Professor: Dr. John P. Warner
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday: 10:00–11:00, and by appointment
Office Phone: (941) 359-4485
Email: JPWarner@sar.usf.edu

This class will meet on Monday and Wednesday from 11:00 – 12:15pm

Prerequisites: STA 2122 and ISS 3013
Course Description and Objectives:
USF Catalog description of ISS 3000 - This course introduces students to the methodologies used in social science research. It covers both qualitative and quantitative research design, sampling, measurement, analysis, and critical evaluation of scholarly literature.

Additional Class Information: This class will provide students with an introduction into methodologies employed by a number of social science disciplines such as ethnographic research, survey research, and non-reactive research. At the most general level, this course will explore the links between data, method, and theory, and critically assess quantitative and qualitative methods of conducting social science research.

Required text and class readings:
The Basics of Social Research. Author: Earl Babbie. Publisher: Thomson Wadsworth

Note: In addition to the textbook, I may periodically post short, supplemental articles on Canvas. As with the chapters in your textbook, these articles will be required reading and will be used to generate test questions.

CANVAS Use:
The class syllabus is posted in CANVAS, an online course management system, which has replaced Blackboard. In this class CANVAS will be used for posting additional reading assignments, deadline reminders, and keeping students abreast of any classroom-related developments.

Information on how to use CANVAS is available at:
http://www.usfsm.edu/infocommons/students.php

Canvas Support is available through USFSM E-Learning staff from 9am to 5pm Monday through Friday. Please call or email Stephanie Fuhr at 941-359-4295 (or sfuhr@sar.usf.edu) or Dale Drees at 941-359-4215 djdrees@sar.usf.edu.
The USF Tampa IT Helpdesk provides 24 hour support for CANVAS. Please call 813-974-1222 or email: help@usf.edu if you need assistance outside of USFSM’s E-Learning hours.

Additionally, CANVAS tutorials can be found in the Student Quickstart Guide at http://guides.instructure.com/m/8470.

**Course requirements:**

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three exams</td>
<td>X 100 points = 300 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>One Group Project - Research Proposal</td>
<td>X 100 points = 100 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four Critical Assessments</td>
<td>X 25 points = 100 points</td>
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<td>Total Points = 500 points</td>
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**Exams:**
The exams will consist of a series of true/false, multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer questions. While exams in this class will not be cumulative, fundamental concepts that you learn early in the class will continue to be relevant for later exams. Each of these exams is worth a total of 100 points.

**Final Exam Day/Time**
The third exam that you will take in this class will be the final exam, which will be administered during its assigned time during final exam week (April 25th through May 1st) as determined by the USF Final Exam Matrix.

**Research Proposal:**
Throughout the semester, you will work in small groups in order to create a social science research proposal. More specifically, you will develop a testable research question that utilizes at least two different methodologies to collect any data necessary for the evaluation of your hypotheses. This proposal will include a review of the literature related to your hypotheses (cited APA style), a detailed description of how you would operationalize your project, and how you would analyze the data your project would generate. A successful project should be well-written, clear in its purpose, and demonstrate that you have learned how to critically apply fundamental concepts related to the qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection that are associated with the social sciences. We will discuss the criteria for this group project in greater detail as the class unfolds. This project is due in hard-copy form, Monday, April 20th. Late projects will not be accepted.

**Critical Assessments:**
The critical assessments will consist of a brief, written critique of either a research design, some specific aspect of a research design, or a scholarly article related to developing and/or evaluating research designs. Please provide me with a hard-copy of your assessment on the day it is due. We will discuss the criteria for these projects in greater detail as the class unfolds.

**Late Work and Missed Exams:**
I will not grade any late work unless we have made some kind of a prior arrangement. I will only give a make-up exam in cases where the student has a valid, university approved excuse (and supporting documentation) for having missed class.

**Extra Credit:**
I do not offer any extra credit work.
Final grade determination:
Your final grade in this class will be based upon the total number of points you can acquire from the three exams (300 pts. total), the four critical assessments (100 pts. total), and the group research proposal project (100 pts. total). A standard USF grade scale will be used to calculate your grade:


NOTE: The last day to drop this class and still receive a “W” is March 21st.

Plagiarism Software:
The University of South Florida has an account with an automated plagiarism detection service which allows student assignments be checked for plagiarism. I reserve the right to ask students to submit their assignments to Turnitin through CANVAS. Assignments are compared automatically with a database of journal articles, web articles, and previously submitted papers. The instructor receives a report showing exactly how a student’s paper was plagiarized.
Pursuant to the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), students are requested to maintain confidentiality as a way to keep their personal contact information (i.e. name, address, telephone) from being disclosed to vendors or other outside agencies. By your submission, you are also agreeing to release your original work for review for academic purposes to Turnitin.

Computer Laptop Use:
Students are invited to bring their laptops to class on non-test days. Obviously, the use of computers will not be permitted during the days set aside for testing.

General Course Outline (Please note that this outline is subject to change as needed):
Week 1 – The Research Process

Week 2 – Theory and Method in Research Design

Week 3 – Research Design

Week 4 - Measurement

Week 5 – Ethical and Political Issues

Week 6 – Sampling Strategies

Week 7 – Survey Research

Week 8 – Intensive Interviewing

Week 9 – Observational Field Research

Week 10 – Feminist Methods

Week 11 – Historical Analysis
Week 12 – Experimental Research

Week 13 – Content Analysis

Week 14 – Aggregate Data Analysis

Week 15 – Comparative Research Methods

Week 16 – Evaluation Research and Indexes and Scales

**USF Sarasota-Manatee Policies and Procedures**

**Religious Observances**
The University recognizes the right of students and faculty to observe major religious holidays. Students who anticipate the necessity of being absent from class for a major religious observance must provide notice of the date(s) to the instructor, in writing, by the second week of classes.


**Disabilities Accommodation**
Students are responsible for registering with the Office of Students with Disabilities Services (SDS) in order to receive academic accommodations. Reasonable notice must be given to the SDS office (typically 5 working days) for accommodations to be arranged. It is the responsibility of the student to provide each instructor with a copy of the official Memo of Accommodation. Contact Information: Disability Coordinator: 359-4714; disabilityservices@sar.usf.edu; http://www.usfsm.edu/students/disability/

**Academic Dishonesty**
The University considers any form of plagiarism or cheating on exams, projects, or papers to be unacceptable behavior. Please be sure to review the university’s policy in the USFSM Undergraduate Catalog or USFSM Graduate Catalog and the USF Student Code of Conduct.

Undergraduate: http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/
Graduate: http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/
USF Student Code of Conduct: http://www.sa.usf.edu/srr/page.asp?id=88

**Academic Disruption**
The University does not tolerate behavior that disrupts the learning process. The policy for addressing academic disruption is included with Academic Dishonesty in the USFSM Undergraduate Catalog or USFSM Graduate Catalog and the USF Student Code of Conduct.

Undergraduate: http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/
Graduate: http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/
USF Student Code of Conduct: http://www.sa.usf.edu/srr/page.asp?id=88

**Contingency Plans**
In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for USFSM to suspend normal operations. During this time, USFSM may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: Blackboard/Canvas, Elluminate, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule. It’s the responsibility of the student to monitor Blackboard/Canvas site for each class for course specific communication, and the main USFSM and College websites, emails, and MoBull messages for important general information. The USF hotline at 1 (800) 992-4231 is updated with pre-recorded information
during an emergency.

**Emergency Preparedness**

It is strongly recommended that you become familiar with the USF Sarasota-Manatee Emergency Action Plan on the Safety Preparedness site http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/facilities/SafetyPreparedness.php

**Fire Alarm Instructions**

At the beginning of each semester please note the emergency exit maps posted in each classroom. These signs are marked with the primary evacuation route (red) and secondary evacuation route (orange) in case the building needs to be evacuated.

**Web Portal Information**

Every newly enrolled USF student receives an official USF e-mail account. Students receive official USF correspondence and Blackboard/Canvas course information via that address. Therefore it is the student’s responsibility to check their USF email regularly.

**Instructor Copyright**

Students may not sell notes or other course materials.