

# Research Methodology

## SOCI-4000

Fall 2021 Section 01 3 Credits 08/11/2021 to 12/10/2021 Modified 08/10/2021

### Description

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An introduction to the logic and procedures of quantitative and qualitative research methods. Focuses on research design, use of computer and statistical packages, data interpretation, the relation of research and theory, and the writing of scientific research reports.

#### Requisites

Prerequisites:

SOCI 1101 or SOC 105

Corequisites:

### Contact Information

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Dr. N. Jane McCandless

Education Annex, Office 142

Office Phone: 678-839-6150

[jmccandl@westga.edu](mailto:jmccandl@westga.edu)

#### Office Hours

Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

### Meeting Times

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#### Class Time

11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays in the College of Education, Room 200

It is important to remember that this is NOT an online class. Rather, this is a fully "face-to-face" class. CourseDen is used in delivering instruction to enhance the learning process and not to replace it. That is, no class sessions are replaced by technology.

### Materials

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#### The Process of Social Research

Author: Dixon, Singleton and Straits

Publisher: Oxford Press

Edition: 2E - 2019

## Outcomes

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At the end of this course:

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to develop hypotheses.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to conduct a literature review for a scholarly sociological study.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of and be able to compare various sociological research methods.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of proper sociological research designs.
5. Students will demonstrate an understanding of research ethics as used in Sociology.

## Evaluation

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In this course, students are expected to abide by the academic integrity principle. Faculty in the discipline believe that "the presence of academic dishonesty in particular frustrates the effort to create and sustain an academic culture and community that nurtures student growth and development. Faculty are also against any form of academic dishonesty as we believe that "integrity should characterize communities both within academia and without, for without it we are corrupted by the threat of untruthfulness, deceit, and fraud. Therefore, all violations of the UWG Honor Code will result in a failing grade for the course.

Final grades will be based upon total number of points earned:

120 - 108 points - A

107 - 96 points - B

95 - 84 points - C

83 - 72 points - D

71 points or below - F

No extra credit paper or assignments will be accepted.

## Assignments

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### A. Exams - 30 Points

There will be three (3) examinations given throughout the semester. These exams will be composed of essay questions and based upon our online content. All exams will be traditional online (non-proctored) examinations. Students will be given 48 hours to complete the examinations.

### B. Writing Assignments - 50 Points

There will be five (5) (two part) writing assignments given throughout the semester. Every (two part) writing assignment will be related to the topic of study. Points for these assignments will vary.

The first part of the writing assignment will be completed by every student individually and outside of the classroom. All individual assignments will be submitted via CourseDen.

The second part of the writing assignment will require students to return to their assigned group - with a copy of their writing assignment - and combine their individual thoughts to create a nicely written and well developed group document. The second part of the writing assignment will occur inside of the classroom and will be submitted by the team leader, with the names of all members of the team.

**Note:** You must be physically present during class to complete the (two part) writing assignment to receive full credit. There will not be any opportunity to make-up any of these in-class writing assignments.

### C. Presentation - 20 Points

Every group will present their work on either Monday, November 29 or Wednesday, December 1.

Every group will: (a) introduce their social issue; (b) speak to some of the most recent research on their social issue; (c) discuss how a theorist might explain this social issue; (d) discuss the direction that the research should take to better understand this social issue and (e) most importantly, to find ways to address this social issue.

Every group will have fifteen (15) minutes to make their presentation.

Every group may also choose their style of presentation, style of handouts, style of visuals, etc.

### D. Final Product - 20 Points

The final product will be a full research proposal.

It is important to review Figure 14.1 on page 438 of your text. This figure, *The Process of Reading and Writing Social Research* is a good check on the proposal that you are about to submit. Have you addressed each stage of the process, from literature review to issues that you want to address in your discussion section? A complete reference for every article that you use in this work is required.

**No extra credit paper or assignments will be accepted.**

## Schedule

When	Topic	Notes
August 11	Introduction to the Course	Discussion of our course outline.
August 16 and 18	Chapter One	<p><b>Topic selection and members of each group will be confirmed at the end of class on Monday, August 16.</b></p> <p><b>Writing Assignment One opens on Monday, August 16 and is due on Monday, August 23.</b></p> <p>Read Chapter One in the assigned text.</p> <p>Review all material presented in Chapter One module.</p>
August 23 and 25	Chapter Two	<p><b>Writing Assignment One is due on Monday, August 23, 11:00 a.m. On this day, each group will complete the second part of Writing Assignment One.</b></p> <p><b>Writing Assignment Two opens on Monday, August 23 and is due on Monday, August 30.</b></p> <p>Read Chapter Two.</p> <p>Review all material presented in Chapter Two module.</p>

When	Topic	Notes
August 30 and September 1	Chapter Three	<p>Writing Assignment Two is due on Monday, August 30, 11:00 a.m. On this day, each group will complete the second part of Writing Assignment Two.</p> <p>Read Chapter Three.</p> <p>Review all material presented in Chapter Three module.</p>
September 6 and 8	Holiday and Exam One	<p>There will not be a class session on Monday, September 6. (Labor Day)</p> <p>Exam One will open on Monday, September 6 at midnight and is due no later than midnight on Wednesday, September 8. As stated previously, the exam will be posted under 'assignments' and will be composed of essay questions based upon all readings, lectures, and assignments. All exams will be traditional online (non-proctored) examinations.</p> <p>We will not have a class session on Wednesday, September 8. Instead, you may use this time to complete your exam.</p> <p>Writing Assignment Three will open on Wednesday, September 8 and is due next Wednesday, September 15 at 11:00.</p>
September 13 and 15	Chapter Four	<p>Read Chapter Four.</p> <p>Review all material presented in Chapter Four module.</p> <p>Writing Assignment Three is due Wednesday, September 15, 11:00 a.m. On this day, each group will complete the second part of Writing Assignment Three.</p> <p>Writing Assignment Four will open on Wednesday, September 15 and is due next Wednesday, September 22.</p>
September 20 and 22	Chapter Five	<p>Read Chapter Five in the assigned text.</p> <p>Review all material presented in Chapter Five module.</p> <p>Writing Assignment Four is due on Wednesday, September 22, 11:00 a.m. On this day, each group will complete the second part of Writing Assignment Four.</p>
September 27 and 29	Chapter Six	<p>Read Chapter Six in the assigned text.</p> <p>Review all material presented in Chapter Six module.</p> <p>Wednesday, September 29 will be reserved for group work.</p>
October 4 and 6	Exam Two and Individual Meetings	<p>Class time on Monday, October 4 will be reserved for individual mid-term meetings with Dr. McCandless</p> <p>Exam Two will open at 12:30 on Monday, October 4 and is due on Wednesday, October 6 at 12:30 pm.</p> <p>We will not have a class session on Monday, October 4, the exam is due. Instead, you may use this time to complete your exam.</p>

When	Topic	Notes
October 11 and 13	Chapter Eight	Read Chapter Eight in the assigned text.  Review all material presented in Chapter Eight module.
October 18 and 20	Chapter Nine	Read Chapter Nine in the assigned text.  Review all material presented in Chapter Nine module.  <b>Writing Assignment Five opens on Wednesday, October 20 and is due next Wednesday, October 27.</b>
October 25 and 27	Chapter Ten	Read Chapter Ten in the assigned text.  Review all material presented in Chapter Ten module.  <b>Writing Assignment Five is due Wednesday, October 27, 11:00 a.m. On this day, each group will complete the second part of Writing Assignment Five.</b>
November 1 and 3	Exam Three	<b>Exam Three will open on Monday, November 1 at 12:30 and is due by 12:30 on Wednesday, November 3.</b>  <b>We will not hold class Wednesday, November 3; instead, you may use this time to complete Exam Three that is due today. .</b>
November 8 and 10	Chapters Twelve and Thirteen	Read Chapters Twelve and Thirteen in the assigned text.  Review all materials presented in Chapter Twelve and Chapter Thirteen modules.
November 15 and 17	Chapter Fourteen	Read Chapter Fourteen in the assigned text.  Review all material presented in Chapter Fourteen module.  <b>On Wednesday, November 17, time will be spent within group to discuss the presentations.</b>  <b>The final product is due Monday, November 29 at 11:00 am.</b>  <b>Presentations will occur on Monday, November 29 and Wednesday, December 1.</b>
November 22 and 24	Thanksgiving Break	Thanksgiving Break - No Classes will be held this week.
November 29 and December 1		<b>Final Products are due on Monday, November 29 at 11:00 am.</b>  <b>Presentations will occur on Monday, November 29 and December 1.</b>  <b>Once you have submitted your final product and made your presentation you have fulfilled all requirements for this course!</b>  <b>CONGRATULATIONS !!!</b>

## \* Course Policies and Resources

## Institutional Policies

## Academic Support

**Accessibility Services:** Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. All entitlements to accommodations are based on documentation and USG Board of Regents standards. If a student needs course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if he/she needs to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, the student should notify his/her instructor in writing and provide a copy of his/her Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available only from Accessibility Services. Faculty cannot offer accommodations without timely receipt of the SAR; further, no retroactive accommodations will be given. For more information, please contact [Accessibility Services \(https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php).

**Center for Academic Success:** The [Center for Academic Success \(http://www.westga.edu/cas/\)](http://www.westga.edu/cas/) provides services, programs, and opportunities to help all undergraduate students succeed academically. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6280 or [cas@westga.edu](mailto:cas@westga.edu).

**University Writing Center:** The [University Writing Center \(https://www.westga.edu/writing/\)](https://www.westga.edu/writing/) assists students with all areas of the writing process. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6513 or [writing@westga.edu](mailto:writing@westga.edu).

## Online Courses

UWG takes students' privacy concerns seriously: technology-enhanced and partially and fully online courses use sites and entities beyond UWG and students have the right to know the privacy policies of these entities. For more information on privacy and accessibility for the most commonly used sites, as well as technology requirements visit the [UWG Online \(https://uwgonline.westga.edu/\)](https://uwgonline.westga.edu/) site.

Students enrolled in online courses can find answers to many of their questions in the [Online/Off-Campus Student Guide \(http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php\)](http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php).

If a student is experiencing distress and needs help, please see the resources available at the [UWG Cares \(http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/\)](http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/) site. [Online counseling \(https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/index.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/index.php) is also available for online students.

## Honor Code

At the University of West Georgia, we believe that academic and personal integrity are based upon honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students at West Georgia assume responsibility for upholding the honor code. West Georgia students pledge to refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing.

The University of West Georgia maintains and monitors a confidential Academic Dishonesty Tracking System. This database collects and reports patterns of repeated student violations across all the Colleges, the Ingram Library, and the School of Nursing. Each incidence of academic dishonesty is subject to review and consideration by the instructor, and is subject to a range of academic penalties including, but not limited to, failing the assignment and/or failing the course. Student conduct sanctions range from verbal warning to suspension or expulsion depending on the magnitude of the offense and/or number of offenses. The incident becomes part of the student's conduct record at UWG.

Additionally, the student is responsible for safeguarding his/her computer account. The student's account and network connection are for his/her individual use. A computer account is to be used only by the person to whom it has been issued. The student is responsible for all actions originating through his/her account or network connection. Students must not impersonate others or misrepresent or conceal their identities in electronic messages and actions. For more information on the University of West Georgia Honor Code, please visit the [Office of Community Standards \(https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpsa/ocs/index.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpsa/ocs/index.php) site.

## UWG Email Policy

University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. The University considers this account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. The purpose of the official use of the student e-mail account is to provide an effective means of communicating important university related information to UWG students in a timely manner. It is the student's responsibility to check his or her email.

## Credit Hour Policy

The University of West Georgia grants one semester hour of credit for work equivalent to a minimum of one hour (50 minutes) of in-class or other direct faculty instruction AND two hours of student work outside of class per week for approximately fifteen weeks. For each course, the course syllabus will document the amount of in-class (or other direct faculty instruction) and out-of-class work required to earn the credit hour(s) assigned to the course. Out-of-class work will include all forms of credit-bearing activity, including but not limited to assignments, readings, observations, and musical practice. Where available, the university grants academic credit for students who verify via competency-based testing, that they have accomplished the learning outcomes associated with a course that would normally meet the requirements outlined above (e.g. AP credit, CLEP, and departmental exams).

## HB 280 (Campus Carry)

UWG follows University System of Georgia (USG) guidance: [http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional\\_information#\(http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional\\_information\)](http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information#(http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information))

You may also visit our website for help with USG Guidance: [https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php\(https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php(https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php))

## Mental Health Support

If you or another student find that you are experiencing a mental health issue, free confidential services are available on campus in the [Counseling Center](#). Students who have experienced sexual or domestic violence may receive confidential medical and advocacy services with the Patient Advocates in [Health Services](#). To report a concern anonymously, please go to [UWGCares](#).

## ELL Resources

If you are a student having difficulty with English language skills, and / or U.S. culture is not your home culture, specialized resources are available to help you succeed. Please visit the [E.L.L. resource page](#) for more information.

## COVID-19

The health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff remain the University of West Georgia's top priority.

For the most recent information on coronavirus disease (COVID-19) visit:

- [UWG's Guidance on Face Coverings \(https://www.westga.edu/coronavirus-info/return-to-campus/faq/what-is-the-guidance-on-the-use-of-face-coverings.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/coronavirus-info/return-to-campus/faq/what-is-the-guidance-on-the-use-of-face-coverings.php)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention FAQ \(https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html)
- [Georgia Department of Public Health \(https://dph.georgia.gov/\)](https://dph.georgia.gov/)

## Additional Items

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The University System of Georgia recognizes COVID-19 vaccines offer safe, effective protection and urges all students, faculty, staff, and visitors to get vaccinated either on campus or with a local provider. Additionally, everyone is encouraged to wear a mask or face covering while inside campus facilities. The system continues to work closely with the Georgia Department of Public Health to prioritize the health and safety of our campus communities.

<https://www.westga.edu/coronavirus-info>

<https://www.westga.edu/coronavirus-info/guidance-usg-fall-21.php>