

Course Code: SOC 205

Course Title: Methods of Social Research

Department: Arts, Media, and Social Sciences

Effective Date: Summer 2026

PCS Code: 1.1 - Baccalaureate/Transfer

CIP Code: 45.1101

Repeatability: 0

Credit Hours

Catalog Notation: 3-0-3

Credit Hour Distribution:

Lecture: 3

Lab: 0

Clinical: 0

Total: 3

General Course Information

Catalog Description

Introduction to the process and methods of social research. Construction of research questions or hypotheses, study design, qualitative and quantitative research methods, techniques of analysis and interpretation, and the process of evaluation and reporting.

General Course Objectives

- Introduce students to the process and methods of social research.
- Explain the construction of research questions and hypotheses and the process of study design.
- Explain qualitative and quantitative research methods used to measure human behavior.
- Explain techniques of analysis and interpretation.
- Guide students through the process of evaluation of and reporting on research in the social sciences.

Minimum Placement Levels

English	Reading	Math
Placement out of ENG 098	None	None

Prerequisites

None

Recommended before enrolling (not required):

Credit in MAT 107 or MAT 108

Methods of Evaluation

Methods of assessment will include 10-12 quizzes, 10 page minimum research paper including proposal, 8-10 database analysis short reports, and peer and self evaluation.

Instructional Materials and Additional Supplies

The Basics of Social Research, by Earl Babbie. Current edition. 9780357697948

Course Content

General Learning Outcomes (GLOs)

- Critical Thinking and Information Literacy: Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate perspectives, evidence, and implications, and to locate, assess, and use information effectively.
- Reasoning and Inquiry: Students will demonstrate the ability to solve problems using deductive reasoning and logic, quantitative reasoning, or the scientific method.

Course Segments and Student Learning Outcomes

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Introduction to Social Research	1. Define social research. 2. Differentiate social research from journalistic and other types of research. 3. Explain the basic process of social research. 4. Discuss the connections between theory and research. 5. Discuss the impact of politics on social research. 6. Discuss ethical guidelines for social research.	6	0	0
The Process of Social Research	1. Explain the construction of research questions and hypotheses and the process of study design. 2. Explain the process of conceptualization, operationalization, and measurement. 3. Discuss the logic of sampling.	6	0	0
Methods of Social Research	1. Define and discuss qualitative and quantitative research methods used to measure human behavior, including experiments, survey research, qualitative field research, unobtrusive measures, and evaluation research.	6	0	0
Analysis of Data and Reporting of Social Research	1. Explain techniques of analysis and the process of interpretation and reporting of social research.	6	0	0
Reading, Doing, Writing, Sharing, and Evaluating Social Research	1. Evaluate social research. 2. Prepare literature review and design research project.	21	0	0

Total Contact Hours

Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
45	0	0