

Section 01 MW 11:50 - 1:45 am OSH 202
Section 02 MTWTh 8:35 - 9:25 am AEB 320

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Daigh Tufts
Office: 233 AEB
Phone: Campus 1-8332 (seldom there - do not leave voice mail, try Home)
Home 323-9455 (don't be shy)
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Office Hrs: MTWTh 9:30 - 9:45 am, MW 1:45 - 2:00 pm, TTH 4:00 - 4:15 pm
also by appointment

Texts: The Basics of Social Research. Babbie, E

Optional: How to Think About Weird Things (Schick & Vaughn)

Course Objectives:

The primary goal of this course is to expose students to the basic research methods employed in science, and particularly the social sciences. The justification of the value of scientific knowledge is based in part on the logic of how we "know", as well as the usefulness of scientific prediction. Research methods covers the logic of scientific inquiry, and the specific values and limitations of various approaches. Whether or not students ever participate in research or not, the knowledge gained from science influences all of our lives. A basic understanding of how social science research is conducted and the extent and limitations of our knowledge gained from such research is an important component in a university liberal arts education.

Course Requirements:

- 1) Class participation is an important component of the learning experience. There will be multiple small in-class exercises that will be graded. You are not graded on attendance, you will be graded on participation in in-class exercises. This work cannot be made up.
- 2) There will be four or five homework assignments during the term. These will be handed out in class and with a specific due date. Late work may be subject to a late penalty.
- 3) There will be four quizzes, a mid-term exam, and a final exam.

Grading:

Homework	20%
Class exercises	15%
Quizzes (best 3 of 4)	20%
Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	25%

The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with disabilities. Please contact the course instructor at the beginning of the term to discuss any such necessary accommodations.

More Important Notes:

1. A missed exam or quiz means no credit. If you are ill on the day of any testing make sure you notify the instructor or the office before the test so other arrangements can be made.
2. Official withdrawal from this course is subject to University policy. This policy is not particularly student-friendly, you have only limited ability to withdraw from a course. I refer you to the class schedule for details.
3. You may take an incomplete for this course only if there are circumstances beyond your control that necessitate such action. The prospect of receiving a low grade is not such a circumstance.
4. Your proof of grades received is returned work, keep all returned work.

Course Schedule

		Readings	
	topic	<u>Babbie</u>	<u>Schick</u>
Week 1,2	intro, science theory and research	chap 1	chap 1,2
Week 3	causation, Q1	chap 2	chaps 3,4
Week 4	ethics	chap 3	chaps 5,6
Week 5	research design, Q2	chap 4	chap 7
Week 6,7	conceptualization & operationalization	chap 5	8,9, appendix
Week 8	indexes and scales, M	chap 6	
Week 9,10	sampling, Q3	chap 7	
Week 11,12	experiments	chap 8	
Week 13	survey research	chap 9	
Week 14	field/ unobtrusive research	chaps 10,11	
Week 15	evaluation research	chap 12	
Week 16	Summary, review Q4		

Q - probable quiz
M - probable midterm

Final exam: as scheduled by University