![SOCI 4399 Senior Research Seminar - Dr. Joanna Hadjicostandi]

SOCI 4399.795, Senior Research

Fall B, 2020

Syllabus

Basic Information

Instructor: **Dr. Joanna Hadjicostandi**

Office #: MB3206

Office Hours: By Appointment (please email)

Office Phone #: (432) 552-2362 (please email)

E-mail:hadjicostandi_j@utpb.edu

Skype ID:joannahadji

This course is a Web Course and is conducted within Canvas at http://utpb.instructure.com

Course Catalog Description:

A scientific research study under the supervision of a member of the sociology faculty. The integration of theory and research is emphasized through basic or applied social research.

Prerequisites: Students in this class must have completed SOCI 3317 and SOCI 4403 and have a senior standing in Sociology.

Course required for: Sociology Majors. "Cap Stone" course. Not appropriate for Sociology minors.

Communication Plan: I am always accessible through email and will respond within 72 hours from the time you write to me (depending on internet access.) I will also be in touch with you at least once a week through the announcements' page as well as email to remind you of your weekly assignment, tests, or any other special activities. It is important to check the

announcements at least once a week, since changes may be posted there. You are always welcome to come by my office (MB 3206) if you are around end especially if the circumstances allow it. I am also willing to advise students on SKYPE or ZOOM or phone (432) 552-2362 by appointment.

Measurable Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. To be able to conduct social research
2. To recognize how sociologists define the concept of different social issues and identify the role ideology plays in society.
3. To analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on the creation and perpetuation of society in general and different issues in particular.
4. To define the differences between the two macro-sociological paradigms, structural-functionalist and social-conflict.
5. To recognize the role of multiculturalism and diversity in the U.S. and globally.

Required Textbook:

John W. Creswell and D. Creswell, *RESEARCHDESIGN*, SAGE Pub.. ISBN-13: 978-1-5063-8670-6

You will notice that I am using the same book as your Research Methods class for the sake of continuity and also economy. You will have to go beyond what you learned in the Methods class here. This book is available at the bookstore on the UTPB campus. You may purchase the books at your local bookstore or online. For a small fee, the UTPB bookstore will send you the required books, if necessary. The UTPB bookstore can be reached by calling 432-552-0220 or by viewing their website.

You are expected to go beyond this book and discover a wealth of information through the web sites related to the course material provided here, or the ones you alert us to as the course progresses during the semester. External Web sites are provided as reference only. Content and links are not endorsed by UT Permian Basin. Library research is also part of the requirements.

Remember, the sky is the limit!

Important Academic Dates
UTPB Academic Calendar

COURSE OVERVIEW:

a. Readings: All chapters from the above text with additional articles, websites, and (online) handout materials.

b. A series of assignments starting from the selection of a sociological problem to study, the appropriate method to use, filling out the IRB, constructing a survey if necessary for a quantitative study, peer reviewing your classmates work, writing about the limitations and future directions of your study and finally writing a final research paper model.

c. One research project that would include all of the above in the proper ASA format. **This class does not require field research. It's main purpose is to learn the process and solidify the way to use specific methods for a particular study**. The final project will be written in a thoughtful way as if the project had been conducted

If you need any help with writing, make sure to use the excellent services provided by the **Writing Center** at UT Permian Basin or your own institution.

- Double-spaced, 12' Times New Roman font, include page numbers, references and needs to be a WORD doc, posted in the "essay submissions" link.
- Use proper format, grammar, syntax and organization of your essay are in accordance with the ASA style guide.
- Include a front page with your name, my name, class name, semester, and **project title**.
- See section of your UTPB Student Handbook on **scholastic dishonesty** for more information.
- Review of literature should be based on at **least five (5) academic, peer-reviewed references** (sociological articles, books, websites, etc.) in addition to your text book, to be successful.
- **Keep a backup paper copy.**
- **See Project Rubric below:**

Project/Essay Grading Rubric					
GRADE VALUE	**Exceptional (A or A+)**	**Above Average (B)**	**Average (C)**	**Needs Improvement (D)**	**Zero grade value (F)**
DEADLINE	Essay posted before or on the deadline	Essay posted before or on the deadline	Essay posted before or on the deadline	Essay posted before or on the deadline	Essay posted after the deadline

EMPIRICAL SKILLS	Essay demonstrates exceptional discussion, interpretation, and presentation of available refereed sociological empirical evidence as relates to the topic. Follows ASA style guide.	Essay demonstrates sound discussion, interpretation, and presentation of available refereed sociological empirical evidence as relates to the topic. Mostly follows ASA style guide.	Essay demonstrates basic discussion, interpretation, and presentation of available refereed sociological empirical evidence as relates to the topic. Has some elements of ASA style guide.	Essay demonstrates poor discussion, interpretation, and presentation of available refereed sociological empirical evidence as relates to the topic. Does not follow ASA style guide.	Essay demonstrates no discussion, interpretation, and presentation of available empirical evidence as relates to the topic. Excessive errors make it difficult to understand or to evaluate the essay.
CRITICAL THINKING	Essay draws well-reasoned, logical conclusions from information, demonstrating strong competence in inquiry, evaluation, and analysis.	Essay draws sound logical conclusions from information, demonstrating adequate competency in inquiry, evaluation, and analysis.	Essay draws basic logical conclusions from information, demonstrating minimal competency in inquiry, evaluation, and analysis.	Essay draws poor logical conclusions from information, demonstrating poor competency in inquiry, evaluation, and analysis.	Essay draws no conclusions from information, with no evidence of competency in inquiry, evaluation, and analysis.
COMMUNICATION SKILLS	Essay clearly communicates evidence, supporting	Essay adequately communicates evidence, supporting claims of the	Essay communicates evidence, supporting claims of the paper and	Essay poorly communicates evidence, supporting claims of the paper and	Essay does not communicate evidence, supporting claims of the

	claims of the paper and provides clear academic discussion of relevant counterpoints. It clearly demonstrates that the student understood and has mastered the topic.	paper and provides sound academic discussion of relevant counterpoints. It clearly demonstrates that the student understood most of the topic.	provides basic academic discussion of relevant counterpoints. It demonstrates minimum understanding of the topic.	provides minimal academic discussion of relevant counterpoints. It failed to demonstrate that the student understood the topic.	paper and provides no academic discussion of relevant counterpoints. No evidence of learning was demonstrated.
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY	Essay demonstrates mastery of concepts about the social relevance of the topic on a local, national, and/or global scale and proposes well-reasoned solutions.	Essay demonstrates sound understanding of concepts about the social relevance of the topic on a local, national, and/or global scale and proposes useful solutions.	Essay demonstrates basic understanding of concepts about the social relevance of the topic on a local, national, and/or global scale and proposes basic or unrefined solutions.	Essay demonstrates minimal understanding of concepts about the social relevance of the topic on a local, national, and/or global scale and proposes poorly reasoned solutions.	Essay demonstrates no understanding of concepts about the social relevance of the topic on a local, national, and/or global scale and proposes no solutions.
OVERALL EXCELLENCE	Essay demonstrated critical thinking and a college	Essay demonstrated fairly good research and understanding (perhaps	Essay demonstrated good research and understanding (perhaps	Essay demonstrated insufficient research and understanding of the topic	Essay demonstrated no understanding of the topic

	level research and understanding of the topic.	an emerging understanding) of the topic.	an emerging understanding) of the topic		

Grading:

Course Activity	Points
Sociological problem, Introduction (Module 1 Assignment)	100
Methods, Survey, and review of literature (Module 2 Assignment)	100
Mid-peer review	100
IRB (Module 3 Assignment)	100
Limitations section (Module 4 Assignment)	100
Future Directions section (Module 5 Assignment)	100
Final peer review	100
Final Paper (Module 6 Assignment)	300
Total	**1000**

Grading Scale:

Points	Grade Range	Letter Grade
900-1000	900 and above	A
800 - 899	800 to 899	B
700 - 799	700 to 799	C
600 - 699	600 to 699	D
Below 600	Less than 599	F

*Unless otherwise stated, all materials, activities, and assessments are required and are not optional.

Communication, Grading & Feedback: It is best reach me through the internal course communication at the "INBOX" to the left of your screen. If you need to email me please make sure to put your name, course name and number, **and** section # (i.e. Jane Smith SOCI3327) in the Subject line of your message. You should receive a reply within 72 hours, although I typically check my messages daily. If you do not hear back in the INBOX, please send an email. Try to follow this sequence, because if you just email me sometimes e-mails might go to spam. You can also leave a phone message at (432)552-2362.

Consider spending 4-5 hours per week studying and posting your responses.

Your submissions are typically graded in the early part of the week upon the due date, to give you the opportunity to resubmit for a better grade. Thus, you are invited to submit your work on time so that you will get the appropriate feedback.

Policies

1. **Discussion Board**: Discussion Board is primarily for discussing course related topics and issues.
   Best practices are:
   a. Read all message postings in online discussion.
   b. Respond to the question directly
   c. Reply to minimum of one other student posts.
   d. Use a person's name in the body of your message when you reply to their message.
   e. Avoid postings that are limited to 'I agree' or 'great idea', etc.
   f. Ensure responses to questions are meaningful, reflective.
   g. Support statements with concepts from course readings, refer to personal experience, examples.
   h. Follow **Rules of Behavior**

2. **Rules of Behavior:** Discussion areas are public to every student in this class (including your instructor) who will see what you write. Please pay attention to the language you use and adhere to the following guidelines:
   • Do not post anything too personal.
   • Do not use language that is inappropriate for a classroom setting or prejudicial in regard to gender, race, or ethnicity.
   • Do not use all caps in the message box unless you are emphasizing (it is considered shouting).
   • Be courteous and respectful to other people on the list
   • Do not overuse acronyms like you would use in text messaging. Some of the list participants may not be familiar with acronyms.
   • Use line breaks and paragraphs in long responses.
   • Write your full name at the end of the posting.

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- Be careful with sarcasm and subtle humor; one person's joke is another person's insult.

3. **Make-Up/Late Submission Policy:**
   All course activities must be submitted before or on set due dates and times. If the student is unable to abide by the due dates and times for a very serious reason, it is her/his responsibility to contact the instructor immediately, in advance of the assignment due date.

4. **Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism/Cheating:** The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. Any suspicion of academic dishonesty will be reported and investigated. A student who engages in scholastic dishonesty that includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and collusion will receive an "F" for the course.

   All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. For complete information on UTPB student conduct and discipline procedures consult the University Handbook: Scholastic Dishonesty.

5. **Academic dishonesty** includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor, or the attempt to commit such acts.

   Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to the appropriation of, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, other expression and media, and presenting that material as one's own academic work being offered for credit.

6. **Attendance and Class Participation:** Regular and active participation is an essential, unmistakably important aspect of this online course. Students will log on a minimum of three times every seven days. All students are expected to do the work assigned, notify the instructor, as soon as reasonably possible, when emergencies arise.

7. **Tracking:** The learning management systems have a tracking features. Statistics are collected that quantifies how often and when students are active in the course and provides information if the student has accessed different pages of the course.

8. **Absenteeism:** All the course activities have set dates to be completed and submitted. After the due dates the activities will not be available for the students. Not logging into an online course is considered absenteeism. Contact instructor immediately in case of

emergency medical situation.

9. **Course Incomplete/Withdrawal/Grade Appeal:**
   All students are required to complete the course within the semester they are signed up. Incomplete grades for the course are rarely given, and will only be granted if the student provides a valid, documented excuse for not being able to complete the course on time, and has contacted the instructor prior to the scheduled last class to request an extension. The student signs a contract that includes the incomplete course activities and the new due dates.

   Find information and dates regarding drops and withdrawals consult the University Handbook: Drops and Withdrawals and Appeal Process.

   NOTE: Due dates and times for the activities will adhere to the Central Time Zone.

10. **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:**
    Students with Disabilities: The University of Texas of the Permian Basin in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provides "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities. Any student with a disability who is requesting an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter from the ADA Officer for Students. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. **Adapted from UTSA ADA syllabus statement.**

    ADA Officer for Students: Mr. Paul Leverington
    Address: Mesa Building 4243/4301 F University, Odessa, TX 79762
    Voice Telephone: 432-552-4696
    Email: ada@utpb.edu

Computer Skills, Technical & Software Requirements

You would need to be proficient in Microsoft application. Student will need to create word processing documents, save files, submit files.

Students can use cloud version of Word, PowerPoint and other Microsoft products through use of their UTPB Outlook 365 and UTPB email address. For more information refer to UTPB Office 365 Page.

For the accessibility and privacy statements of external tools used within courses, go to Accessibility and Privacy Statements.

Computer Technical Requirements

See Technical Requirements.

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Online Student Authentication

UTPB requires that each student who registers for an online course is the same student who participates in, completes, and receives credit for the course. UTPB's Distance Education Policy requires faculty members to employ at least two methods of verification to ensure student identities. To access online courses students must login to the UTPB learning management system using their unique personal identifying username and secure password. UTPB's Distance Education Policy requires at least one additional student identification method within the course that has been determined and approved by the faculty or academic program. This course satisfies student authentication by providing 2 forms of photo ID*. Student must provide through the assignment drop box:

- A clear image of yourself: in color, well lit, and no shadows on your face or your ID that can obscure your image, must be taken on the day you submit the photo to reflect your current appearance, taken in full-face view directly facing the camera with a neutral facial expression and both eyes open.
- AND, a picture of your ID with only your name and picture showing (Picture ID card in which the ID number has been covered (tape over any numbers)
- Attach both image files in either JPEG or PNG format to the assignment BEFORE you submit it.

I just need to see you, then the image of you on the card with your name. You will not be able to see the units or the essays if you do not submit this.

*Approved up to date photo identifications are: passports, government issued identification, driver's licenses, military ID from DoD, dual credit and early college high school students use school district identifications.

Preparation for Emergencies:

Computer Crash: Not having a working computer or a crashed computer during the semester will NOT be considered an acceptable reason for not completing course activities at a scheduled time. NOTE: Identify a second computer before the semester begins, that you can use when/if your personal computer crashes.

Complete Loss of Contact: If you lose contact with course connectivity completely (i.e. you cannot contact me via Canvas or email), you need to call instructor, and leave message regarding connectivity loss and contact information.

Lost/Corrupt/MissingFiles: You must keep/save a copy of every project/assignment on an external drive, UTPB Outlook 365 OneDrive, or personal computer. In the event of any kind of failure (e.g. virus infection, student's own computer crashes, loss of files in cyberspace, etc) or any contradictions/problems, you may be required to resubmit the files.

End-of-Course Evaluation & Instructor Evaluation:

Every student is encouraged to complete an end-of-course evaluation/survey provided by UTPB. During the last few weeks of class, you will receive an announcement through email notifying

you that the Course/Instructor Survey is available. You may follow the link in the email to complete the survey using the same credentials to access your courses here. When entering the emailed Survey link you will see a list of surveys for you to complete. Another way to find End-of-Course Evaluations is through you my.utpb.edu account > My Surveys & Evaluations are on the first page after you login.

The survey is anonymous and your responses are confidential. Your feedback is critical to us and to your instructor as we strive to improve our offerings, and our support of you, the students.

Student Support Services

SERVICE	CONTACT
ADA Accommodation/Support	Testing Services & Academic Accommodations Department (432) 552-2630
Advising	UTPB E-Advisor (432) 552-2661 UTPB Academic Advising Center
Bookstore	UTPB Campus Bookstore (432) 552-0220
Email, Outlook 365, my.utpb.edu	Information Resources Division (IRD)
Financial Aid and Scholarship	UTPB Financial Aid (432) 552-2620
Library	The J. Conrad Dunagan Library Online at (432) 552-2370
Registrar	UTPB Registrar (432) 552-2635
Student Services	Dean of Students (432) 552-2600
Technical Support	Canvas 1-866-437-0867
Tutoring & Learning Resources	If you are taking courses through UTPB the following links provide services: Smarthinking Online Tutoring (provides

SERVICE	CONTACT
	tutoring services), SmarterMeasure (measures learner readiness for online course).

Disclaimer & Rights:

Information contained in this syllabus was to the best knowledge of the instructor considered correct and complete when distributed for use in the beginning of the semester. However, the instructor reserves the right, acting within the policies and procedures of UTPB to make changes in the course content or instructional techniques without notice or obligation. The students will be informed about the changes, if any.

Copyright Statement

Many of the materials that are posted within UTPB courses are protected by copyright law. These materials are only for the use of students enrolled in the course and only for the purpose of the course. They may not be further retained or disseminated.

Schedule

		Sociology 4399 Senior Research Seminar Fall B 2020 (2nd 8 Weeks Calendar) Weekly Course Schedule	
Module	Week	Event	Due By:

		Spring II classes begin 10/19	**10/19**
1	One **10/19- 10/25**	MODULE 1 ASSIGNMENTS: 1. Browse through the course and get familiar with your syllabus and assignments. 2. Read Creswell chapter 1, 2 3. You are to submit to me your selection of topic and a short outline on how you intend to carry on your research	**Post by** **10/25**
2	**Two** **10/26- 11/1**	MODULE 2 ASSIGNMENTS: 1. Read Creswell chapter 3 and 4 2. Submit your final selected topic, survey instrument and your research design	**Post by** **11/1**
	Three **11/2- 11/8**	Continue…… 1. Submit your proposal in the "Midterm Peer Review". Do not forget your review of literature. 2. In-depth peer review of one classmate's survey and methods. Specifically, address whether the proposed methodology will answer the proposed research question/hypothesis.	**Post by** **11/4** **Peer Review** **By 11/8**
3	**Four** **11/9- 11/15**	MODULE 3 ASSIGNMENTS: 1. Read Creswell chapter 5,6 and 7 2. Fill out the IRB for your research:	**Post by** **11/15**
4	**Five** **11/16- 11/22**	MODULE 4 & 5 ASSIGNMENTS: 1. Read Creswell chapter 8 and 9 2. Write a limitations section. Discuss factors that your proposed study will not cover	**Post by,** **11/22**

5	**Six** **11/23-11/29**	MODULE 4 & 5 ASSIGNMENTS: Write a Future Directions section. If you were to continue the research in this proposed study, where would it lead you for future explorations? How do you see it developing and progressing?	**Post Peer Review** **by,** **11/29**
6	**Seven** **11/30-12/6**	MODULE 6 ASSIGNMENTS: 1. Review Creswell chapter 10 2. SUBMIT YOUR FINAL RESEARCH PAPER for peer review. In depth peer review one peer's entire final paper.	**Post by,** **12/6**
	Eight **12/7-12/11**	1. SUBMIT YOUR ENTIRE RESEARCH PAPER, with the proposed corrections 2. Submit one full page discussing how you addressed the peer comments **Congratulations!!!! You are graduates :-)**	**Post by,** **12/11**

Acknowledgements

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