Course Syllabus

Instructor: E. Natalia Strobach Oronoz, Ph.D.
Office Hours: by appointment
Email: enstrobach@utep.edu

I. 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.

II. 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

III. Student responsibilities
• Be on time
• Read before class
• Be prepared to discuss class material

IV. Required Text
Bhattacherjee, Anol
Social Science Research: Principles, Methods, and Practices

Available free online at: http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/oa_textbooks/3/

Johnson, Steven

V. Grade Dissemination
Grades will be posted on blackboard, you can make an appointment to go over grading or assignments during class hours.
VI. Policies

**Late work:** There are no make-ups for in-class writing, quizzes, blackboard assignments, science panels, or the final paper. I will only accept late work in case of *documented* emergencies or university sanctioned activities. If you have a documented emergency, or were participating in a university sanctioned activity, you have 48-hours to notify me of your absence.

**Absence policy:** Since this course is a hybrid course, and we will only meet 5 times during the semester, I will only allow absences in cases of emergencies or extreme unforeseen circumstances. Please talk to me in advance if you think you will miss a scheduled lecture.

**Email:** Please feel free to email me with questions regarding online assignments. This is your course, it is a hybrid course, this means that we should be able to communicate continuously over email. Please do not hesitate to ask questions by email or on blackboard.

**Laptop/Tablet/Cell-phone use:** If you bring a computer or tablet to class, I assume you are doing class work. Any disruptions will not be tolerated. I will not tolerate any cell-phone use whatsoever.

**Disability Access:** If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Student Support Services (CASS) at (915) 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass.

**Attendance:** Attendance is essential to your ability to perform well in this class. Please be on time and prepared to discuss the material.

**Academic conduct:** Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP handbook of operating procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Any violation will be taken seriously and reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.

VII. Grading

- **Mini-proposal buildups** 15%
- **Final Research Proposal** 15%
- **Science Panel Participation/Discussion** 10%
- **Ghost Map Assignments** 15%
- **Blackboard Discussion Boards** 20%
- **Quizzes** 15%
- **Final Research Presentation** 10%

VIII. Schedule- subject to change
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>What to Expect in Class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 22</td>
<td>Assignments due Friday by 23:59</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 29</td>
<td>Read Textbook, Chapters 3 &amp; 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 5</td>
<td>MEETING, NO IN-PERSON MEETING</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 12</td>
<td>Quiz Chapter 6, 7 &amp; 8</td>
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<td>September 19</td>
<td>Quiz Chapter 8 &amp; 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 26</td>
<td>Quiz Chapter 10, 14 &amp; 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 3</td>
<td>Final Research Proposal due</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 10</td>
<td>Quiz Chapter 10, 14 &amp; 15</td>
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<td>October 17</td>
<td>Science Panel II</td>
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<td>October 24</td>
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<td>October 31</td>
<td>Science Panel II</td>
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<td>November 7</td>
<td>Science Panel II</td>
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**Assignments**

1. Final Research Proposal due
2. Quiz Chapter 10, 14, 15 due
3. Submit 3 Research Ideas for Your Proposal
4. Go over Class Structure/Syllabus
5. Chapter 2