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INSC 504 Research Methods in Information Sciences

Spring 2023

School of Information Sciences

Instructor: Peiling Wang, Ph.D. (peilingw at utk.edu)
Classes meet: Tuesday and Thursday 6:30 - 7:45 pm at Zoom
Course site: <https://utk.instructure.com/> [NetID and password required to access]
Office hours: See course site and by appointment

Catalog Description

Research methods in a variety of information environments; primary and secondary research; research project design; research results interpretation; analysis of published research; techniques supporting research process.

Student Learning Outcomes

It introduces basic knowledge about conducting research in information sciences and provides opportunities to design research projects using appropriate methods. Upon satisfactory completion of the course, the student will:

- understand the basic process of empirical research and research design
- understand the various research methods used in information science research
- understand the relationships between research questions and research methods
- understand the various techniques for data collection and data analysis
- be able to describe and compare various methods and techniques
- be able to produce research plans and research proposals (required for thesis students)
- be able to analyze quantitative and qualitative data
- be able to evaluate and critique research designs (the role as a peer or referee)

Programmatic Outcomes/Department Goals:

Your final research proposal can demonstrate one or more of the SIS MS learning outcomes 5 – 9 (<https://sis.utk.edu/outcomes>)

Course Design

Interactive teaching, active learning, and critical thinking are vital to the success of this course. The design of the course incorporates these components into the processes of teaching and learning. This course is delivered using Zoom for the Web-based virtual classroom; you may attend classes from anywhere in the world. For more information or tutorials, visit

<https://oit.utk.edu/instructional/tools/liveonline/>

The course schedule, materials, assignments, and communication are managed using Canvas courseware, which you may access on the course site using your UT NetID and Password at <https://utk.instructure.com/> or <http://online.utk.edu/>

Required Textbook

John W. Creswell & J. David Creswell (2022) *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*, Sixth Edition <https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/research-design/book270550> Student Resources at <https://edge.sagepub.com/creswellrd6e>

Readings

Papers or chapters will be accessible from the Canvas course site with links from the schedule or directly to the File folder.

Online References

Lowry, Richard (1998-2022) *Concepts & Applications of Inferential Statistics*. free access provided by the author Professor of Psychology Emeritus, Vassar College at <http://vassarstats.net/textbook/>(use browser FireFox, Safari or Chrome)

Illowsky, Barbara & Dean, Susan (2013) *Introductory Statistics* (free online, pdf download, or iBooks; <https://openstax.org/details/introductory-statistics>)

Trochim, William M. *The Research Methods Knowledge Base*, 2nd Edition. Internet WWW page, at URL: <http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/contents.php> (version current as of October 20, 2006).

<https://quizlet.com/subject/statistics/>

Take a quiz? <https://quizlet.com/320457683/psychology-midterm-review-unit-2-flash-cards/>

Recommended Textbooks

If you pursue thesis research, these textbooks will be helpful:

Punch, Keith F. (2006) *Developing Effective Research Proposals*. 2nd ed. Sage Publications.

Wildemuth, Barbara M. (2016) *Applications of social research methods to questions in information and library science*. 2nd edition. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited.

Vaughan, Liwen (2001) *Statistical methods for the information professional: A practical, painless, approach to understanding, using, and interpreting statistics*. Medford, NJ: Information Today, Inc.; 2001.

Lynn Silipigni Connaway & Marie L. Radford (2021). *Research Methods in Library and Information Science*, 7th Edition ISBN 9781440878589 ABC-CLIO

Robert K. Yin (2017) *Case Study Research and Applications: Design and Methods*, Sixth Edition <https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/case-study-research-and-applications/book250150>

Class Attendance & Participation

Prepared attendance and participation in course activities are important to succeed in this course. If you have to miss a class for whatever reason, you are still responsible for the material covered. Class sessions are recorded for replay. If you miss in-class activities, contact me to arrange a make-up/catch-up session.

Missing more than one class meeting for reasons other than those listed above will have a negative impact on your course participation grade. *Acceptable reasons for class absence include:*

- Illness
- Serious family emergencies,
- Special curricular or job requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences),
- Military obligation,
- Severe weather conditions,
- Religious holidays
- Participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competitions or debate
- Obligations for court imposed legal obligations (i.e., jury duty, or a subpoena)

Assignments and Grading

Instructions and due dates of the assignments are posted to and accessible from the Canvas course site. A late assignment will result in a point-deduction (1/each day) unless an acceptable reason similar to the above listed.

- Attendance & participation (10%)
- Topic exploration and literature (15%)
- Problem statement (purpose of research) (15%)
- CITI Certificate (10%)

- Research design (15%)
- Proposal (30%) [integrate all parts above]
- Project Presentation (5%)

The University of Tennessee grading system for graduate level courses

A: superior performance	A-: intermediate grade performance
B+: very good performance	B: good performance
B-: intermediate grade performance	C+: less than satisfactory
C: well below the standard expected of graduate students	D or F cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements

Course Grading Scale:

A (4.0): $\geq 95\%$	C (2.0): $< 77\%$ and $\geq 74\%$
A- (3.7): $< 95\%$ and $\geq 90\%$	C- (1.7): $< 74\%$ and $\geq 70\%$
B+ (3.3): $< 90\%$ and $\geq 87\%$	D+ (1.3): $< 70\%$ and $\geq 67\%$
B (3.0): $< 87\%$ and $\geq 84\%$	D (1.0): $< 67\%$ and $\geq 64\%$
B- (2.7): $< 84\%$ and $\geq 80\%$	D- (0.7): $< 64\%$ and $\geq 60\%$
C+ (2.3): $< 80\%$ and $\geq 77\%$	F (0.0): $< 60\%$

Course Communications

Canvas is the course communication space. Discussions, Announcements, Assignments, Schedules, Grades, and any related matters will be facilitated by Canvas. If you send email from Canvas, be sure to include your Vols email because canvas email cannot be replied to directly

Synchronous Zoom classes will have technical support. You may call SIS support at (888) 378-9338 or (865) 974-7913; OIT HelpDesk via phone (865) 974-9900 or online at <http://help.utk.edu/>.

Required Technology

Computer and Internet access to OIT resources.

Course Feedback

To maximize learning outcomes, students are encouraged to provide criticisms, input, and suggestions to my teaching. You may do so by meeting with me, emailing me, or just dropping an anonymous note.

Being Successful in This Course

- The students will be prepared for all classes such as reading before the class; be active in participating in discussions online and in Canvas; meet due dates on assignments
- The instructor will be attentive to and supportive of individual students' needs; create and facilitate meaningful learning activities; provide timely feedback on assignments.

Schedule

see Canvas

Policies and Additional Information**Inclement Weather**

The chancellor (or appointed representative) may officially close or suspend selected activities of the university because of extreme weather conditions. When a decision to close is made, information is distributed to the campus community, shared with local media, and posted on the front page at <http://utk.edu>. SIS will cancel classes when UT is closed. Please check the SIS student listserv (UTKSIS-L@LISTSERV.UTK.EDU) for messages about closing.

Disabilities that may Impede Learning

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact [Student Disability Services](#) in 2227 Dunford Hall at 865-974-6087, or by video relay at 865-622-6566 to coordinate reasonable academic accommodations.

Civility

Civility is genuine respect and regard for others: politeness, consideration, tact, good manners, graciousness, cordiality, affability, amiability and courteousness. Civility enhances academic freedom and integrity, and is a prerequisite to the free exchange of ideas and knowledge in the learning community. Our community consists of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and campus visitors. Community members affect each other's well-being and have a shared interest in creating and sustaining an environment where all community members and their points of view are valued and respected. Affirming the value of each member of the university community, the campus asks that all its members adhere to the principles of civility and community adopted by the campus: <http://civility.utk.edu/>.

CCI Diversity Statement

CCI recognizes and values diversity. Exposing students to diverse people, ideas and cultures increases opportunities for intellectual inquiry, encourages critical thinking, and enhances communication and information competence. When all viewpoints are heard, thoughtfully considered, and respectfully responded to, everyone benefits. Diversity and fairness unite us with the wider professional and global community. (Long version at <https://cci.utk.edu/diversity>)

Instructor Status as a Title IX Mandatory Reporter

University of Tennessee faculty are committed to supporting our students and upholding gender equity laws as outlined by Title IX. Please be aware that if you choose to confide in a faculty member regarding an issue of sexual misconduct, dating violence, or stalking, we are obligated to inform the University's Title IX Coordinator, who can assist you in connecting with all possible resources both on- and off-campus. If you would like to speak with someone confidentially, the Student Counseling Center (865-974-2196) and the Student Health Center (865-974-3135) are both confidential resources.

For additional resources and information, visit titleix.utk.edu.

Academic Integrity

Students should be familiar and maintain their *Academic Integrity* described in <https://hilltopics.utk.edu/academics/>, p. 15 as: “*Study, preparation and presentation should involve at all times the student’s own work, unless it has been clearly specified that work is to be a team effort. Academic honesty requires that the student present his or her own work in all academic projects, including tests, papers, homework, and class presentation. When incorporating the work of other scholars and writers into a project, the student must accurately cite the source of that work.*”

Students should abide by the **Honor Statement** (<https://hilltopics.utk.edu/student-code-of-conduct/> Section X. Honor Statement)

“As a student of the University, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity.”

Plagiarism

Plagiarism in any of its several forms is intolerable, and attention to matters of documentation in all written work is expected and required. Inadvertence, alleged lack of understanding, or avowed ignorance of the various types of plagiarism are not acceptable excuses.

Specific examples of plagiarism include:

- Copying without proper documentation (quotation marks and a citation) written or spoken words, phrases, or sentences from any source;
- Summarizing without proper documentation (usually a citation) ideas from another source (unless such information is recognized as common knowledge);
- Borrowing facts, statistics, graphs, pictorial representations, or phrases without acknowledging the source (unless such information is recognized as common knowledge);
- Collaborating on a graded assignment without the instructor’s approval;
- Submitting work, either in whole or in part, created by a professional service and used without attribution (e.g., paper, speech, bibliography, or photograph).

Students who may be unsure of the nature of plagiarism should consult the instructor or a guide for writing research reports.(Additional resources are available at

<https://libguides.utk.edu/scholarlypublishing/plagiarism>

Infractions of academic integrity are penalized according to the severity of the infraction but may include a course grade of "F."