HSS Elective: Social Research
Course Syllabus

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Course Information

	Instructor:	Yoo Young Ahn, PhD
Credit hours: 3	Email:	yooyoung.ahn@scupi.cn
	Office:	Zone 3, 317B
	Tel (Main Office):	TBA
	Office hours:	Mon & Tue 10:15 - 11:55 am;
		Tue & Thu 13:50 – 15:30 pm;
		Thu 17:40 – 18:25 pm
		or by appointment
Room: 3-101	Prerequisites:	ENGCMP200

Required Text
1. Yin, Robert. *Case study research and applications: Design and methods* (6th edition). Sage, 2018
2. Booth, Wayne, et al. *The craft of research* (4th edition). University of Chicago Press, 2014

Additional materials will be available on Blackboard (BB).

Course Description
In this class, students are introduced to basics of social science research. To answer "why" and "how" questions about social phenomena using qualitative data, this class provides knowledge about empirical research methods, case study in particular. Learning about fundamental research elements, students will learn asking and answering a research question by conducting a pilot case study. Students will design their own pilot studies to write a polished research project by doing the following activities: choosing a research setting and participants, reading and writing about related literature, collecting appropriate data through interviews, and analyzing data to answer their research questions. During the process, students learn how to make informed methodological decisions and explain in their writing. By the end of the semester students will write a polished research proposal. This class is going to be a place where students learn research planning, navigating future projects for their career.

Students must bring their own research questions to the class. Questions could be about students' academic interests or also about daily lives. Here are some questions that students can ask: What are the benefits of the Internet on learning experience? What are the impacts of social media on teenagers? Why some people better learn math/English? How can the government reduce the carbon emission? What are the reasons for low marriage and birth rates these days? How do people benefit from using 5G technology/artificial intelligence? What is the role of the government during global pandemic? How does high tax on foreign products affect customers' shopping experience?

Student Learning Outcomes
With successful completion of this course, students are able to:
1. Ask and answer a question about social phenomena in a scientific way
2. Understand (theoretical and/or methodological) frameworks
3. Develop and employ critical perspectives informed by the literature
4. Make methodological decisions for data collection and analysis
5. Analyze data and communicate their analysis in an academic setting
6. Draw answers to the research question based on findings

7. Write a proposal for a research project

Assignments and Evaluation:
You will be evaluated in activities according to the grading policy. Activities include:

Assignment	Course Outcome	Percent
1. Preliminary research proposal (Due week 4)	Write 2-page (max) preliminary research proposal with specific research question(s), explaining why the topic is important and how students will answer their questions	10%
2. Mini literature review (Due week 6)	Select five related academic sources (in English) and write a mini literature review (2-page) for the chosen topic.	10%
3. Preliminary data collection report: methods section (Week 9)	Determine types of data needed to answer your research question(s). Collect data and write one-page report about data collection process.	10%
4. Write up data & In-class data analysis: findings section (Week 13)	Write findings section about what you find from obtained data. This includes sharing 1-2 page(s) of original data and analysis in class on week 12. Prepare for 20 min data sharing (5 min for explanation, 5 min for reading, & 10 min for discussion).	15%
5. Final project: detailed research proposal (Week 16)	Write a 5-page proposal.	35%
6. Final project presentation (week 14 & 15)	Present final project for 5-7 minutes. Practice academic/professional presentation.	5%
7. Class participation, performance, and attendance	Students earn and lose points based on their attention, participation, and performance in class.	15%

Important Notes for Assignments:
1. DO NOT OVERWRITE. Writing more does not help you get a higher grade. Keep the word or page limit. Writing concisely is one of the most important skills you need to learn. Use the given space wisely to deliver necessary information.
2. All assignments should be submitted electronic on Blackboard (check assignment tab). Pay attention to due dates for assignments, as their submission time may vary. Late submissions will be penalized. Occasionally you might be asked to submit hard copies.
3. Be aware of consequences of plagiarism in academia. Cite others' intellectual property. Write in your own words. Do not use someone else's ideas and writing without acknowledgement. When your instructor finds out plagiarism from your writing, you will fail from this class.
4. Follow academic style in your field (e.g., MLA, APA, Chicago Style). Use the right one for you consistent.
5. Students who miss more than 3 classes without explanation will fail from this class and may not graduate. To excuse your absence, you need to let me know in advance and must provide official materials (e.g., doctor's note).

Evaluation

Grade	%	
A	100 A+ 93-99 A 90-92 A-	Superlative work. Addresses all the requirements of the assignment. Shows consistent attention to both the ideas and the writing.

B	87-89 B+ 83-86 B 80-82 B-	Good work. Clearly and engagingly addresses the requirements, main issues, and major aspects of the assignment. Writing is written clearly for audience. Some observed errors do not bother reading.	
C	77-79 C+ 73-76 C 70-72 C-	Acceptable work. Adequately meets the requirements. Addresses the main ideas of the assignment. Writing is readable with occasional mistakes in correctness and style. Errors are observed in punctuation, spelling, citation, and other mechanical matters.	
D	67-69 D+ 63-66 D 60-62 D-	Barely meets the requirements. Addresses the important issues or ideas that the assignment engages, but largely without original thinking and critical insights. Frequent lapses in style, correctness, and mechanics impact readability and indicate a lack of careful proofreading.	
F	Everything else	Fails to meet the requirements. Fails to demonstrate attention to style, correctness, and mechanics.	

Schedule (Subject to change according to the instructor's discretion):

Craft: The craft of research; Case study: Case study research and applications

Week	Topic(s)	Materials	Major Assignments (* indicates assignment or homework due)
Week 1 (Mar 18)	Introduction to the course	Review syllabus	*Brainstorm and determine a topic and a research question for the semester
Week 2 (Mar 25)	Introduction to the course and social science research	Craft: 1.1 What is research? Case study pp. 3-9; pp. 14-18	*Submit preliminary research question with a brief description (1 page)
Week 3 (Apr 1)	Research topics and research questions; case study as research method	Craft: 3 From topics to questions; 4 From questions to a problem	Find and read five sources from scholarly database for literature review
Week 4 (Apr 8)	Research elements; researcher's subjectivity	Craft: 5 From problems to sources	*DUE: Preliminary research proposal
Week 5 (Apr 10)	Research question; literature review	Craft: 6 Engaging sources (optional: 9 Assembling reasons and evidence)	
Week 6 (Apr 15)	Avoid plagiarism	Craft: 14 Incorporating sources (14.1, 14.2, & 14.6)	*DUE: Mini literature review
Week 7 (Apr 22)	Types of data and data collection methods (ethical and methodological concerns)	Case study: pp. 81-86; pp. 113-125	Develop data collection protocol; evaluate potential cases and plan for data collection
Week 8 (Apr 29)	In-class practice: Conducting interviews and observing class interactions	Case study: pp. 139-144	Revise interview questions; *Conduct data collection
Week 9 (May 6)	In-class practice (cont'd)		*DUE: Data collection report
Week 10 (May 13)	Data analysis; transcribing and preliminary coding	Case study: pp. 168-194	Transcribe data; first cycle of data analysis

Week 11 (May 20)	In-class data analysis; Data sharing demonstration	Materials on coding and finding themes from qualitative data	*Continue data analysis
Week 12 (May 27)	*Students' data sharing in groups	Coding and finding themes (cont'd)	*Bring 5 copies of one-page (up to 2 pages) original data with preliminary analysis for in-class data sharing
Week 13 (Jun 3)	Research proposal for projects/grants	Materials on proposal writing	*DUE: Data analysis; Polish preliminary proposal
Week 14 (Jun 10)	Proposal presentation I		*Submit materials for proposal presentation
Week 15 (Jun 17)	Proposal presentation II		
Week 16 (Jun 24)	In-class writing	Bring your laptop to work on your project in-class. You can also bring questions.	*DUE: Proposal

Note: Scheduled assignments, lectures, materials, and activities are subject to change based on the needs of the class at the instructor's discretion.

Attendance Policy

After two unexcused absences students will lose 3 points or half a letter grade from their final grade. Students with more than five absences will fail the course. Students who are late or leave early three 3 times or more will be counted as one absence.

Student Use of Electronic Technology Policy:

Students must use electronic technology (including cell phones, laptops, tablets, and iPads) in appropriate ways during classes. Out of respect, cell phones should generally be turned off or on silent and stored out of sight. They should not be used during classroom activities unless the instructor has given permission. Electronic devices are forbidden during quizzes, tests or other in-class graded assignments, unless the instructor has given permission.

Technology use in this class is meant to improve the learning environment for all students. Please be respectful of your instructor and classmates and use the technology appropriately.

If you have questions about what this means, talk to your instructor.

Recording:

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may NOT record classroom lectures, discussions, and/or activities without the advance permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly recorded in advance can be used solely for the student's own private study.

Any reposting of recorded course materials may result in expulsion from course.

Make-up Policy for Missed Assignments and Tests:

Students are responsible for the assignments in their classes. Assignments include in-class activities, quizzes, tests, homework, and any other work related to classes.

- If you are absent from class, you should try to contact one of the students in your class to find out what work was missed.
- If you cannot find out from another student about what work you have missed, when you return to class you must talk to your instructors about the missed work and if/when you

can make up the work. You are responsible for talking to your teacher; your teacher is not responsible for reminding you about missed work.

- If you are absent from class on the due date of an assignment, you must hand in the assignment and be prepared to make up tests the day that you return to class or on a date decided with your teacher.
- If you know you will be absent, talk to your teacher before you leave or email your teacher to find out about the work that you will miss while you are away.
- If you have not been absent from class and you want to hand in an assignment late, you must first discuss the reason with your teacher before or on the due date. Do not assume that your teacher will accept late assignments. Also, you may lose points for late work based on teacher discretion.
- If you and your teacher arrange to meet so that you can make up an assignment and you miss that meeting, you may receive a "0" for that assignment.

Use of Machine Translation and Other Online Writing and Language Tools

While students are encouraged to use dictionaries and other language resources, they should not rely on machine translators for large sections of text. Papers must be written in English. Any paper that is written in Chinese and then processed through an online translator will be considered unacceptable.

If an instructor believes that a paper was written using machine translation, the instructor reserves the right to ask the student to re-write (potentially with a different topic), or give an alternative assignment, which may include a timed-writing essay assignment. Until the re-write is submitted the student will have an F for the assignment.

Use of non-English sources

All non-English sources must be cited. The translation of non-English sources is equivalent to quoting. When using Chinese sources, use quotation marks to directly quote the sources and include the original text in brackets. For example:

> Wang Chao in describing nanocarriers says, "Interaction between nanomaterials and organisms, especially Interaction between the Immunological Effect of Nanomaterials and the Immune System in vivo further clarification is needed to optimize the shape, physicochemical properties, size and surface of nanocarriers [纳米材料与生物机体内的相互作用，特别是纳米材料本 身的免疫学效应与体内免疫系统的相互作用需要进一步阐明，优化纳米载体的形状、大小、 表面、理化性质等]" (Wang 96).

Policy on Graduating Seniors Course Requirements During the Spring Semester of Their Senior Year

Seniors taking HSS courses during the spring semester will have to complete course assignments by week 14. The instructor will provide an alternative final project/exam for graduating seniors that will be due by week 14. If a senior does not submit all work, fails assignments, or does not attend class regularly, the student may not graduate, and will have to retake the course in its entirety in a later semester in order to graduate. This may delay graduation for a complete calendar year.

SCUPI Honor Code:

Students in this course must follow the SCUPI Honor Code. This includes:
- must not get help from anyone to do his/her work without the teacher's permission.
- must not get help from any outside sources to do his/her work without the teacher's permission.
- must not copy the words of another and present those words as his/her own work.
- must not use your work from another class or project. This is self-plagiarism.

Participating in these activities can result in an F. Turning in work that is not your own can result in an F.

Writing Center Policy on Plagiarism: first instance will result in a failing grade with option of re-writing the assignment; a second instance will result in failure of assignment and meeting with Writing Center director and no option for re-writing the assignment; a third instance will result in failure in the course and referral to university officials for Honor Code violation.

Participation:

Active participation is crucial for language learning. Participating in class makes you an engaged learner of English. In this class, participation means:

- arriving to class on time
- staying on task (including appropriate use of technology)
- actively listening to your classmates and teacher when they speak in class
- asking questions
- bringing all class materials

- attending class regularly
- completing all homework on time
- actively and constructively participating in class activities
- being prepared to answer questions
- using English in class

Student Responsibility:

This syllabus is a contract between you and the instructor. It is the first place you should look for answers to your questions about course requirements, expectations, and policies. By enrolling in this course, you are agreeing to adhere to the requirements, expectations and policies outlined in this syllabus, including sections on the SCUPI Honor Code. Students who fail to submit their work on time or miss more than 5 classes could receive a failing grade and may not graduate.