Instructor: Celeste Lee  
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Email: celestel@westga.edu  
Phone: 678-839-6325  
Office Hours: Monday 5pm-6pm, Wednesday 11am-12pm, or by appointment

Course Description:
Social Research is a graduate-level course covering research design broadly conceived. We will focus on how research questions are developed in such a way that they can be convincingly addressed through the analysis of empirical data.

Over the course of the semester, we will cover a range of topics including, but not limited to, the relationship between theory and research, the nature of causality, reliability & validity, research design, sampling, measurement, survey and interview construction, quantitative and qualitative research techniques, and ethical issues in social research. We will give special attention to four main research methods for data collection in the social sciences—surveys, interviews, content analysis, and experiments.

This course focuses on equipping students with the necessary tools for conducting and consuming social research. As such, the course has three main goals:

1. To equip students with the necessary tools to formulate good research questions and design appropriate research strategies.
2. To improve students’ ability to critically evaluate their own research and that of other social scientists.
3. To further socialize students in the profession of Sociology.

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand and apply qualitative research methodologies
- Understand and apply quantitative research methodologies
Class Expectations:

- You are expected to attend class AND to be prepared for class. Preparation includes completing the assigned reading(s) as well as assignments – both graded and non-graded. Your preparation is a crucial part of ensuring that class discussions are productive.
- We will begin and end class on time.
- Please do not use your cell phone during class. Keep cell phones in your bag/pocket, not out on your desk. If you are using your phone in class, I will ask you to leave.
- The best way to contact me is via email at celestel@westga.edu. I check my email daily, between 7am -9am. Make sure you use my westga.edu address, not CourseDen, to ensure a prompt response. Please allow 48hrs for a response; keep in mind that the responses may take a little longer during breaks (i.e., winter break, spring break, Easter, etc.
- Course assignments must be turned in to me in hard copy. I will not accept or grade assignments turned in via email. Late work will receive a 10 point deduction for each day it is late. I DO NOT accept work that is more than 3 days late. Only assignments turned in to me, in class/online, on their due dates are considered on time. If you know that you have a conflict with a scheduled date on the syllabus please contact me BEFORE the assignment due date.
- Many of the research examples that we engage in class will explore the topic of race. We live in a climate where talking about race can be viewed as taboo; likewise, it is a topic that is often difficult for students to discuss. Our goal is to create a healthy class environment where individuals can LEARN and feel free to express their views. There will be numerous opportunities to engage in class discussions and debate throughout the semester; **it is imperative that students remain respectful of one another and the instructor at all times.** Additionally, it is important to remember that our goal is to understand how social science research methods can broaden our knowledge of the topic of race in a variety of different ways. I welcome and encourage input from a wide range of viewpoints. However, I will not tolerate disruptive behavior or discourteous manners and speech.
- You should be familiar with UWG’s Honor Code and follow it with respect to all work for this course. While you are welcome to use this course as an opportunity to work on your master’s thesis, the work that you turn in should be substantially different from papers written in other courses. “Recycling” papers from previous courses is a form of academic dishonesty and will be treated as such. If you have questions about this, it is much better to contact me *before* turning something in.
**Required Text:**


Additional required readings are available electronically on CourseDen, under the “readings” module, and are labeled (CD).

**Course Requirements:**
Grades for the course will be computed based on the following:

- Application Assignments 400 points
- Annotated Bibliography 100 points
- Research Proposal 500 points
- **Total Points 1000 points**

**Application Assignments:** Over the course of the semester, there will be four application assignments. These application assignments will require to students to engage with one of the four research methods addressed in this class – surveys, interviews, content analysis, and experiments. I will offer more information about the assignments and instructions in separate handouts.

**Annotated Bibliography:** One of the key components of your research proposal is the literature review. In order to write an effective literature review, you must be able to show that you have engaged with existing scholarship on your research topic. The annotated bibliography is the first step in writing a strong literature review. An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to books, journal articles, newspaper articles, internet sources, and other resources. Each citation is followed by a *summary paragraph* and an *evaluative paragraph*: the annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to gather and summarize information about your topic into one document. It also serves as a quick reference sheet, which will remind you of what your various sources argued and how they are useful to your paper/research. Please be advised that a annotation is NOT the same thing as an abstract. The annotation should be are descriptive, evaluative, and critical; they discuss the author’s authority, address the relevance of the source to your research project, and grapple with the questions that are pertinent to the literature review. You will be required to complete 10 annotations related to your proposed research topic/ research question.
**Research Proposal:** Over the course of the semester, the Salsa Dancing chapter exercises/ in class assignments, application assignments, and your annotated bibliography assignment will help you prepare to write a research proposal.

Your proposal should be comparable to the first half of a journal article (up through the methods section), in which you introduce a research question, review relevant literature, and explain the method you will use to investigate the research question. The specific methods of analysis you choose will depend on the question you choose to investigate.

Articles published in sociology journals are excellent models for your proposal. It will be an early draft in comparison and less developed than published articles, nevertheless your goal should be to prepare as professional a paper as possible. Your paper should look like the first half of an article you are submitting to a journal for publication. Refer to the ASA Style Guide for information about how to format your paper. Your paper will be evaluated on its form as well as its content.

**Grading Scale (grades will be rounded up for fractions of 0.5 and above)**

A = 895-1000pts  
B = 795-894pts  
C = 695-794pts  
F = 694pts and below

**Other Info:**

**Disabilities** - If you have a condition that requires special accommodations, please inform me as soon as possible in addition to informing the UWG Accessibility Services. In order to receive special accommodations, you will need to provide a Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available only from Accessibility Services. I cannot offer accommodations without timely receipt of the SAR; further, no retroactive accommodations will be given. For more information, please contact [http://www.westga.edu/counseling/4486.php](http://www.westga.edu/counseling/4486.php).

**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.

**Sexual Harassment Policy** The University of West Georgia is committed to providing a positive discrimination-free environment. Hence, it is the policy of the University of the University of West Georgia, in accord with federal and state law, Board of Regents’ policy, and Title IX, that
sexual harassment in the workplace or the educational environment is unacceptable conduct. Sexual harassment is subject to discipline, up to and including separation from the institution.

For additional information on these and other University policies, go to: http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

>>>I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THE SYLLABUS, INCLUDING QUIZ/ASSIGNMENT DATES. PLEASE STAY TUNED <<<

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