

## Research Design and Analysis in Social Sciences

**SOC SC 403**

**Winter 2018**

**Wednesdays 1:05-3:50**

**Seminar Location: 3143 Bunche Hall**

Professor Lorrie Frasure-Yokley  
Professor's Office: 3278 Bunche Hall  
Email: lfrasure@polisci.ucla.edu (best way to reach me)

Frasure-Yokley's Office Hours: Wednesdays 12:00pm-12:45pm; 4:00pm-5:00pm or by appointment

\*Students must sign up for my office hours using the Doodle Poll (Please add your first and last name and University email):

<https://doodle.com/poll/wp733n7nk8r6kck8>

Teaching Assistant Rachel Lewin's Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursdays 1:00pm -3:00 pm or by appointment

\*Students must sign up for Rachel's office hours using the Doodle Poll (Please add your first and last name and University email):

<https://doodle.com/poll/v9rrc82qsptzdw8>

### Course Description:

This quarter focuses on designing an appropriate research strategy/design that will help you to answer your research question(s). Students are expected to spend most of their time on their own research design project. To structure this research, a series of short assignments will be required. The reading assignments help to facilitate your individual writing process and our group discussions. Students are expected to do the reading before seminar and be prepared to discuss the reading during seminar.

All books and selected book chapters will be available via the course DROPBOX site. Journal articles will be available via the course DROPBOX site OR available for download via JSTOR electronic resources. Readings are subject to change based on students' topics and methodological areas of interest:

- Baglione, Lisa A. 2015. *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science: A Practical Guide to Inquiry, Structure, and Methods*. 3rd Edition. CQ Press.
- Donovan, Todd and Kenneth Hoover. 2014. *The Elements of Social Science Thinking*. 11<sup>th</sup> Edition. Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.

- Gary King, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- George, Alexander L. and William Bennett. 2005. *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences* (Belfer Center Studies in International Security). MIT Press.
- Riffe, Lacy and Fico (2014). *Analyzing Media Messages: Using Quantitative Content Analysis in Research*. NY: Routledge.
- Shively, W. Phillips. *The Craft of Political Research* 7<sup>th</sup> Edition Pearson-Prentice Hall

## **Course Requirements:**

\*\*\***(IMPORTANT)** Submission Format for All Submitted Work\*\*\*

Submit each assignment via TURNITIN in WORD format prior to 11:59 pm on the submission date. Submissions should be typed, double-spaced, using 12- point font, Times New Roman, one-inch margins, with bottom page numbers. Submissions not having this format will be returned ungraded. It is your responsibility to ensure that your file is submitted in compatibility format that can be opened and viewed. No excuses.

In addition to active, professional and collegial participation in seminar discussions, students will be asked to complete all assignments on time and with professional level quality.

### **Assignments (20%)**

- Students will submit their assignments via TURNITIN
- Students are expected to use a citation management software, ENDNOTE or ZOTERO (a free version is available online)

**Assignment 1 Week 3: Research Introduction, Research Question and Outline (~3 pages)**  
(ungraded) (handout provided)

### **Assignment 2 Week 5: Introduction and Literature Review (~7 pages)**

Revising your introduction, the literature review should clearly identify the central theoretical, substantive and methodological DEBATES in your key area of research. An effective analysis of those debates should identify the limitations or gaps in the existing literature. (handout provided)

### **Assignment 3 Week 7: Research Design (~5 pages):**

Having developed a clear research question or set of research questions, students will be asked to develop a research design. What method or methods will be used to answer the overarching question and smaller questions generated by the literature review? What data will be used? How will it be collected? What are the alternatives to the argument advanced in the literature review and how will you adjudicate between your argument and the plausible alternative explanations? empirically? What is evidence that you are right? What might be some inconvenient facts that would suggest you are wrong? (handout provided)

**5-7 Minute Research Proposal Presentation Weeks 10, 11: (10%)**

Students will present a 5-7-minute Power Point Presentation of their research design. PowerPoint presentations must be submitted via TURNITIN by noon of presentation day.

**Research Proposal Week 11 (~15 text): (50%) (TURNITIN)**

Page length does not include title page, graphs, tables, charts, endnotes or bibliography.

**Active seminar participation: (20%)**

Given the seminar format, students are expected to attend all seminar meetings, read the required readings and actively participate in the discussions.

Your seminar participation grade includes attendance at (2) social science research related talks/workshops and completion of a campus speaker series memo for each talk/workshop attended.

**Answer the following in 1-2 pages, submit via TURNITIN:**

- a. What is the puzzle or research problem?
- b. What are the core concepts and questions in the work?
- c. What theories serve as a basis for the authors work?
- d. What is the author's methodological approach?
- e. What is the author's central finding or contribution?
- f. Does the method allow the author to effectively answer the research question(s)? If so, how and if not, why not.
- g. What are some possible alternatives to the approach taken by the author?

**COURSE SCHEDULE AND OUTLINE OF READINGS**  
**(Subject to amendments based on direction of course)**

**WEEK ONE: January 10**

Discussion: Introduction and Course Overview

**WEEK TWO: January 17**

Discussion: Research Topics, Research Puzzles, and Empirically Testable Research Questions

Readings \*Note these are very short chapters:

- Baglione, Preface, Chapters 1, 2, 3
- Shively 1, 2

**WEEK THREE: January 24**

**Assignment 1 due by 11:59 pm (TURNITIN) (UNGRADED)**

Discussion: Writing the Literature Review

Readings:

- Baglione, Chapter 4

**WEEK FOUR: January 31**

Discussion: Thesis, Model and Hypothesis

Readings:

- Baglione, Chapter 5
- Van Evera Chapter 1

**WEEK FIVE: February 7**

**Assignment 2 due by 11:59 pm (TURNITIN)**

Discussion: Research Design and Survey Research

Readings:

- Baglione, Chapter 7, 8
- Matt A. Barreto, Lorrie Frasure-Yokley, Edward D. Vargas & Janelle Wong (2018): Best practices in collecting online data with Asian, Black, Latino, and White respondents: evidence from the 2016 Collaborative Multiracial Post-election Survey, Politics, Groups, and Identities <https://doi.org/10.1080/21565503.2017.1419433>

## **WEEK SIX: February 14**

Discussion: Research Design and Case Studies

*Readings:*

- Gerring, John. 2004. "What is a case study and what is it good for?" *American Political Science Review*. 98(2): 341-354.
- George, Alexander L. and William Bennett. 2005. *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences* (Belfer Center Studies in International Security). MIT Press. (selections only)

## **WEEK SEVEN: February 21**

**Assignment 3 due by 11:59 pm (TURNITIN)**

Discussion: Research Design and In-depth Interviews and Focus Groups

- Frasure-Yokley. 2015. *Racial and Ethnic Politics in American Suburbs*. Cambridge University Press. (selections only including review of interview and focus group protocols in appendix)

## **WEEK EIGHT: February 28**

Discussion: Research Design and Content Analysis

- Steinert-Threlkeld, Zachary. 2018. *Twitter as Data. Elements in Quantitative and Computational Methods for Social Science*. Cambridge University Press. (selections only)
- Riffe, Lacy and Fico (2005). *Analyzing Media Messages: Using Quantitative Content Analysis in Research*. NY: Routledge. (selections only)

## **WEEK NINE: March 7**

Discussion: Research Design Wrap Up

## **WEEK TEN: \*MONDAY, MARCH 12 (TIME TBA)**

- Student 5-7 minutes Research Design Power-Point Presentations

## **WEEK ELEVEN: March 21 FINALS WEEK**

- Student 5-7 minutes Research Design Power-Point Presentations

**Final assignment due on or before Friday, March 23– Submit via TURNITIN, by 11:59 PM**