

Tuesday & Thursday 12:30 - 1:45 p.m. Blair Hall 3103
Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology, Eastern Illinois University

Professor: Dr. William E. Lovekamp
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Office: Blair Hall 3151
Office Hours: T, Th 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Required Text: Schutt, Russell K. 2022. *Investigating the Social World*. 10th ed, Sage.

Course Description & Objectives: You are introduced to a variety of research methods in the social sciences including the use of the library, techniques of observation, and basic steps in quantitative & qualitative analysis. I use lecture, guided discussion and in-class work to enhance your comprehension of the course content. By the end of the course you should be able to:

1. understand a variety of qualitative & quantitative social research methods & demonstrate that you understand the strengths & weaknesses of each.
2. explain the connection between theory & research & show evidence of this in your writing.
3. explain the techniques of collecting, analyzing, & presenting results of research.
4. contemplate ethical concerns in scientific research & practice within these guidelines.

Course Guidelines:

1. **Collegiality** – We are a diverse group of people who come from different geographic regions, with different life experiences, from different family environments, with different goals and aspirations, and important views and perspectives. This is a uniquely wonderful characteristic of college. Therefore, listen thoughtfully to others, carefully consider how you expect to be treated, and respect the viewpoints expressed by others in a courteous and polite manner. We are never going to be asked to agree with what others always say, but if you disagree with what someone has said, you are to express your disagreement in a civil, respectful, & polite manner. We will have a classroom environment that is a safe and friendly place to exchange ideas and become better critical thinkers.

2. **Attendance/Participation** – I record attendance daily so plan to attend every class and participate fully. Also, arrive to class on time and avoid walking into class late.

Commit fully to this class for the best experience and positive performance. For every one hour you spend in a classroom, you are to devote 2 hours outside of the classroom to the course. Since you spend 2 ½ hours per week in our classroom, you need to spend 5 hours outside of the classroom per week working on course material. That's right... 7.5 hours in research methods per week. Now, if you are signed up for 5 classes, then you will devote 37.5 hours per week focused on your classes. 1/3 of that is actually sitting in the classroom. When you do this, you will succeed.

3. **Readings** – Read your textbook before lecture, then the lecture advance your understanding of the course material. We use class time to discuss & build on course concepts, ideas and readings.
4. **Technology** – You are welcome to use laptops, tablets, and cell phones as long as it is used in a positive way and contributes to your learning of relevant course content. There will even be some class sessions where we will use technology together. Please be respectful about using technology and not distract your colleagues or me.
5. **Office Hours** – I am always available to meet with you to discuss grades, lecture, exams or other the course matters. If my office hours or days and times conflict with your availability, please email and we will make alternative arrangements. Use the [meeting link](#) or go to my [faculty page](#) and click on 'schedule a meeting' to schedule your appointments.

6. **Communication** – Using your EIU email is the official ‘university approved’ method of communication. You are also welcome to come by the department or my office to talk. You may also call the main office phone number.

When you email, please include the following information: 1) Put the course # in the subject line (SOC 3620), 2) include greeting (Dr. or Professor Lovekamp), 3) use standard English, write in complete sentences, avoid abbreviations and text slang (TTYL, LOL), 4) and end with a signature (your full name). This will help me keep track of emails and reply in a timely manner. An email is just a modern letter, so write it well.

7. **Homework & Quizzes** – You will complete several homework assignments and quizzes throughout the semester. If you are enrolled as a departmental honors student, you will be completing honors writing assignments instead of the quizzes. All homework and quizzes are completed through [D2L Brightspace](#) and include the days and times they are due. If you miss submitting an assignment on time, you have 24 hours to submit it for 70% credit. Once this grace period has passed, you will not be able to submit assignments for credit.
8. **Exams** – You will complete three course exams where you will showcase your knowledge of the course readings, lectures, and relevant class discussions. The exams will consist multiple forms of assessment (multiple choice, fill in the blank, matching, short answer & essay questions). Exams must be completed when they are scheduled. Any deviation in this policy must be in accordance with [IGP #43](#).
9. **Academic Integrity** – You are not allowed to use advanced automated tools (artificial intelligence or machine learning tools (such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, or Dall-E 2) on assignments in this course. Your written work will be submitted through Turnitin in D2L Brightspace. Turnitin includes an AI detection tool which indicates the amount of qualifying text within the submission that Turnitin’s AI writing detection model determines was generated by AI. This information may be used, in addition to other evidence, if there are concerns with academic misconduct. You are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU’s [Code of Conduct](#). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Accountability and Support. You will automatically fail the course if you submit any work that violates these principles.

Course Evaluation:

Course Exams (3)	175 pts.
Quizzes/Hmwk	80 pts.
Homework	120 pts.
TOTAL	375 pts.

A=(100-90%)	375-337
B= (89-80%)	336-300
C= (79-70%)	299-262
D= (69-60%)	261-225
F= (0-59%)	224 or below

Students with Accommodations Statement: If you are a student in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact Student Accessibility and Accommodations Services ([OAA](#)). All accommodations must be approved through OAA. Please stop by McAfee Gym, Room 1272, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

Medical Emergency Statement: For medical emergencies, go to the nearest phone & call 911. Be sure to state the floor & room number of the emergency to the 911 operator. If possible, someone should go to the central entrance of Blair Hall to direct EMS personnel to the medical emergency scene. If emergency is on the 2nd/3rd floor, someone else should hold the elevator on the first floor for EMS use.

Tornado Statement: In case of a tornado warning, proceed to the center of the hallway on the first floor, near the posted severe weather signs. Under no circumstances should you attempt to leave the building.

Building Fire Statement: In case of fire, activate the fire alarm & exit the building. When a fire alarm sounds, everyone must exit the building & cannot re-enter the building until allowed by the building coordinator or fire department official. Fire alarms are located at the north & south ends of the corridors just inside the fire doors. The closest exits for all classrooms in Blair are on the north & south ends of the building. Under no circumstance should the elevator be used. Group assembly areas for all classes in Blair are either on the patio area between Blair & Old Main or on the southeast corner of the North Quad. As you exit the building, continue moving well away from the exits so that you do not impede the egress of other students or the work of fire officials. Move a safe distance away from the building.

WEEK	LECTURE TOPIC	READINGS SCHEDULE	ASSN DUE DATE
1/9,11	Introduction to Research		Introductory Letter
1/16,18	Social World and Research	Schutt Ch 1	A1 (Social Science) Due 1/19 (15 pts)
1/23,25	Process and Problems of Research	Schutt Ch 2	A2 (Summarizing Stats) Due 1/26 (15 pts)
1/30,2/1	Research Ethics	Schutt Ch 3	A3 (Ch 1-3 Quiz/Hmwk) Due 2/2 (20 pts)
2/6,8		(Ch. 1-3)	EXAM 1 (50 pts) on 2/8
2/13,15	Conceptualization and Measurement	Schutt Ch 4	A4 (Research Inquiry) Due 2/16 (15 pts)
2/20,22	Sampling and Generalizability	Schutt Ch 5	A5 (Measurement) Due 2/23 (15 pts)
2/27,29	Research and Causation	Schutt Ch 6	A6 (Ch 4-6 Quiz/Hmwk) Due 3/1 (20 pts)
3/5,7	EXAM 2	(Ch. 4-6)	EXAM 2 (50 pts) on 3/7
3/12,14	Survey Research and Data Collection	Schutt Ch 8	
3/26,28	Quantitative Analysis and Interpretation	Schutt Ch 9	A7 (Ch 8-9 Quiz/Hmwk) Due 3/29 (20 pts)
4/2,4			A8 (Quant Homework) Due 4/5 (30 pts)
4/9,11	Field Research and Data Collection	Schutt Ch 10	
4/16,18	Qualitative Analysis and Interpretation	Schutt Ch 11	A9 (Ch 10-11 Quiz/Hmwk) Due 4/19 (20 pts)
4/23,25	Qualitative Analysis (cont'd)		A10 (Article Reviews) Due 4/26 (30 pts)
5/1	Wednesday 8-10am	(Ch. 8-11 and review)	EXAM 3 (75 pts)

- 1/22/24 deadline to withdraw from course w/ no grade; 3/29/24 deadline to withdraw from with a W.
- This class is a required [core course](#) for sociology majors, and criminology and criminal justice majors.
- This class is also offered as an honors course (SOC 3692) & fulfills a requirement for the [departmental honors program](#). You must be accepted into the departmental honors program to enroll in SOC 3692.
- This syllabus serves as a contract between the student & professor. You are responsible for all information contained within this syllabus. Any changes the professor makes will be announced in advance.
- [Holidays](#): Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 9/4; Lincoln's Birthday 2/16/24; Spring Break 3/18-22.