

Midstate College
411 West Northmoor Road
Peoria, Illinois 61614
(309) 692.4092 (800) 251.4299
Summer Term 2019

Course Number and Name: LSJ 450 – Research Methods

Credit Hours: 4 Quarter Credit Hours

Method of Delivery: eLearning with an On-campus Component.

PLEASE NOTE: Optional On-Campus Component: In an effort to help in the early portion of this course with the research project, we will have **MANDATORY** on campus class meetings in week 2 (Tuesday, May 28), week 3 (Tuesday, June 4), and week 4 (Tuesday, June 11) from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The location for these meetings will be posted in the weekly folder. If you need assistance, these on-campus sessions will provide the support/direction needed to help you complete the materials for the research project. More optional classes may be added if there is a need for them.

Course Description: In this course, students learn the mechanics of applying and interpreting fundamental statistics to projects and data in the field of Law and Social Justice. Along with developing research designs and initiating studies on law and social justice topics, students also determine which set of measures are most appropriate for a given case study and the precise meaning of the results.

Prerequisite: Six upper-level (300-level) Law and Social Justice Program major courses and General Education math requirement.

Text:

An Invitation to Social Research: How It's Done, 5th Edition

Authors: Adler, E.S. & Clark, R.

Publisher: Cengage 2015

ISBN: 9781285746425

Other Readings: Other readings as assigned and available on LMS

Materials needed for this course: The minimum system requirements to complete an eLearning course at Midstate College.

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Topics: The following topics will be covered in this course:

1. Key ethical guidelines governing social research.
2. The definition and application of the primary research designs used in social research.
3. The formulation of the question(s) to be investigated and of the resulting hypotheses; the collection of data and analysis of the data collected; and the interpretation and study of analysis results.

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

1. Be familiar with various methods used in social research.
2. Explain the fundamentals of the social research process.
3. Outline and explain the components of ethical research.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of making informed, critical judgments about social research.
5. Understand the reasons for choosing particular data collection methods and techniques, and learn how to organize the data to address particular questions and problems.
6. Design and describe in writing a social research project.

Midstate Grading Scale:

A = 100% to 90%

B = 89% to 80%

C = 79% to 70%

D = 69% to 60%

F = 59% to 0%

All students must have a 70% or better to pass this course.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a basic principle of the College's function. Midstate College students are expected to maintain a high level of academic honesty. Contrary actions may result in penalties such as failure of the assignment(s), a lesser grade on assignment(s), failure of the course

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and/or suspension from the College. The course instructor will review all submitted documents and supporting evidence in connection to the infraction. The course instructor will also review the student's personal file for other notifications of academic dishonesty before determining the level of action to be applied. The course instructor will complete the Academic Dishonesty Report form to document and describe the incident and actions taken, then kept on file. The student may appeal the decision to administration, whose decision will be final.

The following (**plagiarism, cheating, deception, sabotage, computer misuse and copyright infringement**) are included in the actions Midstate College considers behavior contrary to the academic integrity policy; however, the policy is not limited to these examples. Further discussion of consequences regarding academic dishonesty are addressed in the Student Handbook.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is using another person's words, either by paraphrase or direct quotation, without giving credit to the author(s). Plagiarism can also consist of cutting and pasting material from electronic sources by submitting all or a portion of work for assignment credit. This includes papers, computer programs, music, sculptures, paintings, photographs, etc. authored by another person without explicitly citing the original source(s). These actions violate the trust and honesty expected in academic work. Plagiarism is strictly against the academic policy of Midstate College. Its seriousness requires a measured, forceful response which includes consequences for inappropriate and/or no citation.

In courses containing writing assignments, the College promotes the use of Turnitin which compares the student's writing against previously submitted papers, journals, periodicals, books, and web pages. Students and instructors can use this service to reduce the incidence of plagiarism. This electronic resource has been found to conform to legal requirements for fair use and student confidentiality. It is able to provide a report to the student indicating the parts of the assignment that match.

Student Success and Tutoring:

Contact Student Success: Room 110; (309) 692-4092, ext. 1100; studentsuccess@midstate.edu;

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The Office of Student Success offers help in the following areas:

- Tutoring: Tutoring is encouraged for students who are doing their best to complete assignments yet still are experiencing difficulty in this course. Tutoring may be provided by the instructor outside of scheduled class times or through the office of Student Success.
- Writing assignment assistance: This may include learning how to conduct research; using proofreading tools such as Turnitin; outlining a topic; and applying MLA/APA standards.
- Math, accounting, and computer skills (including file management).
- Test-taking techniques.
- Note-taking skills development.
- Study skills development.

Time management

Assessment Portfolio Reminder: Students (depending on your program major) may be required to prepare an assessment portfolio for graduation. Keep a copy of this syllabus in the portfolio. Use the “Evidence for Success” list from your program portfolio (or consult your Program Director) and instructions from the instructor to determine the assignment(s) that should be placed in the assessment portfolio.

Instructor Information:

Name: Scott L. Michalec

Adjunct Associate Professor

Phone: (309) 692-4092

Fax: (309)-692-3893

E-mail: smichalec@midstate.edu

Office Hours: Weekly online office hours are not scheduled, but instructor will work with student’s schedules to arrange on campus/online meetings when needed, at student’s request. The Instructor will be generally in class for office hours as well 30 minutes prior to each mandatory class and each week when no class is scheduled on-campus.

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Participation Requirements: You are required to participate in the group discussion forum substantively at least twice each week. Discussions will take place in the online discussion forum as assigned by the faculty member in the course syllabus. You will read, analyze, and respond to questions and comments from the instructor and fellow students. When applicable, include page numbers from assigned readings or other sources to cite supporting documentation. All posts should advance the discussion and deepen academic inquiry.

Please note: Substantive participation requires original thought and application to the threads and student/instructor posts. Congratulatory (i.e. I agree and/or praising sentences), while encouraged, do not count toward substantive participation either. **If you fail to make two substantive posts then you will receive no points for posting as in the rubric.**

Methods of evaluating student performance: Please see “Instructor Final Grade Determination” below for more information.

Attendance Policy: eLearning students must login and participate at least once a week to be counted present for the week (participation is strongly recommended and essential for passing this course). You must post a gradable assignment each week to be counted as “Present” for the week. Students that miss 30% (or more) of the scheduled classes will not be allowed to successfully complete this course (unless departmental approval is obtained). **You must also attend the mandatory on-campus classes in Weeks 2, 3 and 4.**

Instructors Grading Scale: The following assignments and activities are outlined in a week-by-week format. All assignments (unless specified otherwise) are due the date identified by the instructor and they need to be posted to the location specified by the faculty member in the syllabus. The following schedule indicates the days of the week to be followed in this module:

Day 1 = Monday

Day 2 = Tuesday

Day 3 = Wednesday

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Day 4 = Thursday

Day 5 = Friday

Day 6 = Saturday

Day 7 = Sunday

Instructor Final Grade Determination: Your final grade in this course will be based on 580 points: Chapter Exercises will be due each week to cover material from chapters covered that week and will be worth 20 points each. Weekly participation on the discussion forum is required. Students will also be required to complete five Proposal Assignments and a final Research Project Proposal. Guidelines and details for all assignments will be posted on LMS as they become due. Grading points are as follows:

- 280: Chapter Exercises (20 points each times 14 exercises)
- 100 points: Proposal Assignments (20 points each times 5 assignments)
- 100: Research Project Proposal
- 100 points: Group participation
- 580 Total Points

*All students must have a 70% or better to pass this course.

Course Policies and Procedures:

1. **eLearning Sessions:** In accordance with Midstate College policies, class material will be made available on Monday at 12:00 p.m. of that week (see dates in the academic calendar posted in our LMS classroom) and will remain available until the following Monday until 8:00 a.m. You will be required to participate in the group discussion forum at least twice each week. This allows students one week to access the lecture and related material for that week's session and participate in the mandatory discussion and summary boards. See Participation Requirements section for further discussion forum requirements.
2. **Chapter Exercises:** These exercises will supplement the assigned readings and online lectures to further your understanding and application of social

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research. A total of fourteen Chapter Exercises will be due throughout the term (one per chapter). Specific details for each exercise will be posted each week on Moodle as an Assignment along with a link to submit each completed exercise. **Note:** On weeks when two chapters are covered, two exercises will be due. On weeks when one chapter is covered, only one exercise will be due. While this is not a composition course, I will be counting off for grammar and spelling errors, run-on sentences, and other writing errors. I expect good quality written assignments!

3. **Research Project Proposal:** For this assignment, students will progressively put together a Research Project Proposal over the course of the term. As you will note, you will have five Proposal Assignments due throughout the term, all leading up to the final proposal. You will be graded on each individual assignment, and separately graded on the final Project Proposal that should incorporate all of the editing and corrections/suggestions given to students on the individual proposal assignments. While students will not be required to conduct active research, the paper will be written up to the point that research could be conducted. Instructions will be provided as each component is assigned. APA style/formatting is required. If you need guidance on APA style, visit The Owl at Purdue online (also included on the Midstate College Library webpage) or ask me for further recommendations.
4. All work must be completed Monday, August 12, 2019 at 8:00 AM.
5. Academic dishonesty (cheating / plagiarism) in any form will not be tolerated in this course and may result in the dismissal/suspension from the course/program/college. Do your own work! I cannot emphasize this enough! Not knowing the rules of plagiarism is not a valid defense. Check with me if you are not clear on what constitutes plagiarism.
6. This is a tentative syllabus and outline and is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Students will receive timely notice of all such changes via announcements made online in Moodle and via email.

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Course Outline

This Outline is a guideline that may change as necessary as the quarter/term progresses.

Week 1:

1. Syllabus Review/Course Goals
2. Chapter 1. The Uses of Social Research
3. Chapter 2. Theory and Research
4. Chapter Exercises for Chapters 1 and 2

Topics Covered in Week 1:

1. Key ethical guidelines governing social research.

Objectives Covered in Week 1:

1. Be familiar with various methods used in social research.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of making informed, critical judgments about social research.

Week 2:

1. Chapter 3. Ethics and Social Research
- 2. Research Proposal Introduction Due**
3. Chapter Exercise for Chapter 3

Topics Covered in Week 2:

1. The definition and application of the primary research designs used in social research.

Objectives Covered in Week 2:

1. Be familiar with various methods used in social research.
2. Explain the fundamentals of the social research process.
3. Outline and explain the components of ethical research.

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Week 3:

1. Chapter 4. Planning a Research Project
2. Chapter 5. Sampling
3. Chapter Exercises for Chapters 4 and 5

Topics Covered in Week 3:

1. Key ethical guidelines governing social research.
2. The definition and application of the primary research designs used in social research.

Objectives Covered in Week 3:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of making informed, critical judgments about social research.
2. Understand the reasons for choosing particular data collection methods and techniques, and learn how to organize the data to address particular questions and problems.

Week 4:

1. Chapter 6. Measurement
- 2. Research Proposal Literature Review Due**
3. Chapter Exercise for Chapter 6

Topics Covered in Week 4:

1. The definition and application of the primary research designs used in social research.
2. The formulation of the question(s) to be investigated and of the resulting hypotheses; the collection of data and analysis of the data collected; and the interpretation and study of analysis results.

Objectives Covered in Week 4:

1. Be familiar with various methods used in social research.

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2. Demonstrate knowledge of making informed, critical judgments about social research.
3. Understand the reasons for choosing particular data collection methods and techniques, and learn how to organize the data to address particular questions and problems.

Week 5:

1. Chapter 7. Cross-Sectional, Longitudinal, and Case Study Designs
2. Chapter 8. Experimental Research
3. Chapter Exercises for Chapters 7 and 8

Topics Covered in Week 5:

1. Key ethical guidelines governing social research.
2. The definition and application of the primary research designs used in social research.

Objectives Covered in Week 5:

1. Explain the fundamentals of the social research process.
2. Outline and explain the components of ethical research.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of making informed, critical judgments about social research.

Week 6:

1. Chapter 9. Questionnaires and Structured Interviews
2. Chapter 10. Qualitative Interviewing
3. Chapter Exercises for Chapters 9 and 10

Topics Covered in Week 6:

1. The formulation of the question(s) to be investigated and of the resulting hypotheses; the collection of data and analysis of the data collected; and the interpretation and study of analysis results.

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Objectives Covered in Week 6:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of making informed, critical judgments about social research.
2. Understand the reasons for choosing particular data collection methods and techniques, and learn how to organize the data to address particular questions and problems.

Week 7:

1. Chapter 11. Observational Techniques
2. **Research Proposal Method Section Due**
3. Chapter Exercise for Chapter 11

Topics Covered in Week 7:

1. The formulation of the question(s) to be investigated and of the resulting hypotheses; the collection of data and analysis of the data collected; and the interpretation and study of analysis results.

Objectives Covered in Week 7:

1. Explain the fundamentals of the social research process.
2. Outline and explain the components of ethical research.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of making informed, critical judgments about social research.
4. Understand the reasons for choosing particular data collection methods and techniques, and learn how to organize the data to address particular questions and problems.

Week 8:

1. Chapter 12. Using Available Data
2. Chapter Exercise for Chapter 12

Topics Covered in Week 8:

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1. The definition and application of the primary research designs used in social research.

Objectives Covered in Week 8:

1. Understand the reasons for choosing particular data collection methods and techniques, and learn how to organize the data to address particular questions and problems.
2. Design and describe in writing a social research project.

Week 9:

1. Chapter 13. Content Analysis
2. **Research Proposal Data Analysis and Limitations Sections Due**
3. Chapter Exercise for Chapter 13

Topics Covered in Week 9:

1. The formulation of the question(s) to be investigated and of the resulting hypotheses; the collection of data and analysis of the data collected; and the interpretation and study of analysis results.

Objectives Covered in Week 9:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of making informed, critical judgments about social research.
2. Understand the reasons for choosing particular data collection methods and techniques, and learn how to organize the data to address particular questions and problems.

Week 10:

1. Chapter 14. Applied Social Research
2. **Research Proposal Results and Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations Sections Due**
3. Chapter Exercise for Chapter 14

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Topics Covered in Week 10:

1. Ethical applications and ethical decision making models as applied to general and specific social justice issues.
2. The examination and application of professional codes of ethics in various legal and human/social services situations.

Objectives Covered in Week 10:

1. Evaluate and understand the impact of personal ethical styles in personal and professional settings.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the principles of respect and ethical behavior for individuality and for people with diverse cultural backgrounds when rendering professional services.

Week 11:

1. Chapter 15. Quantitative and Qualitative Data Analysis
2. Chapter Exercise for Chapter 15

Topics Covered in Week 11:

1. The definition and application of the primary research designs used in social research.
2. The formulation of the question(s) to be investigated and of the resulting hypotheses; the collection of data and analysis of the data collected; and the interpretation and study of analysis results.

Objectives Covered in Week 11:

1. Outline and explain the components of ethical research.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of making informed, critical judgments about social research.
3. Understand the reasons for choosing particular data collection methods and techniques, and learn how to organize the data to address particular questions and problems.
4. Design and describe in writing a social research project.

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Week 12:

1. **Completed Research Proposal Due (by Monday, August 12, 2019 at 8:00 AM)**

Topics Covered in Week 12:

1. Key ethical guidelines governing social research.
2. The definition and application of the primary research designs used in social research.
3. The formulation of the question(s) to be investigated and of the resulting hypotheses; the collection of data and analysis of the data collected; and the interpretation and study of analysis results.

Objectives Covered in Week 12:

1. Be familiar with various methods used in social research.
2. Explain the fundamentals of the social research process.
3. Outline and explain the components of ethical research.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of making informed, critical judgments about social research.
5. Understand the reasons for choosing particular data collection methods and techniques, and learn how to organize the data to address particular questions and problems.
6. Design and describe in writing a social research project.