This course is designed to introduce you to the logic of social science research including theory and empirical testing of theory. We will explore questions of qualitative and quantitative measurement. We will compare the strengths and limits of the different major methods of data collection from experiments, to participant observation in field settings, to interviews and surveys, to archives and content analysis. We will also explore the ethical and political context of social research.

Books:

Grades:
3 Assignments 20 points each = 60%
2 Quizzes 20 points each = 40%

Readings and Topics

1) How Do You Know? Epistemology and The Assumptions of Science
9/22 Wed
Babbie 15 – Reading and Writing Social Research
Lomand - Appendix A – Reading Research Reports

2) Logical Positivism and the Circle of Science

Babbie 1 – Human Inquiry and Science
Lomand 36 – Young Adults’ Perspectives on Aunts
Lomand 14 – Baby Think It Over

3) Theory and Theory Construction
9/29 Wed
Babbie 2 – Paradigms, Theory, and Research
Lomand 17 - Evaluation of Seat Belt Use
Lomand 10 – Students’ Ratings of Teaching Effectiveness

*** First Assignment Handed Out - Constructing a Theory

4) Causal Theory – Time

Babbie 4 – Research Design
Lomand 3 - “I Missed the Bus”
Lomand 20 - Personalized Jerseys and Aggressiveness in Women
5) The Data Matrix – Units and Variables
10/6 Wed
Babbie 4 – Research Design
Lomand 1 – Survey of Health, Sleep, and Development of Children
Lomand 41 – Conflicting Bureaucracies

6) Measurement - Operationalization

Babbie 5 – Conceptualization, Operationalization, and Measurement
Lomand 5 – Latino Students in North Carolina: Accultruation
Lomand 34 – Poverty as We Know It: Media Portrayals

7) Measurement – Multiple indicators
10/13 Wed
Babbie 6 – Indexes, Scales, and Typologies
Lomand 26 – Relational Aggression in Middle School Girls
Lomand 31 - Criterion Related Validity: Marital Disaffection Scale

*** First Assignment Due

8) Sampling
Babbie 7 – Logic of Sampling
Lomand 2 - Cyberbullying
Lomand 6 – Working Women Deny Gender Discrimination in Pay

9) *** FIRST QUIZ
10/20 Wed

10) Experiments
Babbie 8 – Experiments
Lomand 18 - Sex Differences on a Measure of Conformity
Lomand 29 – Understanding Girls’ Circle

11) Surveys
10/27 Wed
Babbie 9 – Survey Research
Lomand 4 - Homelessness
Lomand 44 – A Congregation of One

*** Second Assignment Handed Out – Observation and Interviewing

12) Field Research -
Babbie 10 – Qualitative Field Research
Lomand 13 – Supermarket Helping Behavior
Lomand 37 – Voices of Black & White Battered Women
13) Unobtrusive Research
11/3 Wed
Babbie 11 - Unobtrusive Research
Lomand 8 – Unobtrusive Measure of Racial Behavior
Lomand 9 – Shopping Center Fire Zone Parking Violators

14) Evaluation Research & Multimethod Research
Babbie 12 – Evaluation Research
Brewer & Hunter – Multimethod Research (Reserve)
Lomand 27 – Application of Fear Appeal Messages

15) Analysis – Qualitative – categories and typologies / sequences and processes
11/10 Tue
Babbie 13 – Qualitative Data Analysis
Lomand 35 – Contributions to Family & Household Activities
Lomand 40 – Risk Taking
*** Second Assignment Due

16) Analysis – Quantitative – univariate, bivariate, multivariate and regression
Babbie 14 – Quantitative Data Analysis
Lomand 11 - Relationships of Assertivness, Depression & Social Support
Lomand 12 – Correlation Between Humor Styles & Loneliness

17) Politics and Ethics
11/17 Wed
Babbie 3 – The Ethics and Politics of Social Research
Lomand 25 Living with Mental Illness
Lomand 22 – Project D.A.R.E.

*** Third Assignment Handed Out – Critique of an Article

18) *** SECOND QUIZ
12/1 Wed

19) Putting-It-All-Together – Discussion of Third Assignment

12/7 Wed
*** Third Assignment Due