Rutgers University
School of Management and Labor Relations

Research Methods   Professor Yana Rodgers
37:575:401:90 & 38:578:501:90   Office Hours: Zoom Mondays 4-5pm
Fall 2022   yana.rodgers@rutgers.edu

Course Information

This course is an introduction to the methods of research most commonly employed by social scientists. Most of us are exposed to social research every day, from reports of the effects of the pandemic on telework to articles on the impact of having children on the gender wage gap. The main purpose of this course is to make you a more critical consumer of this kind of material in part by showing you how social research is done and also by engaging you in the process of social research itself.

This course is designed to:
1. Help students to understand the basics of methodological reasoning – how to formulate research problems and how to understand issues of social causality.
2. Guide students in making ethical decisions in doing research.
3. Give students an understanding of the nuts and bolts issues of research – e.g., research design, sampling, measurement.
4. Allow students to develop their abilities as researchers by conducting a project using three specific methodologies.
5. Make students more critical consumers of the social science knowledge presented to them in their everyday lives.

Learning Objectives

This course meets SMLR learning objective II: Quantitative, Qualitative, and Analytical Skills – Apply appropriate quantitative and qualitative methods for research workplace issues. It also meets learning objective III: Research Skills – Demonstrate an ability to collect, analyze and synthesize information to make logical and informed decisions impacting the workplace. Use evidence to evaluate hypotheses, theories and approaches to workplace issues.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The School of Management and Labor Relations seeks to influence the world beyond Rutgers in promoting just and effective practices in the workplace and beyond. Creating a culture that demonstrates our values is essential to our ability to work together to develop curricula, govern ourselves, create knowledge and plan for the future. To help meet the school's DEI goals, this course includes supplemental articles that focus on issues related to diversity and equity in the workplace, and one of the statistical assignments focuses specifically on finding and presenting data on occupational segregation by gender and race/ethnicity.

Course Requirements

- This is a combined undergraduate and graduate course. This means the requirements will differ somewhat for graduate students versus undergraduates. The main difference is that graduate students (enrolled in 501) *are required to* complete a research project.

  Undergraduate students (enrolled in 401) *may* (with my permission) complete a research project, but my assumption is that most will take the examination option instead.

- **Research Project – required for graduate students, optional, with permission for undergrads**: Much of your grade will be accounted for by the research project. This project will be completed in segments throughout the semester, each of which will build on one another. See Canvas for complete description. The research project will account for 30 percent of your grade.

- **Examinations – required for undergraduates except with permission**: There will be three examinations, all of which will be a combination of short/long answers. Taken together, these will account for 30 percent of your grade.

- **Exercises**: There will be a series of exercises. These will count for 20 percent of your grade.

- **Lecture Reflections**: After viewing the lecture presentation every week, you will be responding to a series of questions on the lectures. The number of reflection questions per lecture will be variable, but this component of the course will be worth 30 percent of your grade.

- **Reading Comments/Discussion**: For each reading assignment, you will be required to post substantive comments and responses (usually three) on Canvas in the discussion section. In total, these comments will be worth 20 percent of your grade.

- **Class participation**: Keep in mind that Canvas gives me information on the time you spend in the course. Though I will not use this to take "attendance," per se, it will matter in borderline cases.

- **Final Grade**: Your grade for the class will be calculated as follows:
Research Project/exams	30 percent
Exercises	20 percent
Lecture reflections	30 percent
Reading comments	20 percent
Total	100 percent

Grading Scale
This is a points-based course. The final grade is based on a 1000 point system. Total points accumulated determines final course grade.

Outstanding	Good
1000 - 900 Points = A	899 – 870 Points = B+
	869 – 800 Points = B

Satisfactory	Poor	Fail
799 – 770 Points = C+	699 – 670 Points = D+	Below 600=F
769 – 700 Points = C	669 – 600 Points = D	

Class Sessions
The course delivery mode is remote asynchronous; meaning that the learning activities take place online (virtually) and students will access the course material on their own timing according to the following guidelines. Each course week begins on Tuesday mornings at 10:00am and ends the following week Monday, 11:59pm
* A weekly message will be published and a notification sent that the message is available in a student's inbox by 10:00am Tuesdays. Information about content and assignment procedure is available in the weekly message, and students will also be directed to a presentation within the course.
* Each week is 7 days in length. Students may enter the course and engage in coursework at any time 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Student Resources

Academic Integrity
You will be held to the Rutgers Policy on Academic Integrity, which can be found online at http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/. If you have any questions regarding plagiarism or related topics, just ask. Cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, or plagiarism will be reported. Depending on the individual case, you might fail the assignment or the class, be required to take an ethics seminar, be placed on disciplinary probation, or be suspended from Rutgers for a semester or more.

Disability Services
(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / https://ods.rutgers.edu/

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form.

We are utilizing the Canvas learning management system to access learning materials, discuss the readings, post announcements, submit assignments, communicate via the Inbox feature, and view grades. Be sure to check this site frequently as there will be announcements and instructions. Checking your Rutgers email account frequently is also highly recommended.

Required Textbook
The required text for this course is:

Blackstone, Amy. 2012. Principles of Sociological Inquiry – Qualitative and Quantitative Methods. Saylor Foundation. Open access: https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/139

This is a text by a sociologist, but social science research methods are pretty much universal across disciplines. This is a good basic text, and even better, it is open access and free. I will supplement with other readings as necessary. Any reading material in this course will be posted on Canvas.

Policies

Class day/Assignment Policies:
I have treated this class as if it meets on Tuesday morning at 10:00am every week, though of course I realize that this is an asynchronous class and you will be doing your assignments and listening to and reading the content as your schedules allow. Assignments, reflections on lectures, and comments on readings are all due by 11:59 PM on Monday night the following week. Hence each class week spans from Tuesday morning at 10:00am through and including the following Monday night at 11:59pm.
I expect you to submit your assignments on the specified due dates - this is especially important for project components. Refer to your Canvas classroom for each week's assignment and/or project due dates. My grading policy for late assignments is as follows:
- 1 day late – 1% will be deducted from your total grade
- 3 days late – 10% will be deducted from your total grade
- 5 days late – 20% will be deducted from your total grade

Assignments more than 5 days late will have points deducted at my discretion - talk to me about why the assignment is late and when you plan to get it in. If you know you will be late with your assignments ahead of time, please contact me to discuss alternative dates, - ahead of time, preferably - but asap.

Scholastic Dishonesty:
For the purposes of this course, scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the submission of assignments that are plagiarized or written in collusion with another or the falsification of any records connected with this course or any examination. Plagiarism includes quoting or closely paraphrasing a printed source without giving appropriate credit (e.g. Gould, 2021:123). It is acceptable to talk with classmates about homework assignments, projects and papers. Handing in substantially the same assignment constitutes plagiarism, however. I will give a grade of 0 to any written assignment that appears to be substantially similar to that of another class member or that uses others' material without proper citation; further consequences may follow at my discretion. If you have any doubts at all about what constitutes plagiarism check with me before you turn in any assignment. I will use Turnitin.com for examinations and projects.

Office hours:

My office hour is on Mondays from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM. If you need an individual appointment at some other time I'll do my best to accommodate your requests. My weekly office hour is a time when you can drop in to talk about whatever you want - questions you have about the material, how you're doing in the course, things that you find particularly striking (or irritating) about the course or the readings. Please do not hesitate to use this time. If you are having trouble, it is better for both of us if I know this early in the semester. Please also understand that I serve as Faculty Director of the Center for Women and Work and I try to maintain at least a little work/life balance myself. If I don't get back to you immediately (particularly outside regular business hours), you will hear from me as soon as possible.

Copyright/Intellectual Property:
Lectures and materials utilized in this course, including but not limited to videocasts, podcasts, visual presentations, assessments, and assignments, are protected by United States copyright laws as well as Rutgers University policy. As the instructor of this course, I possess sole copyright ownership. You are permitted to take notes for personal use or to provide to a classmate also currently enrolled in this course. Under no other circumstances is distribution of recorded or written materials associated with this course permitted to any internet site or similar information-sharing platform without my express written consent. Doing so is a violation of the university's Academic Integrity Policy.
Similarly, these copyright protections extend to original papers you produce for this course. In the event that I seek to share your work further, I will first obtain your written consent to do so. Finally, as the instructor for this course, I have the responsibility to protect students' right to privacy. Classroom recordings of students will therefore be treated as educational records under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the U.S. federal law that governs access to educational information and records. Instructors and students must provide notification if any part of online sessions are to be recorded, and such recordings cannot be circulated outside the course.

Schedule of Readings and Assignment Due Dates

Unit One: Framing Research/Basic issues*				
Week	**Date**	**Topic**	**Reading**	**Assignments**
0	9/1 - 9/5	Learning your way around the Canvas course site	Course site activities	Complete week 0 activities
1	9/6 - 9/12	Epistemology and intro to methodology	Blackstone Ch 1	View lecture, post reflections

				Post comments on reading
2	9/13 - 9/19	Theory and research	Blackstone Ch 2	View lecture, post reflections
				Post comments on reading
3	9/20 - 9/26	Research Ethics	Blackstone Ch 3	View lecture, post reflections
				Post comments on reading
4	9/27 - 10/3	Topics in social research	Blackstone Ch 4 and Ch 5	View lecture, post reflections
				Post comments on reading
				PROJ: Submit topic area
Unit Two: Research Design and Methods				
5	10/4 - 10/10	Sampling	Blackstone Ch 7	View lecture, post reflections

				Post comments on reading
	10/7/2022	EXAM 1. Posted 10/7/22 at 10:00am		Due by 10/10/22 at 11:59pm.
6	10/11 - 10/17	Measurement	Blackstone Ch 6	View lecture, post reflections
				Post comments on reading
				Occupational Data Homework due (10/17)
7	10/18 - 10/24	Experimental research	Blackstone Ch 12.2, supplement	View lecture, post reflections
				Post comments on reading
				PROJ: Lit Review Due
8	10/25 - 10/31	Observation research	Blackstone Ch 10, supplemental article	PROJ: Observation sites approved (10/25)
				View lecture, post reflections
9	11/1- 11/7			Post comments on reading

				PROJ: Observation (11/7)
10	11/8 - 11/14	Content analysis	Blackstone Ch 11, article	View lecture, post reflections
				Post comments on reading
				Content analysis homework due (11/14)
11	11/15 - 11/21			PROJ: Content analysis (11/21)
	11/18/2022	Exam 2. Posted 11/18/22 at 10:00am		Due by 11/21/22 at 11:59pm.
Thanksgiving Break				
12	11/29 - 12/5	Quantitative data analysis	Blackstone Ch 8, supplemental material	View lecture, post reflections
				Post comments on reading
				Bivariate data analysis due 12/5
13	12/6 - 12/12			Trivariate data analysis due 12/12

				PROJ: Data analysis (12/12)
14	12/13 - 12/14			
	12/9/2022	Exam 3. Posted 12/9/22 at 10:00am		Due by 12/16/22 at 11:59pm.
	12/20/22	Grad Students: Final projects due by 11:59 PM		