

About the Course

Welcome to Methods of Social Research! I am delighted that you have decided to take this class. This course introduces the scientific method and its application to social science research. Topics include research design, data collection and statistical analysis, and presentation of findings in text, tables, and graphs.

Instructor & TA Information

Instructor: Dr. Chuck Peek

Address: 3229 Turlington Hall

Office hours: Wednesdays from 10:00am - 1:00pm EST, and by appointment.

Zoom link: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/6862939269>[Links to an external site.](#)

Teaching Assistant: Yiyuan Li

Email: yiyuanli@ufl.edu

Office hours: TBA

Zoom link: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/3374115704>[Links to an external site.](#)

Expect a response within 24-48 business hours.

Purpose

This course is designed to provide a thorough introduction to the fundamentals of social science research. You will have the opportunity to learn and apply the basic principles of research designs commonly used by sociologists and other social scientists. We will cover topics central to all research designs, including causation, measurement, sampling, and data analysis. In addition, we examine in detail basic and advanced designs commonly used in social science research. You will also learn how to manage and analyze social science data using a statistical software package (SPSS). Although this is a challenging course, the potential payoff is considerable. A solid understanding of research methods will improve your ability to consume and produce information and enhance your capacity for critical thought.

Goals & Objectives

By the end of this course, students will:

- Summarize the scientific process and show how it is applied in sociology.
- Apply the fundamental elements and procedures of social science research designs.
- Describe the research designs commonly used in sociology and evaluate their strengths and weaknesses.
- Evaluate information produced by social science research.

Materials & Technology

Required Text:

Jeffrey C. Dixon, Royce A. Singleton, Bruce C. Straits. 2022. The Process of Social Research, 3rd edition. New York: Oxford University Press. (ebook only: EISBN13: 9780197613757).

This book is available through UF All Access. Please visit the UF All Access website at bsd.ufl.edu/AllAccess to opt in. If you need assistance opting in to UF All Access, please contact the UF Bookstore.

Statistical Software:

We will use SPSS statistical software, which is available to all UF students in computer labs and via [UF AppsLinks to an external site.](#). You will also need to access data and save output to the R drive on UF Apps. Instructions for setting up your folder on the R drive can be found [hereLinks to an external site.](#).

All other resources will be provided in Canvas.

The sources of images used in the course lectures can be found in this [document with image sources](#)

Actions

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prerequisite knowledge and skills

Introduction to Statistics 1 (STA 2023)

Course Technology

This course will require the use of a laptop or desktop computer with a high-speed internet connection and a web camera. You will also need access to UF Library's e-resources. To achieve this access, you will need access to a UF-networked computer or some type of software that will enable you to establish a Virtual Private Network connection (such as Cisco Anyconnect Client). For more information on UF VPN, follow this link: <https://it.ufl.edu/ict/documentation/network-infrastructure/vpn/Links to an external site.>

For more information, see the UF Library's Connecting from Off-Campus website (<http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/ufproxy.htmlLinks to an external site.>).

Grading Policies

Quizzes

You are required to complete 13 short quizzes during the semester that will account for 20 percent of your final grade. Quizzes will consist of 10 multiple choice questions and must be completed within a 30-minute interval on or before the due date (all due dates are listed on the Canvas). Quizzes taken after the due date will not count toward your final grade. This portion of your grade will be based on your 10 highest quiz scores (you may drop the three lowest quiz scores).

Writing Assignments

You are required to submit 13 written assignments during the semester that will account for 30 percent of your final grade. Written assignments will be either brief (usually 2-3 page) essays, exercises, or asynchronous group discussions (with at least one original post and one response post). Written assignments must be completed and submitted via Canvas on or before the due date (all due dates are listed on the Canvas). Only assignments submitted via Canvas will be accepted. Late assignments will not be accepted. This portion of your grade will be based on your 10 highest writing assignment scores (you may drop the three lowest written assignment scores). Grading rubrics are available on Canvas.

labs

You are also required to complete 11 lab assignments during the semester that will count for 30 percent of your final grade. These lab assignments will give you the opportunity to learn and demonstrate skill in some aspect of the research process (e.g., conducting a literature search, data management, statistical analysis of survey data). Lab assignments must be completed and submitted via Canvas on or before the due date (all due dates are listed on the Canvas). Only lab assignments submitted via Canvas will be accepted. Late lab assignments will not be accepted. This portion of your grade will be based on your 10 lab writing assignments scores (you may drop the lowest lab assignment score).

Final Exam

You are required to complete a cumulative final exam during the last week of classes. The final exam will consist of a series of multiple-choice questions and will account for 20 percent of your final grade. You will have two hours to complete this test. The final exam will be proctored using Honorlock proctoring software.

The **final exam will be on Wednesday, April 30, 8:00am - 8:00pm EST** (you will have two hours to complete the final during this period). The final exam will be proctored using Honorlock software.

Grading Distribution

Assignment	Percentage
Quizzes (10 highest scores of 13 total)	20%
Writing Assignments (10 highest scores of 13 total)	30%
Lab Assignments (10 highest of 11 total)	30%
Final Exam	20%

Grading Scale

Grade	Points
A	920 – 1000

Grade	Points
A-	900 – 919
B+	880 – 899
B	820 – 879
B-	800 – 819
C+	780 – 799
C	720 – 779
C-	700 – 719
D+	680 – 699
D	620 – 679
D-	600 – 619
E	599 or fewer

[Links to an external site.](#)

Course Policies

Attendance Policy

As this is an online course, no classroom attendance is required. You will still need to allot the sufficient time needed to complete the requirements of this course. Please contact the Registrar’s Office for information on withdrawal dates and procedures if necessary.

Quiz/Exam Policy

You will begin the course by taking a quiz on the contents of this syllabus. Once you have answered all questions correctly on the syllabus quiz, you will receive 5 extra credit points. Additionally, you are required to complete 13 short quizzes during the semester. Quizzes must be completed on the due date (all due dates are listed on Canvas). Quizzes taken after the due date will not count toward your final grade. This portion of your grade will be based on your 10 highest quiz scores (you may drop the three lowest quiz scores). There will also be a cumulative final exam administered during finals week. The final exam will be proctored using Honorlock software.

Assignment Policy

You are also required to submit 13 short writing assignments during the semester. These assignments will take the form of either a brief essay, a worksheet, or a topical group discussion. Writing assignments must be completed and submitted via Canvas on or before the due date (all

due dates are listed on). Only writing assignments submitted via Canvas will be accepted; please do not send papers or discussion posts as email attachments. Late writing assignments will not be accepted. This portion of your grade will be based on your 10 highest writing assignments scores (you may drop the three lowest writing assignment scores).

Lab Policy

You are also required to complete 11 lab assignments during the semester. These lab assignments will give you the opportunity to learn and demonstrate skill in some aspect of the research process (e.g., conducting a literature search, data management, statistical analysis of survey data). Lab assignments must be completed and submitted via Canvas on or before the due date (all due dates are listed on the Canvas). Only lab assignments submitted via Canvas will be accepted; do not send them as email attachments. Late lab assignments will not be accepted. This portion of your grade will be based on your 10 highest scores (you may drop your lowest lab assignment score).

Make-up Policy

Students who miss an exam, quiz, writing assignment or lab for a reason consistent with UF's excused absence policy will receive a reasonable amount of time to make up that assignment. Documentation will be required before assignments can be made up. Any missed exams, quizzes, writing assignments, or lab assignments due reasons not covered in UF's attendance policy will receive a score of 0. Assignments missed due to technical or computer problems will also receive a score of zero. However, you may drop the three lowest quiz scores, the three lowest writing assignment scores, and the lowest lab assignment score. **No other provisions will be provided for making up work.**

UF Policies

Accommodating for Students With Disabilities

Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

Academic Conduct

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code." On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Plagiarism

The [Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code](#)Links to an external site. states that:

"A Student must not represent as the Student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- Stealing, misquoting, insufficiently paraphrasing, or patch-writing.
- Self-plagiarism, which is the reuse of the Student's own submitted work, or the simultaneous submission of the Student's own work, without the full and clear acknowledgment and permission of the Faculty to whom it is submitted.
- Submitting materials from any source without proper attribution.
- Submitting a document, assignment, or material that, in whole or in part, is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment the Student did not author."

Netiquette

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. Failure to follow netiquette may result in a grade reduction. Students should be sure that they understand the [UF Netiquette Guide for Online Courses](#)Links to an external site..

Privacy and Accessibility Policies

For information about the privacy policies of the tools used in this course, see the links below:

Instructure (Canvas)

- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Accessibility](#)Links to an external site.

Zoom

- [Privacy Policy \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [Accessibility \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

YouTube (Google)

- [Privacy Policy \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [Accessibility \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Microsoft

- [Privacy Policy \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [Accessibility \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Adobe

- [Privacy Policy \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [Accessibility](#)

UF Apps (SPSS Statistics)

- [Privacy PolicyLinks to an external site.](#)
- [Accessibility PolicyLinks to an external site.](#)

Getting Help

Technical Difficulties

For help with technical issues or difficulties with Canvas, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk at:

- <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>Links to an external site.
- 352-392-HELP (4357)
- Walk-in: HUB 132

Any requests for make-ups (assignments, exams, etc.) due to technical issues should be accompanied by the ticket number received from the UF Computing Help Desk when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You should email your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Health and Wellness

- **U Matter, We Care:** If you or someone you know is in distress, please email umatter@ufl.edu, call 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter We Care to refer or report a concern, and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- **Counseling and Wellness Center:** Visit the UF Counseling & Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services and non-crisis services.
- **Student Health Care Center:** Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the UF Student Health Care Center website.
- **University Police Department:** Visit the UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- **UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center:** For immediate medical care in Gainesville, call 352-733-0111, or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center website.