

Wednesdays 5:00 pm – 7:40 pm, MMC Campus, Deuxieme Maison 193

Prof. Hugh Gladwin
Email: gladwin@fiu.edu
Office AC1 311 BBC campus

Office Hours:
Tuesdays 3:30-4:45pm at BBC,
MMC by appointment (please email) and
after class Monday at MMC outside classroom

Communications: use Prof Gladwin's FIU email address to communicate with him. Do not use Blackboard messaging or phone. Always put SYA3300 in the subject line of all emails to him or related to the class.

Course Plan – to be discussed in first class

Students taking this class have two parallel tasks. The first is to learn the terminology and concepts of social research through studying the text, a brief lecture by Dr Gladwin, and being tested with a weekly quiz. The second is to learn how to do social research by doing it through at first exercises and projects done individually and then in teams.

Course Objectives

- Students will know what social science is and the relationship of research to social science.
- Students will be able to work with census and other online data sources to design and carry out social science research.
- Students will be able to design their own research projects.
- Students will be able to design data collection protocols and collect good data from people using different data collection strategies (including qualitative in-depth interviews and surveys to obtain quantitative and qualitative data).
- Students will be able to analyze the data they collect and present their research findings. This will involve different methodologies (including computer data analysis) students will work with each other on in their teams.
- Students will be able to understand the relationship between theory and methods through examining existing literature and through developing and testing hypotheses.
- By the end of the course students will have a sufficient knowledge of social science research methods and data analysis to be able to conduct well-designed and valid research projects for further research for courses at FIU and in their careers.

Requirements

There will be quizzes on lectures and readings from the text. These quizzes will count for approximately 35% of the course grade. Students will do research work individually and in teams -- this will count for 55% of the course grade. Approximately 10% of the grade will be based on class attendance (see note below) and participation.

Required Text

The Process of Social Research | Edition: 1 Authors: Jeffrey C. Dixon, Royce A. Singleton, Bruce C. Straits
ISBN:9780199946754

Reading and Quiz schedule. In each class Prof Gladwin will give a short overview lecture discussion on the chapters assigned for that class date. Then usually in the next class there will be a multiple choice quiz on the chapters.

Class # - Date of Monday class

1 – Aug 23

Ch 1. Introduction: importance of research methods and example showing major steps in and ways of doing social research.

2 – Aug 30

More on Ch 1. Introduction: importance of research methods and example showing major steps in and ways of doing social research.

Ch 2. Science and Social Research: How social research works as a science. Cyclical connection of theory and data collection, inductive vs deductive, etc.

3 – Sept 6

Ch 3. Ethics and Politics of Research. Quiz on Ch 1 & 2.

4 – Sept 13

Ch 4. Research Design--how to do a research project: Steps in the research process

Ch 5. Measurement: Linking theory to research. From conceptualization to operationalization. Levels of measurement. Quiz on Ch 3.

5 – Sept 20

Ch 6. Sampling

Ch 7. Experiments -- a quick look

Quiz on Ch 4 & 5.

6 - Sept 27

Ch 8. Surveys

Ch 9. Field Research and in-depth interviews

Quiz on Ch 6 & 7.

7 – Oct 18 (no class Oct 4)

Ch 10. Existing Data Analysis

Ch 11. Multiple Methods

Quiz on Ch 8 & 9.

8 – Oct 25

Ch 13. Qualitative Data Analysis

Quiz on Ch 10 & 11.

9 – Nov 1

Ch 12. Quantitative Data Analysis

Quiz on Ch 13.

10 – Nov 8

Ch 14. Reading and Writing in Social Research

Quiz on Ch 12.

11 – Nov 15, 22, 29 (Nov 15 Quiz on Ch 14).

Working on team research projects

12 -- Friday December 8 (official final exam period 7:15-9:15pm, DM 193)

Team research project presentations

There will be no midterm exam other than quizzes and no final exam. Team presentations to the class will be given during the official final exam period for the class

Course Organization

The class will be based on a modified team based learning approach. Teams will be formed about one month into the course. However, grading procedures are designed to ensure that team performance will not lower individual course grades from individual quizzes and exams for students who collaborate fully in the work of their team. See below for more information on team-based learning. Attendance policy: Attendance is required and students may need to sign an attendance sheet at the beginning of each class on days there is no quiz. Penalties for frequent non-attendance will be implemented if it becomes a problem affecting the functioning of the class. These penalties could be as much as one-half letter grade per missed class more than two classes. Absence will be allowed for mandatory religious requirements and other major personal required events, but only if arranged and scheduled during the first two weeks of class. In case of medical or other emergencies absences will be counted missing class unless circumstances are truly exceptional and fully documented.

Class Structure: this is not a pure lecture/exam course; it utilizes modified Team-Based Learning (TBL). In addition to individual quizzes, there will be a final team project.

If you have not taken a class using TBL please read carefully. TBL is a teaching and learning strategy that maximizes class time for students to apply their new knowledge to do in-class team projects. It is important that team members all work hard and cooperatively with each other. Dr. Gladwin considers that that teams are like work groups that have the goal of getting the job done together as well as possible. They are not “debating groups” where team members are in competition with each other. They are also not groups where cliques form and do not value the work and opinions of team members outside of their small group. At the end of the course students will email Prof Gladwin an assessment of the other students on their team in terms of the effort each put in to the work of the team.

Official FIU statement on academic conduct

Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and to honestly demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.