

SOS 283-28553  
Introduction to Research Methods  
Spring 2013  
NEAL 106  
TR 1-2:15

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Examination of social science research methods from theoretical, applied and ethical points of view. Acquaints students with qualitative and quantitative techniques and procedures used to measure human behavior, gather and analyze data, and evaluate and report on findings.

**PREREQUISITES:** At least one course in the social sciences (SOC, PSY, CJS, ECO, GEO, HIS, ANT, or POS) with a grade 'C' or higher; Placement by assessment or MAT 006 grade 'C' or higher; Complete ENG 120 with a minimum graded of 'C'

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the completion of the course, the student will

- Describe what social science research is, the goals of social research, the process of social research, the ethics of social research, and how theory supports research.
- Use library databases (e.g., EBSCOhost, ProQuest, JSTOR), Google Scholar, and interlibrary loan. Students will compose an annotated bibliography in order to keep track of their research history.
- Explain what makes academic research different from journalistic and other types of research. Evaluate claims in the media. Describe the process and importance of peer review.
- Describe research design, conceptualization, operationalization, measurement, indexes, scales, typologies, sampling, experiments, qualitative methods (field research, content analysis, evaluation research), quantitative methods (surveys), and comparative methods. Compare research methods used by sociologists, psychologists, economists, geographers, historians, criminologists, anthropologists, political scientists and other social scientists. Students will learn basic Geographic Information Systems (GIS).
- Prepare literature reviews and write about their own research. Use APA format. Discuss her or his own research in-class oral presentations.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Chambliss, Daniel. F. and Russell K. Schutt. 2013. *Making Sense of the Social World*. 4th edition.
2. Edwards, Mark. 2012. *Writing in Sociology*.

## ONLINE RESOURCES

1. Student Study Site: (<http://www.sagepub.com/chambliss4e/study/intro.htm>) is a free resource from the publisher of our textbooks. On this site, you can find quizzes, chapter outlines, and other study aids.
2. Facebook (Learn Sociology) & Twitter: (@learnsociology): Dr. Medley-Rath manages a facebook and twitter account for all of my sociology courses and sociological work. She encourages you to follow one or both accounts. You are not required to follow either account, but she will post announcements, reminders, and interesting articles that relate to our course on both sites. The hashtag for this course is #sos283. She will tag my tweets with this hashtag and asks that you do the same. This enables you to search for this course's tweets, which you could use to review for your exams.
3. We use Instructure Canvas as a repository for our course materials. You will find this syllabus, the powerpoints, and handouts there. We will post announcements to Instructure Canvas. All written work will be turned in on Instructure Canvas.

## GRADING POLICY

1. Exams (2 @ 50 points each)
  - a. There are two exams that may contain multiple choice, short answer, or essay questions. The first exam is March 6 and the second exam is April 24.
2. Homework (10 @ 10 points each)
  - a. Homework will either be completed in class and turned in during class or completed outside of class and be submitted on Canvas. Due dates are throughout the semester.
3. Research Project (100 points total)
  - a. The research project will be submitted in stages. You will prepare an annotated bibliography, proposal, presentation, and final paper for this project. You will use GIS software and learn to produce new knowledge with this project.
  - b. Presentations will be April 29 and May 1
  - c. You will submit a 15-20 page research paper on by midnight on Canvas on May 14.

### The mechanics of all out-of-class written work:

- Must be typed, double-spaced, 12 point font, 1 or 1.5 inch margins.
- Please spell-check and read over your work before turning it in. No more than two spelling or grammatical errors per page.
- Place your name and the assignment title at the top of each submission. No title page is necessary.
- Keep a back-up copy of your work so you do not lose it.

- Include in-text citations and a reference page when appropriate (this means your reference page should have an APA formatted entry for the article, the textbook, and any other references you use). You should follow APA format. More information on APA format can be found at the [OWL @ Purdue](#).
- All written work is due on Instructure Canvas by the start of class on the day it is due. No late work will be accepted or accepted elsewhere.
- Double-check to make sure your work uploads correctly.

Grading Scale (point system, not an average):

A	300-270
B	269.9-240
C	239.9-210
D	209.9-180
F	179.9-0

\*\*Do not count on your grade being rounded up. \*\*

## GENERAL POLICIES

**Email:** You need to use your Lake Land email account to communicate with me. Your Lake Land email address uses the same prefix as your IRIS and Instructure Canvas login. I can not guarantee I will respond to emails from other addresses. Make sure that you include your course name and section number in the subject of your email. This way, I know the email is from a student and I will respond to you first. I will not discuss grades via email. I will discuss your grade in Instructure Canvas or in-person only. I will respond to your email between 24-48 hours M-F. I will not respond to emails sent on the weekend until Monday or Tuesday.

**Attendance:** I do not grade attendance. If you are absent for any reason, you are responsible for any information covered. It is your responsibility to complete all the requirements listed in the course schedule by their due date.

**Policy on Academic Honesty:** Response to student cheating on coursework shall be per school policy with the following instructor options:

- No credit given for the plagiarized work
- Reduced credit in the form of a lower grade for plagiarized work
- Instructor notifies the Division's Chair of the incident
- Instructor notifies the Vice President for Student Services of the incident
- Cheating incidents of a serious nature may result in dropping the student from the course, which could result in failure in the course

If in doubt, ask. Ignorance is not an excuse. If quoting material, any repetition of three or more words should be included in quotations and citations should be used.

Lake Land College's Student Handbook Conduct Code with more details can be found at <http://www.lakeland.cc.il.us/studenthandbook/detail.cfm?id=30>.

**Withdrawals:** A student may drop a course through May 7. A grade of “W” will be recorded for the dropped course.

**Disabilities:** Students with some special reason for modified testing procedures or note-taking procedures should contact me as soon as possible so appropriate arrangements can be made. See Jordan Hicks in Student Services Building #24 if you think you have learning, physical, or emotional issues.

**Religious Holidays:** If after reading the syllabus, you discover that I have assigned a test or assignment due date for a holy day of your faith, please let me know by the end of Week 2. Furthermore, if you will be missing any class because of holy days this semester, please inform me in writing by the end of Week 2.

**Student Athletes:** If your coach anticipates that you will need to miss class this semester due to athletic participation, you need to provide me with written documentation from your coach by the end of Week 2.

### **GROUND RULES:**

1. Do not interrupt your fellow students or myself.
2. No personal conversations during lecture (this includes texting).
3. We will not accept any discrimination, intimidation, or harassment of fellow students.
4. Remember, just because something does not apply to you, does not make it any less true. Keep an open mind.
5. Electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, e-readers, laptops, tablets) are conditionally allowed in this classroom. It is assumed that your use of these devices is for educational or extreme emergency situations. Any other uses are prohibited. This technology should be set to silent. I reserve the right to disallow the use of electronic devices at any time for any reason.
6. I do not allow this class to be recorded (audio or visual) unless you have documentation requiring it to be recorded that you have cleared with me beforehand.
7. Consequences: you may be asked to leave class that day.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

You are expected to read the assigned reading prior to the class meeting we are scheduled to discuss it.

<b>Segment</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>What is due?</b>	
	14-Jan	Syllabus	
Considering Research	16-Jan	Chambliss & Schutt	Chapter 1
	21-Jan	No Class	
	30-Jan	Chambliss & Schutt	Chapter 2
	4-Feb	Chambliss & Schutt	Chapter 3
	6-Feb		
Finding Research	11-Feb	Edwards	Chapters 1-2

	13-Feb	Edwards On Canvas	Chapters 3-5 APA Format Handouts
Doing Research	18-Feb	Chambliss & Schutt	Chapter 4
	20-Feb		
	25-Feb	Chambliss & Schutt	Chapter 5
	27-Feb		
4-Mar	Chambliss & Schutt	Chapter 6	
	6-Mar	<b>Exam 1</b>	
Spring Break	11-Mar	No Class	Spring Break
	13-Mar	No Class	
Evaluating Research	18-Mar	On Canvas	When to Believe What You Read
			How Different Are the Adult Children of Parents Who Have Same-Sex Relationships?
			<a href="#">Regnerus Study Controversy Guide</a>
	20-Mar	Chambliss & Schutt	Chapter 12
Doing Research	25-Mar	Chambliss & Schutt	Chapter 7
	27-Mar		
	1-Apr	Chambliss & Schutt	Chapter 8
	3-Apr		
	8-Apr	Chambliss & Schutt	Chapter 9
	10-Apr		
	15-Apr	Chambliss & Schutt	Chapter 10
	17-Apr		
	22-Apr	Chambliss & Schutt	Chapter 11
	24-Apr	<b>Exam 2</b>	
Research Presentations	29-Apr	Research Presentations	
	1-May		

**The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.**