

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
5210 Grand Avenue
P. O. Box 3649
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649
479-788-7000

General Syllabus

SOCI 28653 Introduction to Social Research Methods

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisites: SOCI 10103 Introduction to Sociology and MATH 21003
Probability and Statistics I

Prerequisite or corequisite: ENGL 10203 Composition II or ENGL 14343 Honors
Composition
Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Introduces various methodologies used in conducting scientific research in sociology, both quantitative and qualitative research; develops skills and strategies for beginning research and writing as a process, including finding and evaluating sources on the internet; and discusses ethical conduct in research, interviewing as a relationship, unobtrusive measures, action research, qualitative data, narrative analysis and the relevant aspects of the philosophy of science.

B. Additional Information

This course is required for the Sociology minor.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Illustrate an understanding of key concepts and provide concrete strategies for doing research.
2. Understand and identify the theoretical and practical issues of conducting research.
3. Recognize the numerous ways to analyze data.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of ethical issues in conducting social research.

5. Examine the methodological issues, discuss the contributions, and describe the phases of qualitative research in sociology.
6. Define the scientific method.
7. Synthesize large amounts of material.
8. Understand, interpret, and use the research of others.
9. Generate a research question, formulate and test a hypothesis, and evaluate empirical research articles.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate effectively with a variety of audiences in any setting.

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking

Students will use critical thinking skills to draw conclusions and solve problems.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Foundation of Social Research: Nature, Purposes, and Basic Concepts
- B. Strategies for Beginning Research
- C. Different Approaches to Data Collection, Analysis, and Research Design
- D. Critiques, Politics, and Ethics of Social Research