

Advanced Research Methods

MSC 5603, Fall 2017

Instructor: Rick Moore
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Class Information:

Oct 16, 2017 - Dec 15, 2017
Tues: 5:30p – 9:00p
Walker Center Walker Center 211
Course Prerequisite: Previous social science methods course

Course Description:

This course takes an in-depth look at major research methods used in criminology and sociology. The course accomplishes this through a combination of readings and practical exercises.

Course Objectives:

The students who successfully completes this course should:

- (1) Become proficient in several major research methods utilized by social scientists, especially criminologists and sociologists
- (2) Have the ability to critically evaluate both the methods and results of published research
- (3) Be able to design, implement, and analyze their own social research, including writing a research proposal
- (4) Improve both writing, reading and oral presentation skills
- (5) Understand the ethical implications of conducting social research, as well as how to ensure research is performed ethically.

Required Texts:

*Bryman, Alan. 2016. *Social Research Methods*. Fifth Edition. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press.

Goffman, Alice. 2014. *On the Run: Fugitive Life in an American City*. Picador.

Martin, John Levi. 2017. *Thinking Through Methods: A Social Science Primer*. Chicago ; London: University Of Chicago Press.

In addition to these three books, there will be further required readings posted on our D2L site. Additional readings will be added during the semester.

* This book is required in that it's the methods reference book that I recommend. You *might* be able to get by with using a different book *if* you have a pretty solid foundation in methods to begin with. Think of the Bryman book as a resource; use it to brush up on topics your familiar with and look up things that are new or you're not sure about.

Course Hashtag

When I see news related to topics we're covering in the course I occasionally post it on Twitter using the #OKCURM hashtag. You can see the feed on the course homepage in D2L or you can search for it in Twitter. My twitter handle is @prairiedogking. More information will be given during the semester.

Course Requirements:

1. Class Participation and in-class exercises (33.3%)

Active class participation is essential for our collective learning project. This means that attendance is mandatory. However, class participation is more than just attendance: *You must come to class having read the assigned readings for that day and prepared to discuss them in detail.* Bring copies of the readings to class; we will refer to and discuss specific pages. Some days there will also be ungraded exercises to complete in class. If for some reason you cannot come to class, please refer to the procedures in the course attendance policy located under the General Course Policies section of this syllabus. *Remember, this class is only 8 weeks long so it's imperative that you bring your A-game!*

2. Practical Homework (33.3%)

Throughout the semester you will have **four** homework assignments. Each homework assignment is worth roughly 8% of your final grade. These assignments are designed so you get some practical experiences with some of various research methods we will cover in class. Further information about the individual assignments will be provided as the semester progresses. For policies late work, please refer to the procedures outlined under General Course Policies.

- 1) Survey Design (Due: 11/7)
- 2) Interviewing (Due: 11/21)
- 3) Ethnography (Due: 11/28)
- 4) Content Analysis OR Experimental OR Policy Analysis (12/5)

3. Final Project: Research Paper OR Research Proposal (33.3%)

For your final project you have the option of either writing a paper on an aspect of research methodology (e.g. critically examine a methods problem, analyze the use of a methodology in a particular setting, etc.) OR writing a sample research proposal. I am open to working with you to make this assignment relevant for your progress in the program and/or career more generally. However, whatever you choose, you must first discuss your project from me and get my approval. This discussion must happen by Nov. 17th, at the latest. More information about this process will be discussed during in the semester. **Projects will be due at 9 am on Thursday 12/14.** Late papers will not be accepted for any reason after 5p on Friday December 15th. For policies on late work, please refer to the procedures outlined under General Course Policies.

Notes on Reading:

This class will be fairly reading intensive. I know that's challenging in a short course, but we've got a lot of ground to cover!

Each week we'll read selections from methods textbooks as well as additional examples of actual research that used the methods we're discussing that week.

The reading each week is divided into two sections: Main Reading and Companion Reading. The main reading will likely be new to you. You must read the main reading each week and be prepared to discuss it in detail. The companion reading is usually from the Bryman textbook and will discuss the basics of various issues and methods. You also should come to class prepared to discuss the issues dealt with in the companion reading in detail...BUT...you only need to read as much or as little as you need to in order to do so. If you have already done research using a particular method or have recently taken an introductory methods course you'll probably be able to get away with skimming the accompanying companion reading. If the method is new to you or you've forgotten everything from your undergraduate methods course, then you might have to read all of the companion reading carefully.

Any readings beyond the required books for the course will be available as a pdf on D2L. Some of these additional readings are listed as TBA on the syllabus; as we get closer to that time I'll select articles and post them on D2L. Please bring copies of the readings to class each week. Electronic copies are fine.

Remember, it's vital that you come to class having done the readings and ready to discuss them in detail.

Summary:

Main Reading = read carefully in detail and be prepared to discuss in class

Companion Reading = you must also know this, but you might already know this, so read what you need to discuss the issues presented in class

Course Outline and Readings:

Week 1: Intro, Research Basics and Ethics

October 17

Main Reading

Martin Ch 1-3; 6
Humphreys, Tearoom Trade

Companion Reading

Bryman 1-6; 8; 18

Week 2: Crime Reports – Has someone collected the data already?

October 24

Main Reading

Durkheim: Suicide
Gould et al 2002
Steffensmeier et al 2006

Companion Reading

Mosher Ch. 2-3

Week 3: Surveys – Let's go out and ask a whole lot of people

October 31

Main Reading

McCarthy and Casey 2008
Laumann et al 1994, Ch 2

Companion Reading

Mosher Ch. 4-5
Bryman Ch 7-11
Laumann et al 1994, Appendix A

Week 4: In-depth interviewing – Let's ask a few people in-depth questions

November 7

Main Reading

Martin Ch 4
Weiss
Carbone, Lopez and Miller 2012
Densley 2014

Companion Reading

Bryman Ch 20

DUE: Survey Design Assignment

Week 5: Ethnography – Let's hang out with them, watch, and do it too

November 14

Main Reading

Goffman, entire book
Martin Ch 5
Emerson

Companion Reading

Bryman Ch 19

You should have spoken to me individually about your project by the end of this week (Nov. 17th)

Week 6: Content Analysis & Experimental – Let's read what they wrote & mess around with them

November 21

Main Reading

Martin Ch 7-8
Pager

Companion Reading

Bryman 13; 23
Bachman Ch. 10 (D2L)

Ratcliff et al 2011
Chan and Moses 2015

DUE: Interviewing Assignment;

Week 7: Mixed Methods & Policy Analysis – Let’s do a little of everything & judge people

November 28

Main Reading

Bachman Ch 11-12

Brezina and Topalli 2012

Policy analysis paper - Students' Choice

Companion Reading

Bryman Ch 26-27

DUE: Ethnography assignment

Week 8: Making sense of it all

December 5

Main Reading

Martin Ch 9

Companion Reading

N/A

DUE: Content Analysis OR Experimental OR Policy Analysis

General Course Policies:

Academic Integrity:

All work that is not your own must be cited appropriately. Academic dishonesty *of any sort* will not be tolerated and may result in a failing grade for the course and other actions as the university deems appropriate. Unless I have informed you otherwise in writing, reusing material from previous work you wrote for this class or other classes also constitutes plagiarism. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism or academic honesty please speak with me and I will be happy to help you.

The university’s academic honesty policy is published in the undergraduate catalog (page 30) and graduate catalog (page 31).

A helpful page with resources for citation practices is

<http://guides.lib.uchicago.edu/cite>

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory. Excused absences for a regular class require notice by email 48 hours before the absence in order for it to count as excused. Absences on exam days should be avoided whenever possible; if the absence cannot be avoided you must email me at least 2 weeks before the exam date to arrange an alternate time to take the exam. The final exam, however, must without exception be taken during our final exam time. If you are sick and cannot come to class, I hope you feel better! Also, if you are sick please email me within 24 hours of the class you missed for your absence to count as excused. Frequent or extended absences may require additional documentation.

Course Changes:

Over the quarter there might be changes made to the syllabus, especially concerning the exact readings. If any changes are made, we will go over them in class.

Grade Changes:

If you feel that I have graded something incorrectly, or not entered the correct grade in the D2L gradebook, you have one week from the time the assignment was returned (or graded on D2L) to discuss the possibility of any changes.

Grade checks:

If you require a grade check form signed for any reason, please inform me via email 48 hours before you would like me to sign it. If I do not receive an email from you, I will not sign any grade check forms.

Grading Scale:

A	> 93%	A-	90.0 – 92.9%	B+	88.0 – 89.9%
B	83.0 – 87.9%	B-	80.0 – 82.9%	C+	78.0 – 79.9%
C	73.0 – 77.9%	C-	70.0 – 72.9%	D+	68.0 – 69.9%
D	63.0 – 67.9%	D-	60.0 – 62.9	F	< 60%

Email, Course Notifications and Electronic Etiquette:

You are expected to regularly check your official OCU email account, as important class emails will be periodically sent to it. Having not checked that account or having technical problems are not excuses for missing something in the class. I also post announcements under “News” in D2L. You are also responsible for knowing what’s posted there; I highly suggest you turn on email notifications so that you don’t miss anything, if you have not already done so.

I do my best to answer emails quickly. However, I cannot guarantee that last minute emails will be answered as soon as you might wish. Please do not expect an answer to your email faster than 48 hours. Most likely I'll answer much sooner but there are no guarantees - please plan accordingly. Also, I will not answer emails related to an assignment after 5p the day before the assignment is due.

Computers are great for taking and organizing notes but can also be distracting from class discussion. If you choose to bring a laptop or tablet to class please be respectful and do not use it for anything except taking notes relevant to this class (i.e. no internet, no email, no working on other assignments). Phones must be turned off unless you work for some type of emergency agency (i.e., medical or law enforcement). Failing to adhere to this policy will affect your participation grade.

Exceptions:

Any exceptions to standard course procedures due to exceptional circumstances must be worked out with me over email in addition to any in-person discussions we might have. This helps prevent any misunderstandings.

Incompletes (graduate courses):

As this is a graduate course, I may allow incompletes, although I do not recommend them. Incompletes MUST be discussed with me by November 18th, at the latest. For the university’s incomplete course policy see relevant passages in the undergraduate catalog or graduate catalog. The catalogs are posted on StarNet and on www.okcu.edu.

Late Work:

Assignments that are accepted late will be penalized 1/3 of a grade for each day overdue – for example, A will become A-, B- will become C+ etc. Late assignments can receive grades below failing (< 59%) as there will be a continued reduction of 3.3% credit each day late beyond the time the work would receive an F. In-class assignments and quizzes will not be accepted late and cannot be made up. No work will be accepted after the end of the semester.

University Required Notifications:

Academic Complaints

Students are encouraged to utilize Oklahoma City University’s internal complaint policies through the Office of the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs prior to filing a complaint with any external entity. Students may submit an official Academic Complaint at <http://www.okcu.edu/academics/complaints>. Academic complaints submitted will be received by the Office of the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs, and will be investigated by that office for action or further resolution.

Submitting an academic complaint via this form does not initiate a formal appeal process under the student handbook or University catalogue.

For information on submitting a complaint related to the accreditor of your program, please visit <http://www.okcu.edu/admin/academic-affairs/accreditation>.

For information on submitting a complaint for distance education courses, please visit <http://www.okcu.edu/academics/distance-learning-complaints>.

ADA/Section 504

If you believe that you need reasonable accommodations for a documented physical, psychiatric, and/or learning disability or attention disorder, please make sure to register with Campus Disability Services by filling out the New Student Application at the following link: <https://andes.accessiblelearning.com/OKCU/>. The Senior Coordinator for Access and Academic Support is responsible for coordinating student disability-related accommodations and, if approved, will issue students a Letter of Accommodation. Reasonable accommodations may require early planning and are not provided retroactively, so please start this process as soon as possible. If you have general questions about reasonable accommodations, you may contact the Senior Coordinator for Access and Academic Support, Jenny Minsberg, at jlminsberg@okcu.edu and in DBL 106C.

Students with approved reasonable accommodations are expected to meet with me during the first two weeks of class so that we can discuss how we can work together to meet your needs in this course.

Emergency Preparedness:

Our classroom has information posted on what to do in the case of an emergency. Please familiarize yourself with this information. In the case of an evacuation from our Sarkey's classroom, please assemble on the Activities Lawn.

Petree College

Welcome to a course in the Petree College of Arts and Sciences! Our academic programs and the coursework associated with them provide the foundation of knowledge one gains through earning a college degree – that centered on the essential liberal arts and sciences. Oklahoma City University graduates are expected to be servant leaders in an increasingly challenging world, and the broad knowledge we impart at the Petree College provides much of the basis upon which you will make wise, thoughtful decisions in your leadership role.

We want you to be intellectually and morally prepared for the future that awaits you, and we seek to develop the skills that will undergird that preparation through critical reading, writing, and thinking; through aesthetic and moral awareness; and through on and off campus experiences in service learning. We care about your future as an OCU graduate and look forward to doing our part to prepare you for the brightest one possible. All we ask, in return, is that you study hard in this course and absorb as much knowledge as you can from what we offer.

Statement on Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination:

Under Title IX, you have the right to an education free of sex or gender-based discrimination, harassment, and violence. Issues addressed by Title IX include acts of discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and sex or gender-based hate crimes. Title IX also addresses acts of discrimination and/or harassment that are based on gender identity, gender expressions, sexual orientation, and pregnancy and/or parenting status. Title IX applies to students, faculty, staff, guests, and anyone accessing OCU programs and services.

As OCU employees, all faculty members are required to report any form of discrimination, harassment, or violence addressed by Title IX to the Title IX Coordinator within 24 hours. After the university receives a report, you will be contacted by one of OCU's Title IX administrators to discuss the report, the support the university can provide, and your options for pursuing a resolution to the issue through the university's established process.

If you would like to make a report or learn more, please contact OCU's Title IX Coordinator by calling (405) 208-5075 or visit <http://www.okcu.edu/admin/hr/titleix>.

That website also contains links to other local resources, OCU's non-discrimination policies and procedures, and contact information for the University's Title IX administrators.

For emergencies, you can contact OCU's police department at (405) 208-5911. For free and confidential support on campus, you can contact University Counseling by calling (405) 208-7901. For medical issues, you