

HTS 2101 Research Methods Syllabus

Research Methods, Section A, and 3 Credits

Fall 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor: TBA

Email: TBA

General Course Information

Description

In this course, students are provided with an introduction to the process of social research and to a wide range of methodologies. We will explore how sociologists use scientific methods to research issues important to the discipline. For most of you, your experiences with research up to this point have mainly involved reading about and thinking about other people's ideas and research. In contrast, this course is about "doing" research. This is clearly important for those of you who plan to be professional researchers, but it is also important as consumers of research, as we all are. After all, research affects the news we receive, the purchases we make, and the products we use. Engaging in research can provide critical skills for assessing research you encounter every day.

Course Learning Outcomes

Required Course Materials

Dixon, Jeffrey C, Royce Singleton and Bruce C Straits. 2019 (2nd Edition). The Process of Social Research. Oxford University Press. (Can be purchased or rented from Amazon.com)

Grading Policy:

Calculating Final Grade: Your final grade for the course will be calculated as follows (Grades will not be rounded up): A 90-100; B 80-89; C* 70-79; D 60-69; F 0-59

Remember that an “A” grade is not given for good work that meets all requirements. An “A” grade represents exceptional and outstanding work that EXCEEDS expectations. A grade of “C” represents satisfactory work that meets minimum requirements. Keep this in mind as you interpret your scores. *For this course, a 70 is the threshold for a passing grade.

Assessments: 1. Class Preparation and Participation:10%; 2. Exams: 40% (Exam1–20%; Exam 2 – 20%); 3. Research Activities: 20% (5% each); 4. Research proposal: 30% • Introduction (5%) • Literature Review (10%) • Research Design (10%) • Presentation (5%)
Total: 100%

Description of Graded Components

1. Class Preparation and Participation (10% of final grade) Read all assignments before the beginning of each class. The better prepared you are before class, the more you will get out of the course. Class preparation and participation will be based on your regular contribution to class discussions. During our meetings, we will discuss the readings and have class activities (either by yourself or with other students as a group). To encourage preparation and participation, part of each class meeting will be devoted to students’ own reflections of the readings during which students will have a chance to ask questions, answer questions, and share their favorite quotes from the readings in order to facilitate a class discussion of the particular reading/s. If you have concerns about your participation, please feel free to email me with questions. Under certain circumstances (e.g., students who have constantly been late for classes, who have engaged in distracting or disrespectful behaviors), the final grade for class preparation and participation will be assigned at the discretion of the professor.

2. Exams (40% of final grade) There will be two non-cumulative exams worth 40% of your final grade (20% for each). The exams are designed to test your ability to understand core concepts discussed in the readings and from lectures. The exams will include multiple choice, true-false, and short answer questions. Before each exam we will have a review session. Exam 1 will cover Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7; exam 2 will cover Chapters 8, 9, 10, 12, and 13. Exams will be administered in the classroom via Canvas. You will have 60 minutes to complete the exam. You will not be able to save or return to the exam. See Canvas FAQ for more details. A different exam tab will be available for students need academic accommodations (students must contact Office of Disability Services first –see below for instructions). Makeup tests are not granted automatically but are considered on a case-by-case basis, taking into account all the relevant circumstances. Permission for a makeup test requires an appropriate, well-documented reason. Makeup tests should be taken no later than one week from the original exam date. Any disputes regarding the validity of the reason or the documentation that is provided with requests for makeup tests will be referred to the Director of Undergraduate Studies of the School of History and Sociology.

3. Research Activities (20% of final grade) You will be required to complete four, graded “Research Activities” this semester. These activities will provide you with “hands-on” research experience. Detailed instructions will be available on Canvas or discussed during class.

4. Research Proposal (30% of final grade) Each student will write a research proposal this semester. The proposal is described in detail below and it will be discussed throughout the semester.

Course Policies

A. Attendance and/or Participation

Students are expected to be in class whenever possible and participate in discussion of the readings and assignments. Students can miss 2 classes throughout the semester, no questions asked, without affecting your grade. If you miss more than 2 classes, you will need a documented excuse (medical, work, funeral, etc.), or this may severely affect your participation and attendance grade. Discussing the readings and your work will help to improve your writing, your grades for the assignments, and most importantly your learning.

B. Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review [Georgia Tech’s Honor Code](#) and the student [Code of Conduct](#).

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

C. Core IMPACTS Social Sciences

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Social Sciences area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

How do I understand human experiences and connections?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. The Student-Faculty Expectations articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Prerequisites and Co-requisites: NA