

USP 630: Research Design

Nohad A. Toulan School of Urban Studies & Planning

Portland State University

Fall 2022

Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 11:50 am

This class meets remotely. Zoom meeting link: <https://pdx.zoom.us/j/86195282633>

Instructor: Yu Xiao, Ph.D., AICP., Associate Professor, Email: yxiao@pdx.edu

Office hours: by appointment

Credits: 4 graduate hours (This course is a core course for Ph.D. and MUS).

Course Website: This class uses canvas (<https://www.pdx.edu/academic-innovation/canvas>) in support of learning. You can log in with your Odin username and password.

Class Description and Objectives This course provides an introduction to research design. You will learn about the goals and process of social research, social research standards, and how various design considerations help hold social research standards. Particularly, this class will:

- Assist students in developing skills in research design. Cultivate a research attitude.
- Introduce students to a range of research approaches.
- Help students develop skills in critical evaluation of research design and execution—and in particular, to see “qualitative” and “quantitative” approaches as complementary rather than competing research strategies.
- Develop an understanding of the relationship between theory and research methodologies.
- Expose students to research design issues encountered by real-world researchers.
- Provide students direction for developing expertise with approaches and methods appropriate to their particular areas of specialization. Developing expertise requires taking further methodology courses.

Textbook: The following textbook is required for this class.

Schutt, Russell K., *Investigating the Social World*. Sage. Eighth edition or newer.

You can buy or rent the most recent edition (9th edition) of this book via [Portland State Bookstore \(bnccollege.com\)](#) or at [VitalSource](#).

The 8th edition of this book is available at [AbeBooks](#) and Amazon.com.

All other course materials will be provided on canvas.

COURSE WORK

Lab participation and write-ups 50% We use lab time on Wednesdays to discuss particular research design issues. Each lab has a set of analyses for you to perform. You should draft your answers to the lab questions before coming to class on Wednesdays. The lab write-ups are due on Fridays by the end of the day.

Research design issues paper 50% Turn your labs into a research design issues paper (10-15 pages, 1.5 spacing). Treat this paper as a beginning step towards defining your research interests and the research designs and methods you'll need to focus on. Elaborate on important research design issue(s) in your field/topic and research agenda.

Grading Course grades will be assigned on a criterion-reference scale as follows:

A: 93-100% A-: 90-92%

B+: 87-89% B: 83-86% B-: 80-83% (minimum Graduate School passing grade)

C+: 77-79% C: 73-76% C-: 70-72%

D+: 67-69% D: 63-66% D-: 60-62%

F: <60%

In case that a grade is on the borderline, classroom participation will be used to determine the final grade.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance

Students are expected to attend every class. To be excused the student must notify the instructor in writing (acknowledged e-mail message is acceptable) prior to the date of absence if such notification is feasible. In cases where advance notification is not feasible (e.g. accident, or emergency) the student must provide notification by the end of the second working day after the absence. This notification should include an explanation of why notice could not be sent prior to the class. Students must provide additional documentation substantiating the reason for the absence that is satisfactory to the instructor, within one week of the last date of the absence. The instructor will either provide the student an opportunity to make up any graded activities or provide a satisfactory alternative to be completed within 30 calendar days from the last day of the absence.

Classroom participation

Students are encouraged to come to class prepared, make thoughtful contributions to class discussions, respect others' views, and help each other out in collaborative learning groups.

Assignment guidelines

Students are encouraged to have study groups and help each other with the assignment. However, the work submitted must be individual work. Plagiarism will be prosecuted.

Late Submission Policy

In fairness to all students, especially those who work hard to meet deadlines, late assignments will be penalized 5% per day. Assignments more than 7 days late will not be accepted.

Academic Integrity Statement

PSU's Student Code of conduct prohibits "All forms of academic dishonesty, cheating, and fraud, including but not limited to: (a) plagiarism, which includes, but is not limited to, word for word copying, using borrowed words or phrases from original text into new patterns without attribution, or paraphrasing another writer's ideas; (b) The buying and selling of all or any portion of course assignments and research papers; (c) Performing academic assignments (including tests and examinations) for other persons; (d) Unauthorized disclosure and receipt of academic information; and (e) Falsification of research data."

Access and Inclusion for Students with Disabilities

PSU values diversity and inclusion; My goal is to create a learning environment that is accessible, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. I am committed to fostering mutual respect and full participation for all students. If any aspects of instruction or course design result in barriers to your inclusion or learning, please notify me. Additionally, the Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides reasonable accommodations for students who encounter barriers in the learning environment. The DRC works with students who have physical, learning, cognitive, mental health, sensory, and other disabilities.

If you have, or think you may have, a disability that may affect your work in this class and feel you need accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center to schedule an appointment and initiate a conversation about reasonable accommodations.

If you already have accommodations, please contact me to make sure that I have received your faculty notification letter from the DRC so we can discuss your accommodations.

The DRC is located in 116 Smith Memorial Student Union, Suite 116. You can also contact the DRC at 503-725-4150 or, drc@pdx.edu. Visit the DRC online at <https://www.pdx.edu/disability-resource-center>.

Title IX Reporting Obligations

Portland State is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of prohibited discrimination and sexual harassment (sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and gender or sex-based harassment and stalking). If you have experienced any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or sexual harassment, know that help and support are available. Information about PSU's support services on campus, including confidential services and reporting options, can be

found on PSU's Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response website at: <http://www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault/get-help> or you may call a confidential IPV Advocate at 503-725-5672 or schedule Online at <https://psuwrc.youcanbook.me> . You may report any incident of discrimination or discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment, to:

- PSU's Title IX Coordinator: Julie Caron by calling 503-725-4410, via email at titleixcoordinator@pdx.edu or in person at Richard and Maureen Neuberger Center (RMNC), 1600 SW 4th Ave, Suite 830
 - Deputy Title IX Coordinator: Yesenia Gutierrez by calling 503-725-4413, via email at yesenia.gutierrez.gdi@pdx.edu or in person at RMNC, 1600 SW 4th Ave, Suite 830
- Please be aware that all PSU faculty members and instructors are required to report information of an incident that may constitute prohibited discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence. This means that if you tell me about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence that may have violated university policy or student code of conduct, I have to share the information with my supervisor, the University's Title IX Coordinator or the Office of the Dean of Student Life. However, the Title IX Coordinators will keep the information confidential and refer you to a confidential advocate. For more information about Title IX please complete the required student module *Creating a Safe Campus* in your Canvas.

Submitting work online

For assignments that require uploading files to Canvas, it is the student's responsibility to verify that (1) all files are submitted in Canvas prior to the deadline and (2) all submitted files are those that the student intends to be graded for the assignment. Submitting the "wrong" file by accident is not acceptable grounds for a deadline extension. Assignment grades will be based on the file submitted prior to the posted deadline. Files submitted in a format that cannot be accessed by the instructor cannot be graded and will therefore receive a 0. Acceptable file formats are MS Office formats (e.g. Word, Excel, PowerPoint) or PDF files. Individual assignment instructions may contain a required file format.

Technology access

Proficiency in the use of canvas, PSU email, and other computer tools such as zoom or part of google suite is required for this course. This course requires consistent access to functioning computer equipment and Internet access throughout the length of the course. Reliance on a cellular connection may not provide reliable and fast access to online learning resources. Here are some broadband programs that are free or low-cost:

<https://www.highspeedinternet.com/resources/are-there-government-programs-to-help-me-get-internet-service>

CALENDAR AND READINGS

Week	Mon	Wed
1	(9/26) Introduction to the course/each other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schutt, Chapter 1: Science, Society, and Social Research • Writing in Social Sciences 	(9/28) [LAB 1] Due on 9/30
2	(10/03) Process of social research and research questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schutt, Chapter 2: Process and Problems of Social Research 	(10/5) [LAB 2] Due on 10/7
3	(10/10) From questions to method <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creswell, A Framework for Design 	(10/12) [LAB 3] Due on 10/14
4	(10/17) Systematic literature reviews <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Xiao and Watson, Systematic Literature Review 	(10/19) [LAB 4] Due on 10/21
5	(10/24) Conceptualization and measurement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schutt, Chapter 4: Conceptualization and Measurement 	(10/26) [LAB 5] Due on 10/28
6	(10/31) Sampling and generalizability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schutt, Chapter 5: Sampling and generalizability • Sharma: Pros and Cons of Sampling 	(11/2) [LAB 6] Due on 11/4
7	(11/7) Research design and causation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schutt, Chapter 6: Research design and causation 	(11/9) [LAB 7] Due on 11/11
8	(11/14) Survey research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schutt, Chapter 8: Survey Research 	(11/16) [LAB 8] Due on 11/18
9	(11/21) Qualitative inquiries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schutt, Chapter 10: Qualitative Methods • Creswell, Ch. 5 • Thomas, Typology for the case study • Flyvbjerg, 5 Misunderstandings 	(11/23) [LAB 9] <i>Complete IRB citiprogram training</i> Due on 11/25
10	(11/28) Qualitative inquiries (cont.) and participatory action research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buroway - Extended case method • Druckman- Comparative case study • Geertz-thick description, first chapter only • Walter- Participatory action research 	(11/30) Wrap up Work on your research design issue
11	(12/5) Presentation of research design issue Presentation slides due on 12/5. Final paper due on Friday, 12/9.	(12/7) Presentation of research design issue

All Labs are due on Friday by the end of the day.