Course Summary

Description

Course Description: This course provides basic research methods skills for addressing problems and issues specific to the programs within the School of Security and Global Studies (SSGS). The course covers four basic approaches to social research including experimentation, survey research, field research, and the use of available data. Students will gain foundational knowledge in research planning, design, methodology, data collection, and analysis. This course prepares students for advanced research methods. Students in SSGS graduate studies are expected to be completely familiar with Turabian and APA writing styles. If you do not possess copies of these manuals, here is a link to the library, https://www.apus.edu/apus-library/resources-services/Writing/writing-center.html, specific to writing basics, that has quick style guides in use within SSGS. Purchase of the most recent writing guide in use in your program is highly recommended. If you are unsure what writing style is in use in your program consult with your academic advisor.

Course Scope:

As part of the core requirement, this course introduces the student to foundational elements within social science research. Students will gain insight into the importance of ethical conduct when carrying out research. They will also gain familiarity with how theory and theoretical frameworks fit within overall research projects. The course will also cover qualitative and quantitative research and provide insight into how researchers can draw conclusions from their data. Students will participate in weekly Discussion Forums that correlate to weekly readings. Students will write an analytical research paper and will write a comprehensive final assignment.

Objectives

CO-1: Appraise the nature of social science research and scholarship as an intellectual enterprise.

CO-2: Evaluate research approaches, data collection methods, and their relative merits in accordance with ethical practices and standards.

CO-3: Analyze the range of analytic procedures that can be employed in carrying out social science research.

CO-4: Synthesize the different types of qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research designs.

CO-5: Design empirically based studies.
Outline

Week 1: Introduction to Social Research

Learning Outcomes

CO-1

Required Readings


Assignments

1. Week 1 forum posts
2. Graduate Orientation

Recommended Optional Reading


**Recommended Media**

**Week 2: Framing Research**

**Learning Outcomes**

CO-1, CO-2, CO-3

**Required Readings**


**Assignments**

1. Complete week 2 forum posts
2. CITI training
3. Graduate orientation due

**Recommended Optional Reading**


**Recommended Media**

**Week 3: Methodological Theory and Its Role Within Research**

**Learning Outcomes**

CO-1

**Required Readings**


Found in Sage Research Methods Database.

Howell, Kerry. 2013. “Critical Theory.” In *An Introduction to the Philosophy of Methodology*. 75-87. [DOI](http://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781473957633.n5)

Found in Sage Research Methods Database.

Howell, Kerry E. 2013. “Grounded Theory.” In *An Introduction to the Philosophy of Methodology*. 131-153. [DOI](http://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781473957633.n9)

Found in Sage Research Methods Database.

**Assignments**

1. Complete week 3 forum posts
2. Complete research question exercise

**Recommended Optional Reading**


Recommended Media

**Week 4: Substantive Theory and Its Role Within Research**

**Learning Outcomes**

CO-1

**Required Readings**


**Assignments**

1. Week 4 forum posts
2. Complete literature review on a substantive theory

**Recommended Optional Reading**


**Recommended Media**

**Week 5: Qualitative Research Methods**

**Learning Outcomes**

CO-4

**Required Readings**


**Chapters 3-7**


**Assignments**

1. Week 5 forum posts
2. Two qualitative article reviews

**Recommended Optional Reading**


Yin, Robert K. 2014. "Designing Case Studies: Identifying Your Case(s) and Establishing the Logic of Your
Week 6: Quantitative Research Methods

Learning Outcomes

CO-4

Required Readings


Found in Sage Research Methods Database.


Assignments

1. Week 6 forum posts
2. Two quantitative article reviews

Recommended Optional Reading

Lafree, Gary and Joshua D. Freilich. 2012. "Editor's Introduction: Quantitative Approaches to the Study of


Recommended Media

**Week 7: Mixed-Methods Research**

Learning Outcomes

CO-4

Required Readings

Creswell, John W. 2014. “Mixed Methods Procedures.” In *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and


Assignments

1. Week 7 forums

Recommended Optional Reading


Recommended Media

Week 8: Data Synthesis, Interpretation, and Presentation

Learning Outcomes

CO-4 & CO-5

Required Readings


Assignments

1. Week 8 forum posts
2. Research proposal

Recommended Optional Reading


Evaluation

The course grade is based on the following assessments:

**Discussion Forums – 15 percent**

Each week, a discussion question is provided and posts should reflect an assimilation of the readings. Students are required to provide a substantive initial post by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET and respond to two or more classmates by Sunday 11:55 pm ET.

**Weekly Exercises for Weeks Two to Six – 10 percent each, total of 50 percent**

You will have six exercises in weeks one to six. Please refer to the assignments tab for specific instructions.

**Research Proposal – 35 percent**

This assignment is a paper that incorporates all that you will learn in the class. Please see the assignments tab for specific instructions.

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<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Forums</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Exercises, 2-6</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Proposal</td>
<td>35%</td>
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**TOTAL** 100%

Grading:

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade %</th>
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Materials

Book Title: Various resources from the APUS Library & the Open Web are used. Links provided inside the classroom in the Lessons section.

Author:

Publication Info:

ISBN: N/A

Required Course Textbooks

No Textbooks Required.

Required Readings

- Peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, external websites and other assigned readings are found in the Lessons area of the classroom.

- Weekly Lesson Notes and videos or audio files are found in the Lessons area of the classroom.

Course Guidelines

Citation and Reference Style

Attention Please: Programs within the School of Security and Global Studies use either APA (Criminal Justice, Homeland Security, and Security Management), Bluebook (Legal Studies), Chicago Style (Intelligence Studies, International Relations), or Turabian (National Security, Military Studies). It is expected that you use the writing style specific to your program. There are style guides within the library to help you ensure your submitted work is of a professional caliber.

All written submissions should be submitted in Times New Roman 12pt font with 1” margins, typewritten in double-spaced format. Graduate-level work is expected to be free of grammar, usage, and style errors.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty incorporates more than plagiarism, which is using the work of others without citation. Academic dishonesty includes any use of content published or retrieved from web services such as CourseHero.com, as well as submitting the same assignment or forum/discussion post multiple times. Additionally, allowing your work to be placed on such web services is academic dishonesty, as it is enabling the dishonesty of others. The copy and pasting of content from any web page, without citation as a direct quote, is academic dishonesty. When in doubt, do not copy/paste, and always cite. At this level of education it is the students responsibility to know proper citation protocols and the academic integrity policies of the university. "I didn't know" is not a viable excuse for plagiarism in this course, or within this program. If you have questions about how to properly cite something make sure you review the instructions within the most recent writing manual in use within your course (in this case the Chicago Manual of Style), if further questions remain, reach out to your instructor. Failure to do so before you submit your paper may result in an academic integrity violation.

Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an
assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and will result in a point loss of 5% per day late.

**Tutoring**

Tutor.com offers online homework help and learning resources by connecting students to certified tutors for one-on-one help. AMU and APU students are eligible up to 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutors are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week unless otherwise noted. Tutor.com also has a SkillCenter Resource Library offering educational resources, worksheets, videos, websites, and career help. Accessing these resources does not count against tutoring hours and is also available 24/7. Please visit the APUS Library and search for "Tutor" to create an account.

**Netiquette**

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and "flaming." Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the forum discussion of others.

Forum discussions are the heart of the peer collaboration in this course. The more engaged and lively the exchanges, the more interesting and fun the course will be. Only substantive comments that reference the material and reflect academic discourse will receive credit. Although there is a final posting after which the instructor will grade comments, it is not sufficient to wait until the last day to contribute your comments/questions on the discussion thread. The purpose of the forum discussions is to actively participate in an on-going discussion about the assigned content. "Substantive" means comments that contribute something new and hopefully important to the discussion. Thus a message that simply says "I agree" is not substantive. A substantive comment contributes a new idea or perspective, a good follow-up question to a point made, offers a response to a question (with backing by the literature), provides an example or illustration of a key point, points out an inconsistency in an argument, and etc. As a class, if we run into conflicting view points, we must respect each individual's own opinion. Hateful and hurtful comments towards individuals, students, groups, peoples, and/or societies will not be tolerated, and may be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: :-), :)

**Online Library**

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.

- **Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors’ publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- **Electronic Books:** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
• **Electronic Journals**: The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.

• **Tutor.com**: AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutor.com connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.


The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

• Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.

• Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu.

**Turnitin.com**

Faculty require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. The instructor will post information in the classroom on student procedures.

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**University Policies**

**Student Handbook**

• [Drop/Withdrawal policy](#)

• [Extension Requests](#)

• [Academic Probation](#)

• [Appeals](#)

• [Disability Accommodations](#)

The mission of American Public University System is to provide high quality higher education with emphasis on educating the nation’s military and public service communities by offering respected, relevant, accessible, affordable, and student-focused online programs that prepare students for service and leadership in a diverse, global society.

**STUDENT WARNING**: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.