

**Applied Research Methods MLS:5303**  
**College of Liberal Arts**  
**University of Texas El Paso**  
**Location: Hybrid/Remote**  
**Tuesday's 5:00-8:00pm**

**Instructor Information:**

Mari Noopila, Ph.D.

Office Location: Kelly Hall Room 409

Phone: 575-571-7300

Email: mynoopila@utep.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday's 4:00pm-5:00pm, please contact me ahead of time to let me know you will attend office hours. By appointment (online and telephone office hours available).

**Course Description:**

This course will deal with understanding the fundamental principles that guide scientific research. We will cover topics ranging from understanding and properly citing research articles, to scientific design and implementation. By the end of our course, you will be able to digest complex scientific literature to draw conclusions. The ultimate goal of this course is to enable you to become a skeptic, informed consumer of scientific information.

**Course Objectives:**

By the end of this course, you will be able to

- Read and understand the scientific literature
- Understand and explain major concepts relating to experimental design
- Talk substantively about research methodologies, findings, and applications

**Textbooks:**

**Required**

Bhattacharjee, Anol Social Science Research: Principles, Methods, and Practices

Available free online at: [http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/oa\\_textbooks/3/](http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/oa_textbooks/3/)

Johnson, Steven The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic- and How it Changed Science, Cities, and the Modern World

\*\*You must have access to a computer, or mobile phone with access to the internet. I will ask you to access presentation software, articles, podcasts, videos, and take part in class activities etc.

**Required Readings:** Throughout the semester you will be required to read the text-books and various articles that will help you understand the course content and will assist you with the weekly writing activities. The professor will provide you with the articles or links to the articles

that will be used in the class. All materials should be read before attending class for the week. You should be familiar enough with the reading material that you are able to participate in the in-class activities/review.

**Online Videos:** In addition to the above resources I may ask that you view assigned videos or pod casts that will be discussed in class and that will help you with the weekly writing activities.

### **Faculty Availability and Responsiveness:**

Available by appointment, please contact me to arrange a meeting time. I will typically be on post at the learning resource center, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the library before class. Any correspondence should be through email or Blackboard email. You can expect a response from me within 24-48 hours during the regular Monday-Friday week, please allow more time during the weekend for correspondence.

### **Teaching Philosophy:**

My classroom is one of respect, competence, and forward thinking. As an educator-scholar my classroom, whether it be face-to-face, hybrid, or online is one that recognizes everyone brings a unique lived experience and knowledge to the table. I make sure that students feel comfortable with sharing their experiences, and I encourage that students let their voice be heard. By consideration of the diverse classroom dynamics that the environment consumes, I seek to establish a supportive, collaborative, encouraging places where all students have the opportunity and desire to thrive. In my classroom, students are in a safe space where they are encouraged to share, take risks, and reflectively learn from their experiences. Through innovative instruction, a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, my classroom uses technology-enhanced learning, service learning and professional development, and a continuous dedication to rigorous research. My role in the classroom is that of an engaged facilitator who involves students in the experiential application of leadership concepts and theories.

### **Course Policies and Expectations:**

All assignments and major projects are to be presented by the due date. An absence means forfeiting the grade for those assignments. If you cannot attend class, you should plan to submit your written work on time. I understand that at times, there may be an emergency, and I will consider extreme cases, however, reasons like not being able to access internet, personal travel, or illness should not impede you from planning with me to get work done on time. If the homework is late, it will be given a 0. For written assignments, I expect that students will consult APA style manuals for the guidelines required for college-level academic writing. I expect that the course's major speaking assignments will be well researched, rehearsed, and prepared with ample time. I will provide specific guidelines for each assignment in the course.

**Multiple submissions:** All work submitted in class must be original work. Please do not submit work that you have submitted in another course.

**Incomplete grades:** An incomplete may be given if a student provides evidence of a documented illness or family crisis that the instructor believes genuinely precluded successful completion of the course.

**Make-up work:** No make-up work will be accepted. If you miss the deadline for a submission you will receive a 0 for that assignment.

**Grades:** All work must be submitted on time and using APA style format. Excessive spelling and grammar errors and late papers will impact your grade.

**Electronic Devices:** Please do not use your mobile phones in the class. If you need to take or receive a call, please step outside of the class to do so. Absolutely no recording or photographing of the instructor or classmates is permitted in this classroom.

**Participation:** Each student is expected to read assigned materials on the dates given and to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned content. Students are expected to actively and intently participate in the class discussions, critically engage with the readings, and work collaboratively in the weekly writing activities to learn and to support the learning of peers.

### **Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is academic dishonesty and will likely ensure your failing the class. Plagiarism means using another person's ideas, language or other original (not common-knowledge) material without proper acknowledgement of its source. This includes taking information or ideas out of books, from articles, off the Internet, your telephone, from a friend or instructor, and so on. If the ideas or words come from a source or person other than you, you must indicate it in your writing or speech. Never use another student's work. A plagiarized assignment will result in failure, and even further disciplinary action in accordance with UTEP policy is possible. Please become familiar with the guidelines outlined by the student handbook, and if there is any question about this topic, please contact me to schedule a meeting.

### **Other Policies:**

Students are expected to know and observe the published deadlines for (a) dropping the course and (b) withdrawing from the course. These deadlines are published on the Academic Calendar, which is available in the my.utep.edu site, the course catalogue, and is in the Dean's Office, also online <http://catalog.utep.edu/grad/welcome-to-utep/academic-calendar/>.

No competing audio/visual technology in class. Laptops and smart phones may be utilized during our course, but these moments are integrated into the curriculum. Usage of these devices, apart from the course design, will be considered competing.

Official UTEP email accounts are encouraged of every student. All business not dealt with in class will be conducted through UTEP email accounts and students are responsible for checking their accounts for course updates and notifications.

For direction about online course etiquette please visit UTEP's netiquette guide for online courses: [https://www.utep.edu/extendeduniversity/cid/\\_Files/docs/netiquette-guide-for-online-courses.pdf](https://www.utep.edu/extendeduniversity/cid/_Files/docs/netiquette-guide-for-online-courses.pdf)

### **Student Conduct:**

Students should familiarize themselves with the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures <https://www.utep.edu/vpba/hoop/>. Violation of procedures will result in failure of the class.

While enrolled at the University, a student neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of social responsibility. Any student who engages in conduct that is prohibited by the Board of Regents' *Rules and Regulations* or University rules or by federal, state, or local law is subject to discipline whether such conduct takes place on or off campus or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct. All students are expected and required to obey the law, to show respect for properly constituted authority, and to observe correct standards of conduct.

The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) administers student discipline according to established procedures of due process. Procedures are defined and described in the Regents' *Rules and Regulations*, Rule 50101, and in the UTEP's [Handbook of Operating Procedures](#).

#### The Regents' Rules and Regulations

"All students at the University of El Paso are expected to have read and understood The Regents' *Rules and Regulations*."

"The official copy of the Regents' *Rules and Regulations* is maintained by the Office of the Boards of Regents. The *Rules and Regulations* of the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System for the Government of The University of Texas System were reissued on December 10, 2004."

#### Handbook of Operating Procedures

Students at the University of Texas at El Paso are encouraged to engage their campus in a positive way. By staying educated on policy and procedure, students can ensure a healthy and productive education at the University of Texas at El Paso.

The UTEP's [Handbook of Operating Procedures](#) contains official policies and procedures for the governance of UTEP. The rules and regulations constituting the HOP must not conflict with any rule or regulation in the Regents' Rules and Regulations.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR). [Avoiding Plagiarism \(PDF\)](#)

#### **Academic Misconduct:**

The University of Texas El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence and students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, submitting work for credit that is attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act that gives or attempts to give unfair advantage.

#### **Attendance:**

Students who miss two classes will earn a failure in the course. There are no excused absences (includes illnesses, athletic competition, school retreats, etc.) Therefore, it is imperative that you attend class unless you are seriously ill, have a death in your family, are called for jury/military duty, or any other such event requiring your absence.

**Students in need of accommodations and other support services:**

If you have a documented disability that may influence your performance in this class, please consult with The Center for Accommodations and Support Services. They will help determine appropriate, reasonable accommodations. Following the meeting, please make an appointment me during the first weeks of the class, in person, and provide documentation from Center. I will make any reasonable accommodations necessary to assure your success in this course. Please find contact information below.

The University of Texas at El Paso  
The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS)  
Union East Bldg. Room 106  
P.O. Box 609  
El Paso, Texas 79968-0609

E: [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu)  
P: (915) 747-5148  
F: (915) 747-8712

**Course Assignments:**

**In this course your final grade will consist of points earned from:**

- **Weekly in-class participation assignment/exit ticket**
- **Weekly Quizzes**
- **Final Paper**

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>Weekly in-class participation assignment/exit ticket (100pts. each)</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Weekly quizzes (100pts. each)</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>Final paper</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1500</b>