Welcome!

This course is designed to expose you to some research methods from the social scientific tradition that are used in the communication field. For some of you, these approaches may seem to be old news. For others, these approaches may not seem to be your style. In both cases, I urge you to keep a fresh mind as you enter the course. Those of you who think you have this material covered will probably learn some new things, and those of you who think these methods are not for you may have second thoughts with a fresh look. This course aims to provide you with some broad perspective as well as some guidance in choosing your preferred specific approaches for the future, so I hope that we can accomplish that.

Course Objectives

Student Learning Objectives from the IDEA checklist:
• Gaining factual knowledge of the various statistical tools and concepts needed to conduct communication research. (Essential)—IDEA #1
• Learning to apply course material to individual and collaborative research work (Essential)—IDEA #3
• Developing skill in expressing oneself in writing research studies for conference and journal submission. (Important)—IDEA #8

After taking this course, you should be able to:
• Identify and describe basic tenets of the scientific method of inquiry used in social scientific research.
• Identify and describe basic concepts pertaining to communication research.
• Critically analyze the methods, assumptions, and implications of published research.
• Design a social scientific communication research project by reviewing relevant literature, formulating research questions and hypotheses, and conducting data collection, analysis, and interpretation appropriate for an original academic research project.

Required Texts


I also recommend that you purchase or secure regular access to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association 6th edition). Brief online guides are also available, but be sure to choose a reliable one. APA style will be used for all course assignments.

During the term, you may also need to download SPSS.

Assignments & Projects

Examinations (40%): Two examinations, a midterm and a final, will assess your understanding of terms and concepts from course materials. Examinations will cover material from the text, additional readings, and lectures.

Research Project (50%): As we study three common methodological approaches, you will complete a full-scale research project employing one of them. The project will be conducted in groups determined early in the term based on common interests. During the term, groups will develop research questions and hypotheses, then design and carry out a study to test them and conduct appropriate analyses. Finally, they will produce a paper consisting of an introduction, literature review, hypotheses/research questions, methods, results. You will consider your project carefully to provide a unique exploration of your questions to test and extend existing knowledge. Your study will make use of preregistered hypotheses.
and open data using the Open Science Framework (http://osf.io) or a similar resource. A strong project is one that can lead to an article-quality academic research paper. Point values of the project are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Project Proposal</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>40%</td>
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**Concept Explication (5%)**: Once you’ve decided on a research project, you will pick a concept to explicate. This short paper will serve as a check for research ability, academic writing, and your understanding of course concepts. It is also designed to give you a starting point for your final paper. More details can be found on the assignment sheet.

| Concept Explication            | 10     | 5%         |

**Attendance and Participation (5%)**: Each week, you need to post one question related to the week’s material in the course site’s discussion forum before class starts. Additionally, it is expected that graduate students attend class, complete readings, and participate in discussion. If you are to miss a meeting, you should obtain permission in advance. If you are not completing the readings or spending enough time with them to engage in meaningful discussion, it will show in class and will be reflected in your participation score. A graduate student has only a limited amount of time to make the most out of the coursework available before taking on a major degree project (e.g., thesis), so please make the most of the course materials available. If some of the research articles and chapters are not familiar to you (and even if they are) you may also want to carefully budget extra time for reading and writing.

**Grading**

A numerical grade will be provided for each assignment, allowing calculation of grades as you go along during the term. Your final grade for the course is calculated according to the percentage score scale listed below. Grades will not be rounded up, and there are no curves and no extra credit.

- 90%-100% = A
- 90%-89% = B
- 70%-79% = C
- 60%-69% = D
- 59% and lower = F

**Get Ready!**

I am excited about this course. Whatever avenue you take in your study here at ASU and beyond, this course will prove useful. It may open you up to a future in the types of research we discuss, or it may simply give you some background to interpret others’ scholarship. Either way, this course should represent a significant part of your graduate development. I am honored to be a part of it.

**Honor Code**

Violations of academic integrity are very serious matters and are clearly documented in the ASU Student Handbook. The work a student submits in a class is expected to be the student’s own work and must be work completed for that particular class and assignment. Plagiarism means intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own. This may include your own previous work. Plagiarism includes quoting or paraphrasing from other sources without acknowledging/citing the source of your information or presenting quoted material as your own words. You must be very clear about attribution of sources and you must know how to cite sources in a paper. Please see full Honor Code Policy at https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/code-of-student-conduct/misconduct.php

You do not want to end your graduate career by attempting a shortcut. If you have any questions about academic integrity or plagiarism, please consult Dr. Bailey to discuss it further.

**Academic Disability Statement**

Angelo State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Dean of Student Life and Student Services at 942-2191. See this webpage for more information: http://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/

If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

**Grade Appeal Process**

As stated in Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedure (OP 10.03 Student Grade Grievances), a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the
Religious Holy Days Policy

Religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Texas Tax Code §11.20. A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. The instructor will work out a schedule with the student on how required class work can be completed.

Email/Telephone Policy

Your concerns are important to me, but understand that I also have other responsibilities to Angelo State and personal obligations. Although I will try to respond to email requests and telephone messages as quickly as possible, it may take up to 48 hours for me to draft a response during the week (longer in certain cases and on weekends). Please take this into consideration when you contact me, though I will try to respond to emergencies, etc., as quickly as possible.

Title IX at Angelo State University

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex. You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner: Online: www.angelo.edu/incident-form Face to Face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210 Phone: 325-942-2022 E-Mail: michelle.boone@angelo.edu

Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171). For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State’s policy please visit: www.angelo.edu/title-ix.