

COURSE SYLLABUS FORMAT
Southeast Missouri State University

Department of	<u>History</u>	Course No.	<u>OS400</u>
Title of Course:	<u>Social Science Research Methods</u>	Revision	<u> </u>
	<u> </u>	New	<u>X</u>

I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course:

Introduction to concepts of research methods in social science with emphasis on developing questions and hypotheses, reviewing literature, planning studies, gathering and analyzing data, and writing reports of results. I, II, 3 credit hours

II. Prerequisite (s): OS200 and OS300

III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course:

- A. To provide experience in the development of a social scientific research question
- B. To provide experience in reviewing for social science literature related to a research question
- C. To explain the use of quantitative methods in social science research
- D. To explain the use of qualitative methods in social science research
- E. To investigate how historians use social science methods in their research
- F. To provide experience in developing a social science research proposal

IV. Student Learning Outcomes: Students should be able to

- A. Develop a clear research question and review the social scientific literature related to the research question.
- B. Explain the use of quantitative or qualitative methods appropriate for answering the research question
- C. Write a proposal for answering the research question

V. Expectations of Students:

- A. Complete all reading assignments
- B. Participate in class discussions
- C. Satisfactorily complete all written assignments and examinations

VI. Course Content or Outline (Indicate number of class hours per unit or section):

- A. Investigating Society through Social Scientific Research 3 hrs.
 - 1. Observing the Social World
 - 2. Social Scientists' Perspective on Society

B. Problems and Processes of Social Research	3
1. Research Questions	
2. Research Strategies	
C. The Ethics of Social Research	3
1. Ethical Principles and Social Research	
2. Being Open and Honest about Results	
D. Conceptualizing and Measuring in Social Research	6
1. Developing Research Questions	
2. Making Observations	
3. Means of Measurement	
4. Validity and Reliability of Data	
E. Methods of Data Collection: Sampling	3
1. Defining a Sample	
2. Methods of Sampling	
F. Causal Explanation and Experimental Design	3
1. Causal Explanations	
2. Designing Experiments	
3. Validity in Experimental Research	
4. Protecting Subjects of Experiments	
G. Designing Survey Research	6
1. What is Survey Research?	
2. Developing Questions	
3. Designing Questionnaires	
4. Ethics of Survey Research	
H. Analyzing Quantitative Data	3
1. Statistics as a Means of Analysis	
2. Preparing Data for Analysis	

3. Statistical Measures of Data Analysis	
4. Ethical Use of Statistics	
I. Qualitative Methods in Social Research	6
1. What are Qualitative Methods?	
2. Participant Observations	
3. Interviewing Subjects	
4. Ethics of Qualitative Research	
J. Analyzing Qualitative Data	3
1. Techniques of Qualitative Analysis	
2. Alternative Means of Qualitative Analysis	
3. History as Qualitative Research	
4. Ethical Issues in Qualitative Data Analysis	
K. Evaluation as a form of Social Research	3
1. Origin and Development of Evaluation Research	
2. Designing Evaluations	
3. Ethical Issues in Evaluation Research	
L. Reviewing, Proposing, and Reporting Social Research	3
1. Comparing Research Designs and Reviewing Results	
2. Proposing New Research	
3. Reporting Research Results	
	Total: 45 hrs.

VII. Textbook(s) and/or Other Required Materials or Equipment:

A. Daniel F. Chambliss and Russell K. Schutt, *Making Sense of the Social World: Methods of Investigation*, 4th ed. (Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc, 2009)

B. Selected readings from the social scientific literature

VIII. Basis for Student Evaluation:

A. Research question and review of the literature 20%

B. Class participation 20%

C. Examinations 30%

D. Research Proposal 30%