

Taipei School of Economics and Political Science (Fall, 2022)

Course: Research Design in Social Inquiry

Instructor: Min-Hua Huang (黃旻華)

Class Time: Wed 14:20-16:20

Location: A09 classroom

Office Hours: By appointment

Email: mhhuang5103@ntu.edu.tw

Course Description

This course will introduce the nuts and bolts of conducting a social science research. The first half of the course covers both qualitative and quantitative research design, and the second half focuses on how to collect the first-hand survey dataset and broadly the methodology of survey research. General introduction will be also given to application of experimental methods in survey research.

Course Objective

The course aims to train students with basic ability to do an independent study by scientific methods at the graduate level. While students are not required to have statistical knowledge, they are encouraged to take a statistical course in advance or simultaneously. The main objective is to equip students to have enough training to propose a workable research design that fulfills his/her independent study in social inquiry. While this course emphasizes more on quantitative studies, it will also cover some basic qualitative methods and its application. The actual course content might slightly adjust by consulting with students' preference.

Course Requirement

Students are required to attend the class and participate in discussion. There are two assignments to fulfill in this class. In the mid-term, students need to propose an outline of research design within 5 pages, and the content includes research interest, research topic, research question, literature review and organization, proposed or planned argument, research hypothesis, potential data type and source, research methods, and empirical test. At the end of the course, students are required to submitted a complete research design proposal and fulfills the requirement for a thesis proposal oral defense. (within 20 pages)

Grading

Attendance and Discussion (20%), Mid-term Assignment (30%), Research Design Proposal (50%).

Outlines and Topics

Week 1 (09/14/22): Introduction

Week 2 (09/21/22): Research Interest, Topic, and Question

Week 3 (09/28/22): No Class (Teacher's Day)

Week 4 (10/05/22): Conceptualization, Dependent Variable, and Doability

Week 5 (10/12/22): Theory and Literature

Week 6 (10/19/22): Argument and Hypothesis

Week 7 (10/26/22): Data, Method, and Analysis

Week 8 (11/02/22): Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches

Week 9 (11/09/22): Wrap up of the General Issues in Research Design

Week 10 (11/16/22): No Class (Sports Day)
Week 11 (11/23/22): Introduction to Social Survey
Week 12 (11/30/22): Questionnaire Design
Week 13 (12/07/22): Sampling
Week 14 (12/14/22): Measurement
Week 15 (12/21/22): Field Implementation
Week 16 (12/28/22): Survey Experiment
Week 17 (01/04/23): Data Management
Week 18 (01/11/23): Research Design Proposal Deadline

Required Readings

1. Gary King, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. (2021). *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*, New Edition. Princeton University Press.
2. John W. Creswell & J. David Creswell. (2017). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*, Fifth Edition. SAGE Publications, Inc.