Oregon State University
Ecampus

Course Name: Research Methods in the Social Sciences
Course Number: FES 422
Credits: 4
Instructor name: Kailey Kornhauser (she/her/hers)
Instructor email: kailey.kornhauser@oregonstate.edu

Course Description

An introduction to research methods applied to social science issues and problems. Emphasis is on the nature of the research process, how to conduct research, and how to interpret and disseminate research results.

Prerequisites or Corequisites

ST 201, 351, 351H, or equivalent (basic statistics course)
A minimum grade of D- is required in ST 201, ST 351 and ST 351H.

Communication

Please post all course-related questions in the Q&A Discussion Forum so that the whole class may benefit from our conversation. Please contact me privately for matters of a personal nature. I will reply to course-related questions within 24 hours on weekdays. I will do my best to reply to course-related questions within 24 hours on weekends, please mark your contact as urgent on weekends if the question is time sensitive. I will strive to return your assignments and grades for course activities to you within five to seven days of the due date.

Time Expectations

This course combines approximately 120 hours of instruction, online activities, and assignments for 4 credits.

Technical Assistance

If you experience any errors or problems while in your online course, contact 24-7 Canvas Support through the Help link within Canvas. If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, or need assistance logging into a course, contact the IS Service Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-8787 or visit the IS Service Desk online.

Learning Resources

All learning resources will be provided on the course CANVAS site. This is a no-cost class; there is no required textbook

Measurable Student Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Recognize and correctly use the terminology of research.
2. Explain the relationship between social theory and social science research.
3. Demonstrate the role of the literature review.
4. Differentiate and know when to apply quantitative and qualitative research methodologies.
5. Demonstrate the advantages and disadvantages of different types of quantitative and qualitative approaches, using specific examples.
6. Write survey questions, construct questionnaires, and conduct survey research.
7. Write interview questions, construct interview guides, and conduct qualitative research.
8. Interpret and critique research articles, publications, and reports.
9. Critically evaluate the uses and limitations of research.

Evaluation of Student Performance

The learning outcomes will be measured through a series of assignments (both individual and group assignments), discussions, quizzes, a midterm exam, and a final group project. Your grade for the course will be based on the following:

Assignments – 45%
Discussions – 20%
Quizzes – 10%
Midterm Exam – 10%
Final Project – 15%

The number of grade points that each assessment is worth is listed under the Assignments tab of the couse Canvas site.

Letter Grade

Grade	Percent Range
A	*94-100*
A-	*90-93*
B+	*87-89*
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	64-66
D-	60-63
F	59 and lower

Course Content

Please see the Modules Tab on the course Canvas site for details on each week's reading assignments, learning activities, and assessments.

Week	Topic
1	Foundations of social science
2	Theory in action
3	Quantitative research designs and sampling
4	Constructing and administering effective surveys
5	Validity and critiquing quantitative research
6	Qualitative research approaches
7	Qualitative data collection and analysis
8	Mixed methods and trustworthiness in qualitative research
9	Decolonizing and participatory approaches
10	Ethical considerations in social science research
Finals	Final portfolio due

Course Policies

Discussion Participation
Students are expected to participate in all graded discussions. While there is great flexibility in online courses, this is not a self-paced course. For many weeks (but not all), you will need to participate in discussions on at least two different days each week, with your first post due no later than Thursday evening, and your second posts due by the Sunday of each week.

Late Work Policy
Late work will be accepted upon approval from the instructor. Please get in touch with the instructor to discuss options if you are unable to submit work on time.

Incompletes
A grade of incomplete will only be assigned for students who are physically unable to complete the course due to serious illness or injury or other unforeseen circumstances and have completed at least 50% of the assignments up to the point at which they opt for an incomplete. Students are responsible for understanding and following all university and departmental policies related to removing a grade of incomplete from their record, and for understanding the circumstance that can cause an incomplete grade to convert to a grade of F. If you are having any difficulty that might prevent you completing the coursework, please don't wait until the end of the term; let me know right away.

Statement Regarding Religious Accommodation

Oregon State University is required to provide reasonable accommodations for employee and student sincerely held religious beliefs. It is incumbent on the student making the request to make the faculty member aware of the request as soon as possible prior to the need for the accommodation. See the [Religious Accommodation Process for Students](#).

Guidelines for a Productive and Effective Online Classroom

Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g., on discussion boards, email) in compliance with the university's regulations regarding civility. Civility is an essential ingredient for academic discourse. All communications for this course should be conducted constructively, civilly, and respectfully. Differences in beliefs, opinions, and approaches are to be expected. In all you say and do for this course, be professional. Please bring any communications you believe to be in violation of this class policy to the attention of your instructor.

Active interaction with peers and your instructor is essential to success in this online course, paying particular attention to the following:

- Unless indicated otherwise, please complete the readings and view other instructional materials for each week before participating in the discussion board.
- Read your posts carefully before submitting them.
- Be respectful of others and their opinions, valuing diversity in backgrounds, abilities, and experiences.
- Challenging the ideas held by others is an integral aspect of critical thinking and the academic process. Please word your responses carefully, and recognize that others are expected to challenge your ideas. A positive atmosphere of healthy debate is encouraged.

Expectations for Student Conduct

Student conduct is governed by the university's policies, as explained in the Student Conduct Code (https://beav.es/codeofconduct). Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g., on discussion boards, email postings) in compliance with the university's regulations regarding civility.

Academic Integrity

Integrity is a character-driven commitment to honesty, doing what is right, and guiding others to do what is right. Oregon State University Ecampus students and faculty have a responsibility to act with integrity in all of our educational work, and that integrity enables this community of learners to interact in the spirit of trust, honesty, and fairness across the globe.

Academic misconduct, or violations of academic integrity, can fall into seven broad areas, including but not limited to: cheating; plagiarism; falsification; assisting; tampering; multiple submissions of work; and unauthorized recording and use.

It is important that you understand what student actions are defined as academic misconduct at Oregon State University. The OSU Libraries offer a tutorial on academic misconduct, and you can also refer to the OSU Student Code of Conduct and the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standard's website for more information. More importantly, if you are unsure if something will violate our academic integrity policy, ask your professors, GTAs, academic advisors, or academic integrity officers.

TurnItIn
Your instructor may ask you to submit one or more of your writings to Turnitin, a plagiarism prevention service. Your assignment content will be checked for potential plagiarism against Internet sources, academic journal articles, and the papers of other OSU students, for common or borrowed content. Turnitin generates a report that highlights any potentially unoriginal text in your paper. The report may be submitted directly to your instructor or your instructor may elect to have you submit initial drafts through Turnitin, and you will receive the report allowing you the opportunity to make adjustments and ensure that all source material has been properly cited. Papers you submit through Turnitin for this or any class will be added to the OSU Turnitin database and may be checked against other OSU paper submissions. You will retain all rights to your written work. For further information, visit Academic Integrity for Students: Turnitin – What is it?

Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities
Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by Disability Access Services (DAS). If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval, please contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098 or at http://ds.oregonstate.edu. DAS notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations.

Accessibility of Course Materials
All materials used in this course are accessible with the exception of parts of the scanned book chapters. If you require accommodations please contact Disability Access Services (DAS).

Additionally, Canvas, the learning management system through which this course is offered, provides a vendor statement certifying how the platform is accessible to students with disabilities.

Tutoring and Writing Assistance
TutorMe is a leading provider of online tutoring and learner support services fully staffed by experienced, trained and monitored tutors. Access TutorMe from within your Canvas course menu.

The Oregon State Online Writing Suite is also available for students enrolled in Ecampus courses.

Ecampus Reach Out for Success

University students encounter setbacks from time to time. If you encounter difficulties and need assistance, it's important to reach out. Consider discussing the situation with an instructor or academic advisor. Learn about resources that assist with wellness and academic success.

Ecampus students are always encouraged to discuss issues that impact your academic success with the Ecampus Success Team. Email ecampus.success@oregonstate.edu to identify strategies and resources that can support you in your educational goals.

If you feel comfortable sharing how a hardship may impact your performance in this course, please reach out to me as your instructor.

- **For mental health:**
  Learn about counseling and psychological resources for Ecampus students. If you are in immediate crisis, please contact the Crisis Text Line by texting OREGON to 741-741 or call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

- **For financial hardship:**
  Any student whose academic performance is impacted due to financial stress or the inability to afford groceries, housing, and other necessities for any reason is urged to contact the Director of Care for support (541-737-8748).

Academic Calendar

All students are subject to the registration and refund deadlines as stated in the Academic Calendar: https://registrar.oregonstate.edu/osu-academic-calendar.

Student Evaluation of Courses

During Fall, Winter, and Spring term, the online Student Evaluation of Teaching system opens to students the Wednesday of week 8 and closes the Sunday before Finals Week. Students will receive notification, instructions and the link through their ONID email. They may also log into the system via Online Services. Course evaluation results are extremely important and used to help improve courses and the learning experience of future students. Responses are anonymous (unless a student chooses to "sign" their comments, agreeing to relinquish anonymity) and unavailable to instructors until after grades have been posted. The results of scaled questions and signed comments go to both the instructor and their unit head/supervisor. Anonymous (unsigned) comments go to the instructor only.