

Research Design in Social Inquiry
Professor Chung-min Tsai

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Designing a research project in social sciences is very different from it in nature sciences. A well-designed research project is not only important but also interesting and valid. Student could build up their ability of doing good research by learning from others' works. This course aims to help students achieve three goals: first, learning the research basics, for example, what is a theory and puzzle? How to operationalize a concept? Second, understanding both the quantitative and qualitative methods. Third, learning to read, write a social science research paper and review academic works.

Assessment

Class Participation: 60%

Final Essay or Exam: 40%

Readings

1. Babbie, Earl, 14th ed. (2016) *The Practice of Social Research*. Cengage Learning.
2. The British Academy: https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/policy-and-research/?gclid=CjwKCAjw0_T4BRBIEiwAwoEiAZcOxogV8skLVb-zzmmeRpbb_uv6jYfvcEE6jQb4MBW_flVcKjgcrxoCXZkQAvD_BwE
3. The Cambridge Core: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/browse-subjects/social-science-research-methods>
4. Journal of Social Science;
https://techniumscience.com/index.php/socialsciences/index?gclid=CjwKCAjw0_T4BRBIEiwAwoEiAa-QTaC4u2Z6-HQvZfVuf102x5_sUCXKmMFfW-VT-g6JQXMiFwOxoCtN4QAvD_BwE

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

Week

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Theory Building, Reading & Writing (Chap. 2, 17)
- 3 Research Design (Chap. 4)
- 4 Conceptualization, Operationalization, and Measurement (Chap. 5)
- 5 Indexes, Scales, and Typologies (Chap. 6)
- 6 The Logic of Sampling (Chap. 7)
- 7 Survey Research (Chap. 8)
- 8 Holiday
- 9 Midterm Recession
- 10 Quantitative Data Analysis (Chap. 14)
- 11 Qualitative Field Research (Chap. 10)
- 12 Qualitative Data Analysis (Chap. 13) –
- 13 Experiment (Chap. 8)
- 14 Unobstrusive Research (Chap. 11)
- 15 Evaluation Research (Chap. 12)
- 16 Individual Consulting Time (arranged only)
- 17 **Final Presentation (1)**
- 18 **Final Presentation (2)**