

# SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY – BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE (BASS) DEPARTMENT

## PS 5305 Course Syllabus – Fall 2018

Course Title:	Scope & Methods
Required Text:	Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. (2018). <i>Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches</i> (5 <sup>th</sup> ed.). Los Angeles, CA: Sage.
Contact Information:	Alicia M. Trotman, Ph.D. – <a href="mailto:alicia.trotman@sulross.edu">alicia.trotman@sulross.edu</a>
Office (LH 306) Hours:	Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays (12:30 – 1:30pm) & Thursdays (12:30 - 2:30pm)
Office Phone:	432-837-8147

### Course Description:

This course reviews experimental research in the social and behavioral sciences, with a preliminary focus on qualitative research designs (case studies) and quantitative research designs (true experiments and t-tests and ANOVA). The course takes the full form of a seminar. The seminar will cover basic concepts in research methods and statistics and the opportunity to practice these techniques in your real study. You are required to read course materials before each week's meeting and participate in course discussions during the class, and critique published research papers. For your personal study, you will conduct a class project proposal, from generating a research question, conducting a literature review, forming a testable hypothesis, choosing a methodology and designing the method, to concluding your proposed findings. Toward the end of the semester, you are required to write your research study using the techniques learned throughout the semester.

### Course Objective:

In this scope and methods course, you will learn how to strengthen your research skills through working individually with a strong emphasis on what you **can** do. You will build knowledge in constructing a coherent argument to position your interest in social and behavioral sciences. Your argument will eventually be linked to ethical concerns and limitations, epistemology, methods and analytic lens used to generate results and discussion.

### Student Learning Outcomes:

Throughout the course, these are the outcomes that we will aspire to gain:

1. Describe the basic characteristics of research in the social and behavioral sciences. Explain basic research and statistical concepts, including qualitative, experimental and/or correlation methods.

**Method of Formative Assessment:** Quiz and Study assignment

2. Understand the purpose of research in the social and behavioral sciences, and establish familiarity with, and critically think about major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends. Explain the necessity for ethical behavior and social responsibility in all aspects of the science and practice of the social and behavioral sciences.

**Method of Formative Assessment:** Quiz and Study assignment

3. Design effective and respectful research questions, review literature, and understand and apply quantitative and qualitative research designs. Learning the English language, controlling your tense and recognizing the power of numeracy and/or written excerpts to enhance your arguments

**Method of Formative Assessment:** Final project

4. Apply research principles to guide learning trajectory of your chosen field in the social and behavioral sciences in practice. Strengthen intercultural competence and civility when engaging ethical principles to present the testability (and falsifiability) of your argument. Evaluate knowledge, skills, and values in your selected discipline as used in professional pursuits in a variety of settings, and everyday life.

**Method of Summative Assessment:** Final project

### Course Requirements:

1. The text must be obtained.
2. Respect for students and lecturer must be maintained at all times when we meet. Respect is a basic human characteristic that entitles each person to their own right and identity. It also helps to nurture a healthy learning environment. If you recognize that respecting others may be a problem, please be courteous and alert me or more suitable personnel (e.g. Sul Ross State University psychologists, family members, lecturers, close friends) and or refer to the Student Conduct and Discipline section of the [SRSU Student Handbook](#).

### SRSU Disability Services - AMERICANS with DISABILITIES ACT STATEMENT:

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. **In order to receive accommodations on exams or assignments, you must first provide proper documentation to the Office of Counseling and Accessibility Services. It is your responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services.** Please contact Mary Schwartz, Counselor, Accessibility Services Coordinator in Counseling and Accessibility Services (Office: 112 Ferguson Hall) to set up an accommodations meeting, call (432) 837-8691 or mail to P.O. Box C-171 Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Students must then present this documentation to the instructor as soon as possible so that accommodations may be arranged.

### Honoring Academic Integrity

Any instance of academic misconduct such as (1) turning in an identical written assignment for another course without approval, (2) copying from any source without proper citation, (3) crossing the boundary of what is allowed in a group project, (4) lying in connection with your academic work, (5) cheating, (6) plagiarism, (7) misrepresenting facts and/or collusion are contrary to the purpose of any educational institution and will be dealt with **most severely** to the extent of the university's disciplinary policy and/or through legal action if indicated. An instructor who determines that a student has been dishonest academically can at a minimum issue no credit for the assignment/exam, and/or pursue more severe penalties, including but not limited to failing the course. Before the penalty is imposed, the student has the right to appeal to the division chairperson or Assistant Provost for the Academic Affairs. Further information about *Academic Honesty* can be read in the [SRSU Student Handbook](#) and procedures for dealing with these acts are outlined in the [Scholastic Dishonesty Policy](#).

### Observing Class Guidelines

#### Class Participation

This is a course that requires in class, hands on experience and discussion. Class attendance **IS REQUIRED** and participation is important. Class participation and attendance will be worth **10%** of the final grade. The percentage is considerable so your presence will *help* your ability to complete all of assignments for this class.

**Participation** - You are expected to be on time for each class session and you should be actively involved. *Active involvement includes prompt and regular attendance, active listening, writing, participating via an online poll or quiz, engaging in discussions, volunteering or doodling.* Besides attendance, all other forms of participation judged subjectively by me that showcases active involvement will increase your participation grade.

**Attendance** – Class attendance is governed by the SRSU policy stated in the schedule of classes. If you are unable to attend a class session, please discuss the reason with me and arrange with another student to obtain any notes, handouts or assignments you may have missed. Excused absences entail established religious observance, or providing emergency, university-authorized, legal or medical documentation. Excessive unexcused absences (**more than 5 missed class sessions**) will result in a failing grade for the course.

### Late Assignments/Projects/Checklists

You are expected to meet assignment/checklist deadlines. Late assignments or projects will be reduced by 10% of the overall assignment for the first day of lateness and 40% for lateness beyond that for unexcused absences. For excused absences (university-authorized, legal or medical issues), speak with me **before the absence** so arrangements can be made.

### Discussing Evaluation

**Quizzes** – This is an online short-answer quiz to ensure that you have read the chapter and/or assigned readings and understand the most pertinent concepts. These checklists are available immediately after the chapter is discussed and are due by the end of each month. These are automatically graded so you will obtain immediate feedback.

**Study assignments** – These assignments are short exercises to ensure that you understand the major elements of research. For example, you will have exercises to demonstrate that you understand plagiarism, ethics generation of hypotheses or operational definitions, correlations, and/or the structure of a research papers. Extra practice for any of these assignments may be proffered as extra credit.

**Final Project** – The goal of this assignment is for you to write your research study individually. You will glean all that you have learned from this course to write a study that is of interest to you. You will have to schedule one meeting with me outside of class to obtain feedback for your study. In addition, you will present this study at the end of the semester as a poster presentation or e-portfolio.

### Grading

Students are expected to complete reading assignments prior to class sessions and to engage in thoughtful discussions in light of these assignments. In addition, students will complete a final project.

<b>Grading:</b>	<b>1000 points total</b>	<b>Final Grade</b>
Quizzes (4):	200 (4 @ 50 points each)	20%
Attendance/Participation:	100 points total	10%
Study Assignments (7):	400 (8 @ 50 points each)	40%
Draft Literature Review, Consent Forms & Instruments	100 points	10%
Completed Proposal	200 points	20%

## Course Outline

(This schedule and the topics listed below are subject to modification by the instructor.)

### Unit 1 – What is Scope & Methods? Why conduct a study?

Day	Content
<b>August 28<sup>th</sup> &amp; 30<sup>th</sup></b> <b>(INTRO)</b>	Introduction and Overview of Scope & Methods <i>August 30th: LAST Day for late registration and schedule changes</i>
<b>Homework</b>	Quiz 1
<b>September 4<sup>th</sup> &amp; 6<sup>th</sup></b> <b>(MARS)</b>	Chapter 1 Getting your research ideas
<b>Homework</b>	Assignment 1
<b>September 11<sup>th</sup> &amp; 13<sup>th</sup></b> <b>(MERCURY)</b>	Chapter 1 <i>September 12th: LAST Day to drop a 16 week term course without creating academic record</i>
<b>Homework</b>	Quiz 2 and Assignment 2
<b>September 18<sup>th</sup> &amp; 20<sup>th</sup></b> <b>(VENUS)</b>	Chapter 2
<b>Homework</b>	Quiz 3 and Assignment 3

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### UNIT II: Generating Research Questions & Implementing Designs

Day	Content
<b>September 25<sup>th</sup> &amp; 27<sup>th</sup></b> <b>(URANUS)</b>	Chapter 3
<b>Homework</b>	Quiz 4 and Assignment 4
<b>October 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup></b> <b>(CALLISTO)</b>	Chapter 4
<b>Homework</b>	Assignment 5
<b>October 9<sup>th</sup> &amp; 11<sup>th</sup></b> <b>(NEPTUNE)</b>	Chapter 5
<b>Homework</b>	Assignment 6
<b>October 16<sup>th</sup> &amp; 18<sup>th</sup></b> <b>(MOON)</b>	Chapter 6
<b>Homework</b>	Assignment 7

### UNIT III: Research Analysis & Discussion; Translating your study for your audience

Day	Content
October 23 <sup>rd</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> (JUPITER)	Chapter 7
Homework	Assignment 8
October 30 <sup>th</sup> & November 1 <sup>st</sup> (HALLOWEEN)	Chapters 8/9/10
Homework	Work on Literature Review, Consent Form & Instruments
November 6 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> (SUN)	Discussion of Literature Review
Homework	Work on Literature Review, Consent Form & Instruments
November 13 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup> (THANKS)	Discussion of Literature Review <i>(November 12<sup>th</sup>: Last day for instructor initiated drop for excessive absences; November 16<sup>th</sup>: Last day to drop a course with a 'W' by 4pm)</i>
Homework	<b>NOVEMBER 21<sup>st</sup>: Literature Review Draft &amp; Instruments Due</b>
November 27 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> (SATURN)	Feedback for Literature Review
Homework	Revise Literature Review, Consent Form & Instruments
December 4 <sup>th</sup> (EARTH)	Feedback for Literature Review
Homework	Revise Literature Review, Consent Form & Instruments
December 11 <sup>th</sup> (HOLIDAY)	<b>Final Literature Review Draft &amp; Instruments Due</b>