

Department	International College of Liberal Arts		
Semester	Spring 2023	Year Offered (Odd/Even/Every Year)	Every Year
Course Number	PSCI/SOCI/ECON210		
Course Title	Methods of Social Research		
Prerequisites	FNDN110 Introduction to World Issues OR FNDN111 Omnibus Themes (Spring) OR FNDN112 Omnibus Themes (Fall) OR FNDN115 Omnibus Themes		
Course Instructor	LARATTA Rosario	Year Available (Grade Level)	1
Subject Area	Political Science	Number of Credits	3
Class Style	Lecture	Class Methods	Face to face

(NOTE 1) Class Methods are subject to change

(NOTE 2) Depending on the class size and the capacity of the facility, we may not be able to accommodate all students who wish to register for the course"

Course Description	This course is divided in four parts. Part I gives students an orientation to the field of social research. It focuses on issues that come into play as one begins to approach a research project. Part II deals with planning and designing a research project. This includes the major steps involved in the research process. Part III focuses on the business of working with data. Therefore, here students are exposed to all methods of data collection and the ways in which data is analyzed. Part IV addresses issues of reflection about student projects as a whole and writing about the results.
Class plan based on course evaluation from previous academic year	None. Feedbacks from students' course evaluation in previous academic year were very positive and did not point out to particular changes.
Course related to the instructor's practical experience (Summary of experience)	As reviewer of several academic journals, I have cumulated over 20 years of experience in this field.

Learning Goals	This course provides students with a concise overview of social research. It outlines the most important approaches likely to be used in social research projects. And it provides a good deal of practical information on how to proceed with a project. The ultimate objective of the course is to stimulate the students' curiosity about doing a social research project and, by guiding students through such a project, show them that doing a research project can be an enjoyable and exciting experience.
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iCLA Diploma Policy	DP1/DP2/DP3/DP4
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iCLA Diploma Policy

(DP1) To Value Knowledge – Having high oral and written communication skills to be able to both comprehend and transfer knowledge

(DP2) To Be Able to Adapt to a Changing World – Having critical, creative, problem-solving, intercultural skills, global and independent mindset to adopt to a changing world

(DP3) To Believe in Collaboration – Having a disposition to work effectively and inclusively in teams

(DP4) To Act from a Sense of Personal and Social Responsibility – Having good ethical and moral values to make positive impacts in the world

Active Learning Methods	This class will use a lot of Brainstorming as an active learning method. The students come up with ideas and write them on a board. As a group, the students then select the best ones and use those to come up with a solution.
Use of ICT in Class	Brainstorming – there are available apps that allow students to use their own devices and collaborate with others in coming up with an idea tree.
Use of ICT outside Class	EndNotes, SPSS, NVivo with tutorials
Expected study hours outside class	Students should expect to study 3-4 hours each week outside classroom in preparation for the classes. I would like to also mention that feedbacks to students' assessments for this course will be given confidentially.
Feedback Methods	Correspondence between students and instructor will take place via UNIPA. Students can discuss privately with the instructor either f2f or online during his office hours (please look at the office hours timetable provided by the administration office). Previous appointment with the instructor via email is required. However, if the class is conducted online, Zoom will become our main platform for meetings. Feedback after midterm test and after presentations will be given by the instructor individually to each student.

Grading Criteria		
Grading Methods	Grading Weights	Grading Content
Portfolio Activities	20%	students are require to work on activities/exercises throughout the course
Participation in Class	30%	taking part in exercises
Midterm written-Essay	20%	equivalent to the Literature Review
Final Paper	30%	the final paper with all sections

Required Textbook(s)	The following textbook will be used for this course: Walliman, N. Research Methods: The Basics. Routledge (Approx. 23.00US\$)
Other Reading Materials/URL	To find out more, students can consult also this other Textbook: Bryman, A. Social Research Methods. 5th Edition. Oxford Uni. Press. (Approx. 60.00US\$) Students should also expect to read handouts as part of their activities and exercises.
Plagiarism Policy	Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense, which depending on the gravity can cause you to fail a course or you are suspended from the university. Plagiarism Checking: All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to iCLA for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. The use of ChatGPT or any other artificial intelligence or paraphrasing software is strictly forbidden in the MIDTERM WRITTEN ESSAY and FINAL PAPER for this class.
Other Additional Notes	Class meets twice a week throughout the semester. Each week students should expect to: (i) read carefully and discuss in class a textbook chapter; (ii) work on an activity/exercise that reflects the chapter assigned by the instructor for that week. The active learning strategy is particularly useful in this course where students will 'learn by doing'. Students must make sure that they do not miss classes; lengthy absence (more than a week) will not only impact negatively on their final grade, but will also obstacle them to have a progressive understanding of how a research project is conducted. Whether the class is conducted online or face to face, the basic organization and grading policy of this class will not be affected.

(NOTE 3) Class schedule is subject to change

Class Schedule	
Class Number	Content
Class 1	Research Basics Self-introductions & Syllabus Explanation What You Can do With Research & Types of Research/Research Designs
Class 2	Metaphysics & Epistemology I
Class 3	Metaphysics & Epistemology II
Class 4	Defining the Research Problem
Class 5	Structuring the Research Project: Defining the Research Problem
Class 6	Structuring the Research Project: The Use of Argument
Class 7	Research Ethics: Honesty in Your Work
Class 8	Research Ethics: Situations that raise Ethical Issues

Class 9	Finding & Reviewing The Literature: Loads of Information
Class 10	Finding & Reviewing The Literature: Doing a Literature Review
Class 11	Structuring Research Project & Literature Review I
Class 12	Structuring Research Project & Literature Review II
Class 13	Levels of Abstraction
Class 14	Primary and Secondary Data & Measurement of Data
Class 15	Types and Sources of Secondary Data
Class 16	Analyzing Secondary Data

Class 17	Sampling
Class 18	Data Collection Methods
Class 19	Creating a Data Set
Class 20	Statistical Tests
Class 21	Steps in Analyzing the Data
Class 22	Qualitative Analysis of Texts, Documents, and Discourse
Class 23	Applying the Main Research Methods I
Class 24	Applying the Main Research Methods II

Class 25	Formulating a Successful Research Proposal
Class 26	Writing Up a Dissertation or a Research Project
Class 27	Group 1' s Presentations
Class 28	Group 2' s Presentations
Class 29	Feedbacks
Class 30	Feedbacks