**PAI 705**

**Research Design for IR Practitioners**

**Spring 2025**

John McPeak

333 Eggers Hall

Office Phone: 443-6146

e-mail: [jomcpeak@syr.edu](mailto:jomcpeak@syr.edu)

[My web page](https://jomcpeak.expressions.syr.edu)

[Web page for this class](https://jomcpeak.expressions.syr.edu/pai-705/)

Class: Tu Th 2:00-3:20 Eggers Hall 070

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.
* Trochim, William M. [*The Research Methods Knowledge Base*](http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/index.php). 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*](https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/39d2094f-8384-5aee-85cf-b2230757e785/content). 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 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](https://jomcpeak.expressions.syr.edu/wp-content/uploads/Summary-and-Evaluation-Assignments.pdf) 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](https://jomcpeak.expressions.syr.edu/wp-content/uploads/131127_Chambers_BiosafetyGMCrops_Web.pdf),
  + Not required, but interesting debate on background on Journal retractions and debate
    - [On background the retracted article cited](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0278691512005637)
    - [Associated debate in journal](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0278691512005637)
    - More generally look here at https://retractionwatch.com/
* [TRIP report](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8e5G4h9p4v9U2dqUUdTeVZOU0E/view?resourcekey=0-qikK6ukilUBN4IYWFPKgbQ) on IR 2012
  + [Latest Rankings](https://foreignpolicy.com/2024/07/30/international-relations-school-rankings-university-undergraduate-masters-phd-programs/)
* RCT Experiments
  + [Botswana RCT](https://jomcpeak.expressions.syr.edu/wp-content/uploads/botswanaRCT.pdf)
  + [India RCT](https://www.bmj.com/content/340/bmj.c2220)
  + [Colombia RCT](https://jomcpeak.expressions.syr.edu/wp-content/uploads/ColombiaRCT.pdf)
  + [German RCT](https://www.povertyactionlab.org/sites/default/files/research-paper/3726-working-paper_Integration_Agreements_van-den-Berg_Jan2021.pdf)
  + I[raq RCT](https://www.povertyactionlab.org/evaluation/inter-religious-soccer-leagues-promote-social-cohesion-post-isis-iraq)
* Case Studies
  + [Mali Case Study](https://www.hsdl.org/?view&did=805696)
  + [India Case Study](https://jomcpeak.expressions.syr.edu/wp-content/uploads/India-Case-Study.pdf)
  + [Colombia Case Study](https://jomcpeak.expressions.syr.edu/wp-content/uploads/ColombiaCaseStudyUNDP.pdf)
  + [Romania Case Study](https://jomcpeak.expressions.syr.edu/wp-content/uploads/RomaniaFinal.pdf)
* Impact Evaluations
  + [Kenya Impact Evaluation](https://jomcpeak.expressions.syr.edu/wp-content/uploads/KenyaImpactEvaluation.pdf)
  + [Bangladesh Impact Evaluation](https://jomcpeak.expressions.syr.edu/wp-content/uploads/Bangladesh-impact-evaluation.pdf)
  + [Mexico Impact Evaluation](https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00M1T8.pdf)
  + [Serbia Impact Evaluation](https://jomcpeak.expressions.syr.edu/wp-content/uploads/SerbiaUSAIDImpactEvaluation.pdf)
  + [Afghanistan PRT Evaluation](https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/pdfs/ADA496359.pdf)

## 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**

As a pre-eminent and inclusive student-focused research institution, Syracuse University considers academic integrity at the forefront of learning, serving as a core value and guiding pillar of education. Syracuse University’s Academic Integrity Policy provides students with the necessary guidelines to complete academic work with integrity throughout their studies. Students are required to uphold both course-specific and university-wide academic integrity expectations such as crediting your sources, doing your own work, communicating honestly, and supporting academic integrity. The full Syracuse University Academic Integrity Policy can be found by visiting class.syr/edu, selecting, “Academic Integrity,” and “Expectations and Policy.”

Upholding Academic Integrity includes the protection of faculty’s intellectual property. Students should not upload, distribute, or share instructors’ course materials, including presentations, assignments, exams, or other evaluative materials without permission. Using websites that charge fees or require uploading of course material (e.g., Chegg, Course Hero) to obtain exam solutions or assignments completed by others, which are then presented as your own violates academic integrity expectations in this course and may be classified as a Level 3 violation. All academic integrity expectations that apply to in-person assignments, quizzes, and exams also apply online.

Students found in violation of the policy are subject to grade sanctions determined by the course instructor and non-grade sanctions determined by the School or College where the course is offered. Students may not drop or withdraw from courses in which they face a suspected violation. Any established violation in this course may result in course failure regardless of violation level.

**Use of Artificial Intelligence**

Based on the assignments in this course and our specified learning outcomes, the full use of artificial intelligence as a tool, with disclosure and citation, is permitted in this course. Students do not need to ask permission to use these tools before starting an assignment or exam, but they must explicitly and fully indicate which tools were used and describe how they were used. Submitted work must be written by the student and express ideas in the student’s own words.

# 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.

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](http://web.mit.edu/krugman/www/dishpan.html)

No Class Thursday January 30 – I will be out of town.

February 4. *Research Ethics*

* Chapter 3 The Ethics and Politics of Social Research,
* IRB, [CITI training](http://orip.syr.edu/human-research/human-research-irb.html)
* [The Belmont Report.](http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/humansubjects/guidance/belmont.html)

**Summary and Evaluation Memo 1 Biotech due February 11**

February 6, 11. *Research Design*

* Chapter 4 Research Design,

February 13, 18. *Measurement and Variable Definitions*

* Chapter 5 Conceptualization, Operationalization, and Measurement.
  + Optional Examples [KKZ](http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/Home/Reports). [Fragile States Index](https://fragilestatesindex.org/).  [Corruption Perceptions Index.](https://www.transparency.org/)

February 20, 25 *Working with Data*

* Chapter 6, Indexes, Scales and Typologies

February 27, March 4. *Sampling Issues*

* Chapter 7, The Logic of Sampling,
* Optional Background Reading: Overview of sampling size / detecting effects in [Duflo et al. paper](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1573447107040612).

**Summary and Evaluation Memo 2: The TRIP survey due March 4**

**March 6, EXAM 1**

No class March 11,13 SPRING BREAK

March 18, 20 *Experimental Design*

* Chapter 8 Experiments
* Optional Background Reading: [Use of Experiments in IR](https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/pdf/10.1146/annurev-polisci-020614-094854)

March 25 *Using Surveys in Research*

* Chapter 9 Survey Research
* Optional Background Reading: [World Bank LSMS description](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2000/08/19/000094946_00080305310186/Rendered/PDF/multi_page.pdf), [Codebook for PARIMA](http://barrett.dyson.cornell.edu/Parima/projectdata.htm): [Codebook for IBL](http://ibli.ilri.org/)I:

**Summary and Evaluation Memo 3: RCT evaluation due March 25.**

March 27, April 1 *Qualitative Methods, Focus Groups, Case Studies*

* Chapter 10 Qualitative Field Research
* Optional Background Readings: [Focus Groups](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/WBI/Resources/213798-1194538727144/6Final-Focus_Groups.pdf), [Of What is This a Case?: Analytical Movements in Qualitative Social Science Research](http://sfaajournals.net/doi/pdf/10.17730/humo.73.3.e35q482014x033l4)

April 3, 8 *Working with Existing Data*

* Chapter 11 Unobtrusive Research
* Optional Data Sources to review [OECD](http://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx), [FAO](https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#home), [World Bank](http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/world-development-indicators), [MDG](http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/default.aspx) and [SDG](https://sdgs.un.org/goals)

**Summary and Evaluation Memo 4: Case Study due April 10.**

April 10, 15 *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*](https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/39d2094f-8384-5aee-85cf-b2230757e785/content). World Bank Publications.

**Summary and Evaluation Memo 5: Impact Evaluation due April 22**

April 17, 22 *Class Presentations of Research Proposals*

**Final Exam.** In Class April 24

**Final Project due: May 5**