

Walsh University

School of Behavioral & Health Sciences

Course Number, Title, & Section Information

Research Methods- SOC 220B Spring 2019 9:45am – 11:15am TR FH 201

Instructor Information

Professor: Dr. Laci Fiala Office Location: 127B Betzler
Email: lfiala@walsh.edu Phone: 490-7356
Office Hours: MW 9am – 10am; MF 2pm – 3pm; Other Times by Appointment

Textbook/Supplement Information

Neuman, W. L. (2017). *Understanding Research*, 2nd ed. New York: Pearson.

Perin, R. (2018). *Pocket guide to APA style* (6th ed.). Boston, MA: Cengage.

Course Goals and Expectations

- learn to formulate sociological research questions and to develop theoretical hypotheses to provide tentative answers to a research question
- learn to find, read and synthesize peer-reviewed journal articles to assess the current state of social scientific knowledge on a particular research question
- learn the elements of research design: conceptualization, measurement, sampling, and causation
 - practice critical thinking skills via the evaluation of the quality of social scientific research
- learn the core components of a variety of quantitative and qualitative methods for collecting the data necessary to empirically test theoretical hypotheses
 - appreciate the strengths, limitations and ethical concerns of each method of data collection

Accessibility Services for Students with Disabilities

Walsh University is committed to fostering an institutional climate in which qualified students with disabilities have full access to the academic environment. However, please be advised that it is your responsibility to arrange accommodations and failure to do so in a timely manner may have a negative impact on your academic success.

If you feel that you may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, please contact Meredith Soduk, Director of Accessibility Services, at 330-490-7529 or msoduk@walsh.edu to begin delivery of services as soon as possible. Once your eligibility for services is determined, your instructors will be provided a letter which will outline your accommodations. If you believe you may have a disability and would like to learn more about disability-related services, please contact The Office of Accessibility Services, located in Farrell Hall 209, immediately.

Academic Integrity

All University policies concerning plagiarism, cheating, and academic dishonesty will be upheld in this class. If you are found to have plagiarized any of your work for this class you will be given a grade of "F" on the assignment (or 0 points) and reported to Student Affairs. If you have any questions or are unsure about these policies or your rights, please see the student handbook on the University's webpage.

Late-Work Policy

For this class, we will do a lot of in-class activities and engagement that are not directly graded. These are not announced and relate more to attendance and participation. You will have several

assignments to complete throughout the course, most of them contributing to the research project. These all fall under the policy that follows.

For the final exam, major assignments, essays, papers, and presentations, I do accept late work but with a penalty. For these assignments you will lose 10% of the total points possible for each day that the assignment is late up to one week (5 weekdays) or the equivalent of half credit. For example, your major paper in this class is worth 75 possible points when turned in on-time, 7 points will automatically be deducted from your grade if it is a day late, 14 if it is two days late, and so on. I grade the assignment as if it was turned in on time using the associated rubric where one applies and then deduct the points based on the 10% rule as noted. No assignments will be accepted after one week. A grade of "0" will be placed in the gradebook and will stand.

All due dates are noted in the class schedule at the end of your syllabus, most are also noted on the course ECN site, and regular reminders are given in class. It is your responsibility to hand things in on time. For documents turned in online, be sure that you are turning in the correct file/version of the file and that it is in a readable format (preferably PDF or DOCX). This is your responsibility. Double check to make sure that submissions have gone through. If you ask for an extension or contact me regarding late or missed work at any time, you will be referred to this policy.

Course Evaluations

Course Evaluations are now being done entirely online. During the last week of the semester you will receive an email indicating that the evaluation portal is open. It can be accessed here:
walsh.campuslabs.com/courseeval/

Description of Course Assignments

Quizzes & Final Exam

Your knowledge of the basic lecture content will be assessed through a series of quizzes, 7 in total, spread throughout the semester and a final cumulative exam. Each quiz will correspond with 1 or 2 chapters. These quizzes as well as the final exam will be completed online via ECN. For each unit quiz you will get a random draw of 10 multiple choice and/or matching questions from a pool. You will have 15 minutes to complete the quiz, so you must be prepared. You will be allowed to take the quiz two times. The highest score will be recorded. These are worth 20 points. I will drop your lowest quiz score, making the quizzes worth a total of 120 points. The final exam will consist of a mix of questions from the quizzes. This is worth 100 points.

Student Research Activities

The approach of this course this semester is very hands on! This component is broken into two major groupings: assignments that contribute to an overarching Group Research Project and other individual research activities. These, combined, make up just under two-thirds of your grade for the course. Some assignments are independent and some will be completed as a group. Also, a few of these assignments will be in-class activities. You must be in class those days to receive the points. These assignments vary in points. More details on these research-project related assignments will be made available in class and on ECN. You will get a chance to assess and assign points to your group members at the end of the semester as well. Almost everything for this class will be turned in via the ASSIGNMENTS area of ECN. Unrelated to the project are a few other assignments noted below. These will be discussed more in class.

Attendance, Participation, & Professionalism

Students are required to attend all classes. It will be difficult to do well on quizzes and the final exam and understand the material in general if you are not in class. Additionally, as noted above, we will do a lot of in-class activities. Attendance and participation will be tracked for these. They are not typically announced in advance. Attendance and class participation will be taken into consideration on borderline grades. **If a problem arises that prohibits you from attending class, please contact me as soon as possible.** Do not wait till several days or weeks after the fact. If you miss 9 class periods (9hours), I reserve the right to have you administratively withdrawn from the class. Professionalism consists of attentiveness in class, not using personal electronic devices unless instructed to do so, coming to class on time, and other similar behaviors. This will also be taken into consideration when the points are assessed at the end for the semester. ***This is a key course in your Sociology/Psychology core curriculum, and you should treat it as such as passing this class with a C is a requirement for your major.*** This component of the course is worth 50 points.

Course Evaluation

COURSE ITEM	POINTS
Research Project	275
Project Proposal (G)	25
Literature Search/Annotations (I)	25
Literature Review (I)	75
Data Entry (I)	20
Data Analysis (G)	35
Final Research Presentation (G)	75
Peer Assessment	20
Other Course Activities	105
CITI Ethics Training (On-line; I)	20
Experiment Review (In-Class; I)	20
Attendance, Participation, & Professionalism	50
ACES Attendance & Assignment	15
Online Quizzes (6 @ 20 pts. each)	120
Final Cumulative Exam	100
TOTAL= 600	

“I” refers to an assignment that is completed independently, while “G” refers to an assignment that is completed as part of a small group. Several of these assignments and activities will be completed in class.

Grading Scale:

Letter	%	Points	Letter	%	Points	Letter	%	Points
			A	93 ↑	555 ↑	A-	92 - 90	554 - 537
B+	89 - 87	536 - 519	B	86 - 83	518 - 495	B-	82 - 80	494 - 477
C+	79 - 77	476 - 459	C	76 - 73	458 - 435	C-	72 - 70	434 - 417
D+	69 - 67	416 - 399	D	66 - 63	398 - 375	D-	62 - 60	374 - 357
			F	59 ↓	356 ↓			

***The point ranges shown here include rounding up from 0.5. For example, 537/600 is 89.5 or A-.*

Course Schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>What's Due</i>
<i>Week 1</i>	8-Jan 10-Jan	Introductions/Syllabus & CH 1 Ch 1- Human Inquiry & Science	
<i>Week 2</i>	15-Jan 17-Jan	Group Project Brainstorm & CH 2 CH 2- Planning a Study	<i>*Project Proposal (G)</i>
<i>Week 3</i>	22-Jan 24-Jan	CH 3- Becoming an Ethical Researcher	Quiz 1 on Chapters 1 & 2
<i>Week 4</i>	29-Jan 31-Jan	Perin Ch 5/6/8- APA References CH 5- Measuring Social Life	<i>*CITI Ethics Training Complete (I)</i> <i>*Annotated Bibliography (I)</i>
<i>Week 5</i>	5-Feb 7-Feb	Chapter 5 continued CH 4- Sampling	Quiz 2 on Chapter 3 & APA References
<i>Week 6</i>	12-Feb 14-Feb	CH 8- Research with Nonreactive Measures	Quiz 3 on Chapter 4 & 5
<i>Week 7</i>	19-Feb 21-Feb	<i>No Class!!</i> CH 6- The Survey	<i>President's Day Break!!</i>
<i>Week 8</i>	26-Feb 28-Feb	Chapter 6 continued CH 12 & APA Citing	Quiz 4 on Chapter 8 <i>*Literature Review (I)</i>
<i>Week 9</i>	5-Mar 7-Mar	<i>No Class!!</i>	<i>Spring Break!!</i>
<i>Week 10</i>	12-Mar 14-Mar	CH 9- Making Sense of Numbers <i>In-Class Group Project Work Day</i>	<i>*Data Entry (I) & Quiz 5 on Chapter 6</i> <i>*Data Analysis (G)</i>
<i>Week 11</i>	19-Mar 21-Mar	Chapter 9 continued CH 7- The Experiment	
<i>Week 12</i>	26-Mar 28-Mar	Chapter 7 continued CH 10- Observing People	Quiz 6 on Chapter 9
<i>Week 13</i>	2-Apr 4-Apr	Chapter 10 continued <i>In-Class Group Project Work Day</i>	Quiz 7 on Chapter 10
<i>Week 14</i>	9-Apr 11-Apr	<i>In-Class Final Presentations</i> <i>No Class!!</i>	<i>*Peer-to-Peer Assessment</i> <i>Easter Break!!</i>
<i>Week 15</i>	16-Apr 18-Apr	No Class: Attend ACES <i>No Class: Easter Break</i>	ACES Assignment
<i>Week 16</i>	<i>R 25-Apr</i>	<i>Final Exam Due by 11:55 pm through ECN Tests & Quizzes</i>	