

PAI 705
Research Design for IR Practitioners
Fall 2023

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[My web page](#)
[Web page for this class](#)

Class: Tu Th 3:30-4:50 Marshall Square Mall 208 A
Office Hours: Tu Th 10:30 – 12:00

Course Description:

Research is critical in our quest to understand social phenomena. We conduct research to uncover overall patterns in human behavior and the incentives that guide this behavior. We have a variety of techniques and approaches Social Sciences that allow us to investigate questions of academic and policy interest. The course is an overview of the underlying issues that confront us when we set out to conduct social science research, a survey of the main research methodologies that are available to investigators, and an investigation of the role of social science research in International Relations

Materials:

- Babbie, Earl. *The Practice of Social Research*. Earlier editions are acceptable.
- Optional: Trochim, William M. [The Research Methods Knowledge Base](#). Internet resource.
- Articles linked to in this syllabus.
- Later in the semester when we get to evaluation: Morra-Imas, L. G., Morra, L. G., & Rist, R. C. (2009). [The road to results: Designing and conducting effective development evaluations](#). World Bank Publications.
- Course web page has lecture notes. These may be updated as the semester proceeds.

Grading:

- Summary and Evaluation Memos (40 points)
 - 2 in class exams (40 points)
 - Final Project (20 points)
- This is 100 total points.

Summary and Evaluation Memos (40 points – 20 points each):

The expectation is that the whole class will read all five of these research products to allow for class discussion. For two of the five you will turn in 8-10 [page summary and evaluation](#) and be in the group leading the class discussion of the

research product. You are allowed to turn in a third summary and evaluation to replace a grade on one of your first two submissions.

- Biotech CSIS [from here](#)
 - Not required, but interesting debate on background on Journal retractions and debate [from here](#):
- [TRIP report](#) on IR 2012
 - Data from multiple versions of this survey [available here](#)
 - [2018 Foreign Policy rankings](#)
- RCT Experiments on the course website
- Case Studies on the course website
- Impact Evaluations on the course website

In class Exams (40 points – 20 points each):

There will be two closed book in class exams in this course. Each one will count for 20 points.

Final Project (20 points):

Formulate a proposal for a research project of your selection following the methodology discussed over the course of the semester.

Academic Integrity:

The Syracuse University [Academic Integrity Policy](#) holds students accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Students should be familiar with the Policy and know that it is their responsibility to learn about instructor and general academic expectations with regard to proper citation of sources in written work. The policy also governs the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments as well as the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verifications of participation in class activities. Serious sanctions can result from academic dishonesty of any sort.

Disability Statement

If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact the [Center for Disability Resources](#) (CDR) located in 804 University Avenue, Suite 303 or call (315) 443-4498 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations. CDR is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations and will issue students with documented disabilities Accommodation Authorization Letters, as appropriate. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact CDR as soon as possible.

Course Schedule (subject to change as we see how it goes):

I. Overview of the course.

August 29

II. The Context of Social Research

August 31, September 5, 7 *Social Science Research*

- Chapter 1 Human Inquiry and Science.

September 12 *The Role of Theory in Social Research*

- Chapter 2 Paradigms, Theory, and Social Research.
- Paul Krugman, The Fall and Rise of Development Economics. [mimeo](#)

September 14. *Research Ethics*

- Chapter 3 The Ethics and Politics of Social Research,
- IRB, [CITI training](#)
- [The Belmont Report.](#)

Summary and Evaluation Memo 1 Biotech due September 26

September 19, 21, 26. *Research Design*

- Chapter 4 Research Design,

September 28 *Measurement and Variable Definitions*

- Chapter 5 Conceptualization, Operationalization, and Measurement.
 - Optional Examples [KKZ](#). [Fragile States Index](#). [Corruption Perceptions Index](#).

October 3, 5 *Working with Data*

- Chapter 6, Indexes, Scales and Typologies
- Optional Background Reading: "[Do Community Members Share Development Priorities? Results of a Ranking Exercise in East African Rangelands.](#)" With Cheryl Doss, Christopher B. Barrett and Patti Kristjanson. *Journal of Development Studies*. 45(10): 1663-1683 (2009)

October 12, 17, 19. *Sampling Issues*

- Chapter 7, The Logic of Sampling,
- Optional Background Reading: Overview of sampling size / detecting effects in [Duflo et al. paper](#).

Summary and Evaluation Memo 2: The TRIP survey due October 19

October 24, EXAM 1

October 26, 31 *Experimental Design*

- Chapter 8 Experiments
- Optional Background Reading: [Use of Experiments in IR](#)

November 2 *Using Surveys in Research*

- Chapter 9 Survey Research
- Optional Background Reading: [World Bank LSMS description, Codebook for PARIMA](#)

Summary and Evaluation Memo 3: RCT evaluation due November 7.

November 7 *Qualitative Methods, Focus Groups, Case Studies*

- Chapter 10 Qualitative Field Research

November 9 *Working with Existing Data*

- Chapter 11 Unobtrusive Research
- Optional Data Sources to review [OECD, FAO, World Bank, MDG](#) and [SDG](#)

November 14 *Reading and Writing Social Research*

Summary and Evaluation Memo 4: Case Study due November 28.

November 16, 28, December 5 *Evaluation Research*

- Chapter 12. Evaluation research.
- Morra-Imas, L. G., Morra, L. G., & Rist, R. C. (2009) [The road to results: Designing and conducting effective development evaluations.](#) World Bank Publications.

Summary and Evaluation Memo 5: Impact Evaluation due December 7.

December 5, 7 *Class Presentations of Research Proposals, Review*

In Class Final Exam December 12

Final Project due: December 18