

# Independent Study: Readings and Research

## PS 5305: Spring 2024

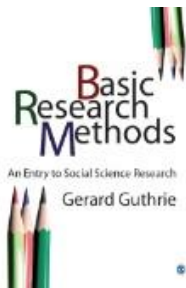
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### Course Description

This course is an independent study. This product of this course will be an agreed upon graduate research product that you will present at least once by the end of the semester.

### Course Materials

There are no required texts for this course. However, the following book may serve as a helpful guide as you work on your research study.



Guthrie, G. (2010). *Basic research methods: An entry to social science research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. ISBN-13: 978-8132104575 ISBN-10: 8132104579

NOTE: This book is available for FREE as an Ebook through the SRSU Library. This is the permalink to the record of the book (you will be prompted to log in when you are off campus using your LoboID and password).

<http://wmlsrsu.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=e000xna&AN=340339&site=eds-live&scope=site>

After clicking the above link, it is recommended that you click “Access Online” rather than “Full Download” to use the eBook. “Full Download” is a good option if you want to have the eBook available on an eReader device such as a Kindle, but “Access Online” enables you to quickly get in, read the chapters you need right there on the desktop or mobile device, or alternatively email yourself pages, or even print pages.

Other readings and course materials will be posted to Blackboard.

**The following items will be helpful to you when/if you start working on your data analysis:**

- A subscription to Laerd Statistics: <https://statistics.laerd.com>
- Access to SPSS. You can get a 14-day free trial at: <https://www.ibm.com/analytics/spss-trials>

**Course Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, you will likely produce an original piece of scholarly writing. In doing this, you will be sharpening the following skills:

- Planning and conducting scholarly research
- Writing a literature review
- Identifying data sources and relevant research
- Analyzing data
- Reporting results
- Scholarly writing
- Presenting your research virtually

**Program Learning Outcomes (Public Administration):**

The graduating student will:

- Demonstrate the ability to critique significant theoretical approaches of public administration.
- Demonstrate the ability to evaluate domestic and international administrative processes.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply appropriate statistical tools for quantitative analysis.

**Marketable Skills (Public Administration)**

- Students can organize and execute presentations relevant to public administration
- Students understand and can execute a program evaluation
- Students can conduct statistical analyses that are useful to the work of public administrators.
- Students can read and interpret an organization budget

**POSSIBLE COURSE ASSIGNMENTS, DUE DATES, & POINT VALUES**

Item	Due Date	Points
Research topic, research questions, explanation of significance	TBA	50
Data, Ethics, & Research Exercise	TBA	150
Theory & Introduction Draft	TBA	100
Literature Review Draft	TBA	200
Methods Draft	TBA	100
Results Draft	TBA	100
Final Paper & Presentation	TBA	300
Total		1000

## GRADING

A	895-1000 points
B	795-894 POINTS
C	695-794 POINTS
D	595-694 POINTS
F	BELOW 595 POINTS

## OTHER COURSE POLICIES & RESOURCES

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. Students should submit work that is their own and avoid engaging in behaviors that violate academic integrity, such as turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden. Students should also avoid using open AI sources *unless permission is expressly given* for an assignment or course. Violations of academic integrity can result in failing assignments, failing a class, and/or more serious university consequences. These behaviors also erode the value of college degrees and higher education overall.

As an SRSU student, it is your responsibility to read and understand the university's expectations about academic integrity. All violations will be taken seriously and handled through the appropriate university process. The policy can be found at: <https://www.sulross.edu/about/administration/university-policies/>

**In addition, please note that plagiarism detection software will be used in this class for written assignments.**

If you have any questions about this, please ask!

**INCOMPLETE POLICY:** We do have the ability to assign students an incomplete at the end of a course. However, two conditions are typically required for an incomplete to be granted: 1) an extenuating circumstance, and 2) most of the work for the course has been completed. In our program, we have been very flexible with this policy, especially during COVID. However, we are not seeing the best results from students who are granted this option. In addition, we feel that it has created a level of unfairness for students who finish all their work by the stated deadlines. Therefore, not only will we be using this option more sparingly, but we reserve the right to assess a grade letter penalty for incomplete classes. In addition, the max extension for an incomplete is 6 months, and incompletes are calculated as an "F" in your GPA until you have successfully completed the final assignments.

**COURSE BLACKBOARD RESOURCES:** There are several resources on the course Blackboard page. You are expected to review and familiarize yourself with the items in Blackboard in the first week of class. NOTE: Please post general, course-related questions to the discussion board forum I have set up for this. Typically, if one student in the class has the question, others do as well. Please allow 24 hours for a response, and then feel free to email me or call me directly with your question.

## ALPINE LIBRARY INFORMATION

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's

website, [library.sulross.edu/](http://library.sulross.edu/). Off-campus access requires logging in with your LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email ([srsulibrary@sulross.edu](mailto:srsulibrary@sulross.edu)), or by phone (432-837-8123).

No matter where you are based, public libraries and many academic and special libraries welcome the general public into their spaces for study. SRSU TexShare Cardholders can access additional services and resources at various libraries across Texas. Learn more about the TexShare program by visiting [library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/](http://library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/) or ask a librarian by emailing [srsulibrary@sulross.edu](mailto:srsulibrary@sulross.edu).

### **ADA STATEMENT**

SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mrs. Mary Schwartze Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director at 432-837-8203 or email [mschwartz@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartz@sulross.edu). Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832. **Please note that instructors are not permitted to provide accommodations to a student until the appropriate verification has been received.**

### **COUNSELING SERVICES**

Sul Ross has partnered with TimelyCare where all SR students will have access to nine free counseling sessions. You can learn more about this 24/7/356 support by visiting [Timelycare/SRSU](http://Timelycare/SRSU). The SR Counseling and Accessibility Services office will continue to offer in-person counseling in Ferguson Hall room 112 (Alpine campus), and telehealth Zoom sessions for remote students and RGC students.

### **SRSU DISTANCE EDUCATION STATEMENT**

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires a secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

**BLACKBOARD TECHNICAL SUPPORT:** SRSU 24/7 Blackboard Technical Support Online Support Desk Contact Info: Toll Free: 888.837.6055. Email: [blackboardsupport@sulross.edu](mailto:blackboardsupport@sulross.edu)

### **IMPORTANT NOTES ON GRADUATE COURSEWORK AND COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS**

**Grades:** In graduate school, a "C" is required to pass the class. In addition, you must maintain at least a 3.0 GPA to remain in good standing. The program faculty evaluate the progress of students in the program at the end of each semester. Just maintaining a "B" average in the program is not enough to be deemed eligible to continue in the program or to complete the comprehensive exam.

**Comprehensive Exam:** A comprehensive exam is required in the final semester of coursework for MA-PS and MPA students. More information can be found on our program's website. Please make sure to save copies of all of your papers, assignments, and books. These will assist you in the comprehensive exam.