time, and standing in the higher percentile of the distribution charts.

Grading Policy

YOU EARN YOUR OWN POINTS

Attendance	80
Homework/Reading	70
Proposal/Presentation	80
Quizzes	60
Midterm Exam	80
Final Exam	90
Overall performance	40
Total	500

Overall performance points (40 points) based primarily on a ranking percentile in the class will be added on a student's total points by the end of the semester. For instance, a student who is at the 80th percentile will receive 36 points, and a student who is at the 60th percentile will receive 28 points and so on (See the detail at Stimulative Grading Scheme in eCollege).

Final letter grade:	A: 450-500
	B: 400-449
	C: 350-399
	D: 300-349
	F: below 299

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND MATERIAL NEEDS

This is a web-based course and some obvious technological resources will be required. Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means that our course works best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0 or 8.0). Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

- Word processing software (Microsoft Word preferred);
- Some floppy diskettes or jump drive to use exclusively for this class;
- A speaker for watching videos when student using computer at lab or at home;
- You are strongly recommended to have a computer with Internet connections at home to complete course assignments and online quizzes.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

University Specific Procedures Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See current Student Guidebook).

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum (i.e. discussion boards): Netiquette
<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

Disruptive Behavior

"Disruptive behavior" includes but not limited being rude to other people, destructive (rather than constructive) criticism of another, arriving late repeatedly, sleeping during class, belligerent or aggressive behavior, and so on. These behaviors have no place in a college classroom. You have a right to maintain your own opinions and to disagree with others, but you must do so in a fashion that is conducive to learning and does

not take the form of a personal attack on others. Minimally, you are expected to treat your classmates and your professor in a respectful fashion and they will return the favor. Any behavior that obstructs or disrupts the classroom teaching and learning environment will be addressed. Serious or repeated breaches in appropriate behavior may result in a degradation of your final grade in the course and may be referred to additional University authorities.

Cheating & Plagiarism

It should go without saying that every student is expected to do his/her own work. Department policy provides that anyone caught cheating in any form or fashion will receive an "F" for the course and may be subject to further disciplinary action by the university. Plagiarism (the use of others' words, phrases, and ideas in your writing without giving credit to the original author) is a form of cheating and not only violates academic ethical standards, but is against the law.

Your written work and final paper will require to be submitted into DropBox (linking to TurnItIn) in eCollege. More than 25% similarity on a paper reported will not be accepted for grading.

Policies on Enrollment, "X", "DP," "DF," and Withdrawal

Every student has the right to drop the course without penalty until the drop date. Students dropping the course during this period will be given a DP (drop while passing). A grade of DP is GPA neutral, but a grade of DF counts as an F on your transcript.

If you choose to stop attending class, you may be dropped from the course due to excessive absences. If you are not satisfied with your grade in the course and wish you to drop, it is YOUR responsibility to drop the course. Once a grade of DP or DF has been registered, it won't be able to change. A student may drop a course by logging into his/her myLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled "Drop a class" from a listed choices found under the myLEO section of the Web page.

Students should check the university catalog, current semester schedule, and other official sources for specific deadlines, policies, etc. It is the student's responsibility to see that all university procedures are properly followed.

Student Requiring Assistance (Students with Disabilities)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library, Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu

Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M- Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf> and/or consult your event organizer. Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of

handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Email Correspondence

In this course, email is an essential corresponding method and a supplement to lectures. This means that you can expect to hear from the instructor via emails regularly throughout the semester, such as using email for reminders, clarifications, last-minute notifications, etc. Needless to say, students are expected to check email regularly in daily fashion (a couple of times a day). Conversely, you should feel free to contact the instructor via email with questions, requests or problems that might not be addressed clearly in online lessons.

You may access to your email account via myLeo - all my emails sent from eCollege (and all other the university's emails) will go to this account. Conversely, you are to email me via the eCollege email system or your myLeo email since the university spam filters will catch yahoo, hotmail, etc. and usually the emails in spam won't be checked.

HOWEVER in order to avoid duplication of questions and answers, please post all class related questions in the Virtual Office. This will be our Q&A forum. It is likely that your peers will have the same question. Emails of a personal nature or for a bonus point should be sent individually to the instructor's email address via eCollege.

If you are having problems in class, please contact the instructor immediately. Please understand that you should not contact the instructor only at the end of the semester being unhappy with your grade, asking for a way to change it.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

The course schedule is tentative and somewhat subject to change. Although this course will follow the schedule, it is possible that some adjustments will be made as we progress through the semester.

Week	Dates (T, R)	Topic	Readings
1	Jan. 16, 18	Introduction to the course	Ch. 1

		outline and syllabus. Science and research.	
2	Jan. 23, 25	Dimensions of research	Ch. 2
3	Jan. 30, Feb. 1	Theory and research.	Ch. 3
4	Feb. 6, 8	How to Write a Research Proposal.	Ch. 4
5	Feb. 13, 15	The Literature Review and Ethical Concerns	Ch. 5
6	Feb. 20, 22	Qualitative and Quantitative research designs.	Ch. 6
7	Feb.27, Mar. 1	Review,	Ch. 1-6
8	Mar. 6, 8	*** Mid term exam***	
9	Mar. 12-16	Spring Break	
10	Mar. 20, 22	Qualitative and Quantitative, Measurement.	Ch. 7
11	Mar. 27, 29	Qualitative and Quantitative sampling.	Ch. 8
12	Apr. 3, 5	Experimental research.	Ch. 9
13	Apr. 10, 12	Survey research.	Ch. 10
14	Apr. 17, 19	Nonreactive research and secondary analysis.	Ch. 11
15	Apr. 24, 26	Field research.	Ch. 13
16	May 1, 3	Review, Virtual presentation of Your proposal; Discussion of Presentations.	
17	May 8, 10	***Final Exam*** As scheduled by the University	Ch. 7- 13