



蘇州大學  
Soochow University

# **SOC 358 Research Methods and Statistics in Social Science Summer 2024**

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 56 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:** TBA

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

SOC 358 is a comprehensive course that offers an accessible introduction to the principal research methods employed in social science. This course provides an integrated treatment of research theory, design, data collection, and data analysis. Throughout the course, we will explore the progression from conceptual and theoretical building blocks to practical applications, drawing on examples from classic social science research studies and current social issues.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the fundamental principles and concepts of research methods in the social sciences.
2. Familiarize themselves with different research methodologies, including qualitative and quantitative approaches.
3. Develop practical skills in designing and conducting social science research studies.
4. Apply statistical techniques to analyze and interpret social science data.
5. Critically evaluate research studies and methodologies.

## **PREREQUISITES**

N/A

## **GRADING**



Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
Class Participation	15 Points
Assignments	30 Points
Midterm Exam	20 Points
Final Project / Presentation	35 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$ .

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

## COURSE MATERIALS

### **Required Texts:**

Chava Frankfort-Nachmias, David Nachmias, *Research Methods in the Social Sciences*, 7th Edition, Worth Publishers, 2008.

### **Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:**

None

## COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 1: The Scientific Approach Topic 2: Conceptual Foundations of Research Topic 3: Basic Elements of Research Topic 4: Ethics in Social Science Research <b>Assessments:</b> Assignment#1



Module 2	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 5: Research Designs: Experiments Topic 6: Research Designs: Cross-Sectional and Quasi-Experimental Designs Topic 7: Measurement Topic 8: Sampling and Sampling Designs <b>Assessments:</b> Assignment#2
Module 3	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 9: Data Collection; Observational Methods Topic 10: Survey Research Topic 11: Questionnaire Construction Topic 12: Qualitative Research <b>Assessments:</b> Midterm Exam
Module 4	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 13: Secondary Data Analysis and Sources Topic 14: Data Preparation and Analysis Topic 15: The Univariate Distribution Topic 16: Bivariate Analysis <b>Assessments:</b> Assignment#3
Module 5	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 17: Control, Elaboration, and Multivariate Analysis Topic 18: Index Construction and Scaling Methods Topic 19: Inferences Topic 20: Research Presentations <b>Assessments:</b> Final Project & Presentation

## ATTENDANCE

---

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately



prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

## **LEARNING REQUIREMENTS**

---

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

## **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

---

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

---

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

## **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**

---

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that



蘇州大學  
Soochow University

students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.