

**PAI 705**  
**Research Design for IR Practitioners**  
**Spring 2020**

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Class: Tu Th 2:00-3:20 Maxwell 110  
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*. Current edition is the 15<sup>th</sup>. Earlier editions are acceptable as substitutes.
- 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](#),
  - Background related Journal retraction and debate [from here](#):
- TRIP report [summary](#)
  - Background earlier reports [here](#).
- [RCT](#) Experiment [from here](#):
- Case Study [from here](#):
- Impact Evaluation [from here](#):

### 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. For more information and the complete policy, see the [Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures \(PDF\)](#).

## Disability Statement

If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact the [Office of Disability Services\(ODS\)](#) located in Room 309 of 804 University Avenue, or call (315) 443-4498 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations. ODS 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 ODS as soon as possible.

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

### I. Overview of the course.

January 14

### II. The Context of Social Research

January 16, 21. *Social Science Research*

- Chapter 1 Human Inquiry and Science.
- Additional optional reading on background:  
Popper, K. (2014). [A Survey of Some Fundamental Problems](#). Ch. 1 in: Popper, K. (2014). *The logic of scientific discovery*. Routledge, p. 1-27,  
Friedman, M. (1953). [The methodology of positive economics](#).  
*Essays in positive economics*, 3(3). p. 145-179 [Hausman](#)

January 23, 28. *The Role of Theory in Social Research*

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

I will be out of town January 30

February 4. *Research Ethics*

- Chapter 3 The Ethics and Politics of Social Research,
- IRB, [CITI training](#)
- [The Belmont Report](#).
- Optional Background Reading: [USAID guidelines on human subjects](#).

### **Summary and Evaluation Memo 1 Biotech due February 11<sup>th</sup>.**

February 6, 11. *Research Design*

- Chapter 4 Research Design,

February 13. *Measurement and Variable Definitions*

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

February 18, *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)

February 20, 25. *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 February 27th.**

### **March 3, EXAM 1**

March 5, *Experimental Design*

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

March 10,12 *Using Surveys in Research*

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

## **Summary and Evaluation Memo 3: RCT evaluation due March 12<sup>th</sup>.**

March 17, 19. *No class: Spring Break.*

March 24, *Qualitative Methods, Focus Groups, Case Studies*

- Chapter 10 Qualitative Field Research
- Optional Background Readings: [Focus Groups, Of What is This a Case?: Analytical Movements in Qualitative Social Science Research](#)

March 26<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> *Working with Existing Data*

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

## **Summary and Evaluation Memo 4: Case Study due March 31st.**

April 2, 7, 9. *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 April 14<sup>th</sup>**

April 14. *Issues of Presenting and Evaluating Social Research*

- Chapter 17. Reading and Writing Social Research

April 16, 21 *Class Presentations of Research Proposals*

**In Class Final Exam April 28**

**Final Project due: May 4**