



Credit Hours: 3

Contact Hours: This is a 3-credit course, offered in accelerated format. This means that 16 weeks of material is covered in 8 weeks. The exact number of hours per week that you can expect to spend on each course will vary based upon the weekly coursework, as well as your study style and preferences. You should plan to spend 14-20 hours per week in each course reading material, interacting on the discussion boards, writing papers, completing projects, and doing research.

Faculty Information: Faculty contact information and office hours can be found on the faculty profile page.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OUTCOMES

Course Description:

The course aims to provide a foundation for relevant quantitative and qualitative analysis in the social sciences. Students will also gain an understanding of overarching historical aspects and related theories within the various disciplines of social science. Students will develop skills leading to the application of theories to investigate and solve problems in the social sciences. Students will be able to analyze various ethical and cultural social issues in multiple contexts.

Course Overview:

SOC470 explores the most influential schools of thought in sociological theory and the philosophy of social science, and how these schools have influenced research methodology. Students will critically examine these broad perspectives and evaluate impacts on the body of social science knowledge. Additionally, students will critically evaluate specific applications of theory and method in discussion and writing assignments and will complete a Portfolio Project in which they will analyze in-depth the applicability of two theoretical approaches to a research topic of their choosing.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Understand how theory is developed in the social sciences field.
2. Evaluate the role of research in the social sciences.
3. Explore the variety of research methods available in the social sciences.
4. Apply appropriate theories to problems and issues in the social sciences.
5. Analyze how ethical issues and cultural issues related to social science research.

PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE

Prompt and consistent attendance in your online courses is essential for your success at CSU-Global Campus. Failure to verify your attendance within the first 7 days of this course may result in your withdrawal. If for some reason you would like to drop a course, please contact your advisor.

Online classes have deadlines, assignments, and participation requirements just like on-campus classes. Budget your time carefully and keep an open line of communication with your instructor. If you are having technical problems, problems with your assignments, or other problems that are impeding your progress, let your instructor know as soon as possible.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required:

Rosenberg, A. (2015). *Philosophy of social science* (5th ed.). Boulder, Colorado: Westview Publications. ISBN: 9780813349909

NOTE: All non-textbook required readings and materials necessary to complete assignments, discussions, and/or supplemental or required exercises are provided within the course itself. Please read through each course module carefully.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Due Dates

The Academic Week at CSU-Global begins on Monday and ends the following Sunday.

- **Discussion Boards:** The original post must be completed by Thursday at 11:59 p.m. MT and peer responses posted by Sunday at 11:59 p.m. MT. Late posts may not be awarded points.
- **Opening Exercises:** Take the Opening Exercise before reading each week's content to see which areas you will need to focus on. You may take these exercises as many times as you need. The Opening Exercises will not affect your final grade.
- **Mastery Exercises:** Students may access and retake Mastery Exercises through the last day of class until they achieve the scores they desire.
- **Critical Thinking:** Assignments are due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. MT.
- **Live Classroom:** Although participation is not required, Live Classroom sessions are held during [Week 2 and Weeks 5 or 6/Weeks 1, 3, 5, and 7]. There are [two/four] total sessions. (Note that your course may have NO live sessions. If not, remove this section and all Live Classroom sessions from the course schedule.)

WEEKLY READING AND ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

Module 1

Readings

- Chapters 1 & 2 in *Philosophy of Social Science*

- Bird, A. (2011). Thomas Kuhn. In *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Retrieved from <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/thomas-kuhn/>
- The philosophy of social science. (n.d.). In *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Retrieved from <http://www.iep.utm.edu/soc-sci/>
- Thornton, S. (2013). Karl Popper. In *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Retrieved from <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/popper/>

Opening Exercise (0 points)

Discussion (25 points)

Mastery Exercise (10 points)

Module 2

Readings

- Chapters 3 & 4 in *Philosophy of Social Science*

Opening Exercise (0 points)

Discussion (25 points)

Live Classroom (0 points)

Critical Thinking (95 points)

The Critical Thinking Papers for this class will have you going through the steps of researching various topics in the areas of either Human Services or Business Ethics. Keep in mind that these are also your areas of choice for your Portfolio Project, so you can take advantage of this opportunity and use these assignments for your Portfolio Project research. You're not required to do this and may choose to explore other areas over the course of the term.

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

Option #1: Paradigms of Human Services

Social Scientists often wrestle with paradigms (also understood as theoretical models) shifting in meaning over time. Choose a topic in the field of Human Services and in a critical essay, explain the nature of a paradigm related to the area you've chosen to research:

- Introduce your problem/topic and the paradigm(s) dominating the approach(es) used in Human Services.
- In what ways are the paradigm(s) useful? How can they contribute to improving Human Services?
- In what ways may paradigms constrain, or limit, knowledge related to your topic of choice?

Paper Writing Requirements:

- Your paper should be 2-3 pages in length, not including your cover sheet and reference list.
- Cite at least two credible, scholarly sources and integrate into your writing.
- Document and citation formatting should be per the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.

Option #2: Paradigms of Business Ethics

Social Scientists often wrestle with paradigms (also understood as theoretical models) shifting in meaning over time. Choose a topic in the field of Business Ethics and in a critical essay, explain the nature of a paradigm related to the area you've chosen to research:

- Introduce your problem/topic and the paradigm(s) dominating the approach(es) used in Business Ethics.
- In what ways are the paradigm(s) useful? How can they contribute to improving Business Ethics?
- In what ways may paradigms constrain, or limit, knowledge related to your topic of choice?

Paper Writing Requirements:

- Your paper should be 2-3 pages in length, not including your cover sheet and reference list.
- Cite at least two credible, scholarly sources and integrate into your writing.
- Document and citation formatting should be per the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.

Mastery Exercise (10 points)

Portfolio Milestone (25 points)

Submit to the instructor a 200- to 300-word description and explanation of the research topic or question in Criminal Justice that will be the basis of the applied analysis of two paradigms in your Portfolio Project.

Await your instructor's suggestions and approval before proceeding with the project.

Module 3

Readings

- Chapter 5 in *Philosophy of Social Science*

Opening Exercise (0 points)

Discussion (25 points)

Critical Thinking (95 points)

The Critical Thinking Papers for this class will have you going through the steps of researching various topics in the areas of either Human Services or Business Ethics. Keep in mind that these are also your areas of choice for your Portfolio Project, so you can take advantage of this opportunity and use these assignments for your Portfolio Project research. You're not required to do this and may choose to explore other areas over the course of the term.

Choosing a good topic for research is one of the more challenging aspects of projects. You must be interested in the topic, sure, but you also have to make sure your topic is researchable. If a topic is too personal, it might only matter to a small number of people. In that case, you may find that your choices are too narrow. For this Module's CT Assignment, you're going to deeply explore this first step in the research process.

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

Option #1: Crafting Fundamental Questions: Topics Human Services Research

In Human Services Research, there is no shortage of topics to choose from. Think about what is important to you in the field of Human Services. You can explore The Pew Website to generate some ideas. Once you settle on a topic, think about the following question fundamental to doing interesting research: *What do you want to know and why do you want to know it?*

Your paper should include responses to the following:

- Briefly describe your topic *in detail*. Explain why it's important to you and to the field of Human Services.
- Identify the social science discipline or disciplines (sociology, psychology, economics, political science, etc.) in which your topic of choice might most benefit your research and include a discussion of which you chose, why you chose them, and how they apply.
- List relevant questions you think are important for exploration of your topic.
- How might Behaviorism (or a developed element of it) come into your research?
- What might be some next steps in a research project based on your topic?

Paper Writing Requirements:

- Your paper should be 2-3 pages in length, not including your cover sheet and reference list.
- Cite at least two credible, scholarly sources and integrate into your writing.
- Document and citation formatting should be per the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.

Option #2: Crafting Fundamental Questions: Topics in Business Ethics Research

In Business Ethics Research, there is no shortage of topics to choose from. Think about what is important to you in the field of Business Ethics. You can explore the Business Ethics Highlights website to generate some ideas. Once you settle on a topic, think about the following question fundamental to doing interesting research: *What do you want to know and why do you want to know it?*

Your paper should include responses to the following:

- Briefly describe your topic *in detail*. Explain why it's important to you and to the field of Business Ethics.
- Identify the social science discipline or disciplines (sociology, psychology, economics, political science, etc.) in which your topic of choice might most benefit your research and include a discussion of which you chose, why you chose them, and how they apply.
- List relevant questions you think are important for exploration of your topic.
- How might Behaviorism (or a developed element of it) come into your research?
- What might be some next steps in a research project based on your topic?

Paper Writing Requirements

- Your paper should be 2-3 pages in length, not including your cover sheet and reference list.
- Cite at least two credible, scholarly sources and integrate into your writing.
- Document and citation formatting should be per the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.

Mastery Exercise (10 points)

Module 4

Readings

- Chapter 6 in *Philosophy of Social Science*

Opening Exercise (0 points)

Discussion (25 points)

Mastery Exercise (10 points)

Module 5

Readings

- Chapter 7 in *Philosophy of Social Science*

Opening Exercise (0 points)

Discussion (25 points)

Live Classroom (0 points)

Critical Thinking (90 points)

The Critical Thinking Papers for this class will have you going through the steps of researching various topics in the areas of either Human Services or Business Ethics. Keep in mind that these are also your areas of choice for your Portfolio Project, so you can take advantage of this opportunity and use these assignments for your Portfolio Project research. You're not required to do this and may choose to explore other areas over the course of the term.

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

Option #1: Gathering Data: Literature Reviews for Human Services

Gathering data is the next step in the research process. For some researchers, that includes doing surveys and/or interviews. For others it means doing secondary analysis, which simply means looking at what other researchers have done on the topic. Other methods of gathering data include reviewing websites and social media, participant observation, etc. You can read the full spectrum of social science data gathering on the What-Where-How website.

Explore the CSU-Global Writing Center's page on Lit Reviews for this assignment and then cover the following:

For the purposes of this assignment, you'll use the topic for your Portfolio, the topic from CT 1, or a new topic (it's up to you) to create a Literature Review based on data you've gathered doing secondary analysis:

- Restate your topic (or state your new topic) clearly and succinctly.
- Explain why your topic is important to Human Services Research.

- Choose *only* three pieces of data to explore (this is a short paper and you won't have the room to cover much more).
 - Tip: If you find more than three and you're using this assignment to help with your Portfolio Project, set it aside.
- Follow the CSU-Global Writing Center Template for Writing a Literature Review.

Paper Writing Requirements:

- Your paper should be 2-3 pages in length, not including your cover sheet and reference list.
- Cite at least three credible, scholarly sources and integrate into your writing.
- Document and citation formatting should be per the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.

Option #2: Gathering Data: Literature Reviews for Business Ethics

Gathering data is the next step in the research process. For some researchers, that includes doing surveys and/or interviews. For others it means doing secondary analysis, which simply means looking at what other researchers have done on the topic. Other methods of gathering data include reviewing websites and social media, participant observation, etc. You can read the full spectrum of social science data gathering on the What-Where-How website.

Explore the CSU-Global Writing Center's page on Lit Reviews for this assignment and then cover the following:

For the purposes of this assignment, you'll use the topic for your Portfolio, the topic from CT 1, or a new topic (it's up to you) to create a Literature Review based on data you've gathered doing secondary analysis:

- Restate your topic (or state your new topic) clearly and succinctly.
- Explain why your topic is important to Business Ethics Research.
- Choose *only* three pieces of data to explore (this is a short paper and you won't have the room to cover much more).
 - Tip: If you find more than three and you're using this assignment to help with your Portfolio Project, set it aside.
- Follow the CSU-Global Writing Center Template for Writing a Literature Review.

Paper Writing Requirements:

- Your paper should be 2-3 pages in length, not including your cover sheet and reference list.
- Cite at least three credible, scholarly sources and integrate into your writing.
- Document and citation formatting should be per the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.

Mastery Exercise (10 points)

Module 6

Readings

- Chapter 9 in *Philosophy of Social Science*

Opening Exercise (0 points)

Discussion (25 points)

Live Classroom (0 points)

Critical Thinking (90 points)

This week is a bit of a departure from your previous Critical Thinking Assignments in that you'll focus on the main text for this module to explore Durkheim's contributions to social science, overall.

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

Option #1: Focus on Durkheim's Contributions

Provide a brief overview of Durkheim's contributions to social science and address the following questions:

- How did Durkheim's work and research form a foundational basis of sociology?
- What are the strengths and shortcomings of sociological approaches that trace their origins to Durkheim?
- What type of questions could Durkheim's work best address today?
- How might you use this approach in your research on either Human Services or Business Ethics?

Paper Writing Requirements:

- Your paper should be 2-3 pages in length, not including your cover sheet and reference list.
- Cite at least two credible, scholarly sources and integrate into your writing.
- Document and citation formatting should be per the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.

Option #2: Durkheim and Holism

Émile Durkheim developed a concept of holism, which he set as opposed to the notion that society was nothing more than a simple collection of individuals. In more recent times "holism" has been contrasted with "individualism" as two different forms of societies.

- Compare the holistic and individualistic conceptions of society.
- How are the differences between the two reflected in differing theoretical and methodological approaches to studying the social world and social phenomena?
- How could you use Durkheim's concept of holism to either Human Services or Business Ethics?

Paper Writing Requirements:

- Your paper should be 2-3 pages in length, not including your cover sheet and reference list.
- Cite at least two credible, scholarly sources and integrate into your writing.
- Document and citation formatting should be per the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.

Mastery Exercise (10 points)

Module 7

Readings

- Chapter 10 in *Philosophy of Social Science*
- Meacham, M. (2014). A review of the equality movement: Problems and directions for both sexes. *Gender Issues, 31*(2), 83.

Opening Exercise (0 points)

Discussion (25 points)

Mastery Exercise (10 points)

Module 8

Readings

- Chapters 13 & 14 in *Philosophy of Social Science*

Opening Exercise (0 points)

Discussion (25 points)

Mastery Exercise (10 points)

Portfolio Project (350 points)

Choose one of the following two options to complete for your Portfolio Project. Do not complete both projects. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission. When you are ready to submit, go to the Module 8 folder to upload the document.

Portfolio Option #1: Comparison of Paradigms as Applied to a Research Topic in Human Services

This assignment requires you to compare two social science approaches related to a topic you've chosen in Human Services. The focus of this comparison will be concerning how each of the paradigmatic approaches is applied to your research topic or research question of your choosing.

The resulting project will be a critical analysis that evaluates strengths and weaknesses of each approach, explains how these approaches have added to the overall knowledge in the field of inquiry, and compares the two as applied in practice.

Project Requirements

The final project will evaluate the applicability of two perspectives toward addressing your topic. Be certain to address each of the following:

- Identify your research question or topic.
- Identify the two theoretical/philosophical approaches that will be applied to your research topic/question, including the major contributors to each approach.
- Summarize and describe each perspective.
- Critically evaluate of the applicability of each approach to your research topic/question, identifying and analyzing the strengths, biases, and shortcomings of each, defending your analysis with evidence, logic, and examples from the research literature.

- In your conclusion, evaluate the theory and accompanying methodology, identify one as preferred or more accepted within the field today, and explain why it is preferred.

Final Paper Writing Requirements:

- Your paper should be 8-10 pages in length, not including your cover sheet and reference list.
- Cite at least four credible sources, including two scholarly articles that apply frameworks similar to the two you are evaluating, to support your thinking and conclusions.
- Document and citation formatting should be per the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.

Portfolio Option #2: Comparison of Paradigms as Applied to a Research Topic in Business Ethics

This assignment requires you to compare and contrast two social science approaches related to a topic you've chosen in the area of Business Ethics. The focus of this comparison will be concerning how each of the paradigmatic approaches is applied to your research topic or research question of your choosing.

The resulting project will be a critical analysis that evaluates strengths and weaknesses of each approach, explains how these approaches have added to the overall knowledge in the field of inquiry, and compares the two as applied in practice.

Project Requirements

The final project will evaluate the applicability of two perspectives toward addressing your topic. Be certain to address each of the following:

- Identify your research question or topic.
- Identify the two theoretical/philosophical approaches that will be applied to your research topic/question, including the major contributors to each approach.
- Summarize and describe each perspective.
- Critically evaluate of the applicability of each approach to your research topic/question, identifying and analyzing the strengths, biases, and shortcomings of each, defending your analysis with evidence, logic, and examples from the research literature.
- In your conclusion, evaluate the theory and accompanying methodology, identify one as preferred or more accepted within the field today, and explain why it is preferred.

Final Paper Writing Requirements:

- Your paper should be 8-10 pages in length, not including your cover sheet and reference list.
- Cite at least four credible sources, including two scholarly articles that apply frameworks similar to the two you are evaluating, to support your thinking and conclusions.
- Document and citation formatting should be per the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.

COURSE POLICIES

Grading Scale	
A	95.0 – 100
A-	90.0 – 94.9
B+	86.7 – 89.9
B	83.3 – 86.6
B-	80.0 – 83.2
C+	75.0 – 79.9
C	70.0 – 74.9
D	60.0 – 69.9
F	59.9 or below

Course Grading

20% Discussion Participation
37% Critical Thinking Assignments
35% Final Portfolio Project
8% Mastery Exercises

IN-CLASSROOM POLICIES

For information on late work and incomplete grade policies, please refer to our [In-Classroom Student Policies and Guidelines](#) or the Academic Catalog for comprehensive documentation of CSU-Global institutional policies.

Academic Integrity

Students must assume responsibility for maintaining honesty in all work submitted for credit and in any other work designated by the instructor of the course. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, reusing /repurposing your own work (see CSU-Global Guide to Writing & APA for percentage of repurposed work that can be used in an assignment), unauthorized possession of academic materials, and unauthorized collaboration. The CSU-Global Library provides information on how students can avoid plagiarism by understanding what it is and how to use the Library and internet resources.

Citing Sources with APA Style

All students are expected to follow the CSU-Global Guide to Writing & APA when citing in APA (based on the most recent APA style manual) for all assignments. A link to this guide should also be provided within most assignment descriptions in your course.

Disability Services Statement

CSU-Global is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability requesting academic accommodations should contact the Disability Resource Coordinator at 720-279-0650 and/or email ada@CSUGlobal.edu for additional information to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Netiquette

Respect the diversity of opinions among the instructor and classmates and engage with them in a courteous, respectful, and professional manner. All posts and classroom communication must be conducted in accordance with the student code of conduct. Think before you push the Send button. Did you say just what you meant? How will the person on the other end read the words?

Maintain an environment free of harassment, stalking, threats, abuse, insults, or humiliation toward the instructor and classmates. This includes, but is not limited to, demeaning written or oral comments of an ethnic, religious, age, disability, sexist (or sexual orientation), or racist nature; and the unwanted sexual advances or intimidations by email, or on discussion boards and other postings within or connected to the online classroom. If you have concerns about something that has been said, please let your instructor know.