

T602-- Applying Social Science Research Methods to Media
Dr. Potter—Fall 2018
Section 36588

General Information

Professor

Dr. Robert Potter

Contact Email

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Phone

856-2546 (leave message)

Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoon by appointment

Class Meetings

Mondays & Wednesdays from 1-2:15 pm
FF 212

Description

Each student will be expected to adopt a single general area of research interest and commit to it for the entire semester. A goal of the course will be to demonstrate how different social scientific research methods result in specific types of knowledge outputs. We will focus on the three primary social scientific research methods applied to studying media: surveys, content analyses, and experimental designs. Students will develop an understanding of how research questions/hypotheses guide the selection of the appropriate method, and how methods often build on each other as a scholar develops a program of research. Specific techniques for each method will be covered. Students will be expected to complete assignments designed to provide practice of the skills associated with each method, as applied to their general areas of interest. Other topics to be covered include: explication of concepts associated with their research interests, conducting literature reviews and summarizing the results, basic levels of measurement and operationalization, and research ethics. As a final project each student will develop rigorous, theory-driven research proposals surrounding their general area of interest—with the goal of these leading to actual data collection in the future.

Books & Readings

There are three required books for this course:

Babbie, Earl R. (2016). *The practice of social research*. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.

Silvia, Paul J., (2007). *How to write a lot: A practical guide to productive academic writing*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition.

You will also be expected to submit all your work in T602 according to the guidelines of the APA Manual (6th Edition). Failure to do so will result in possible grade deductions.

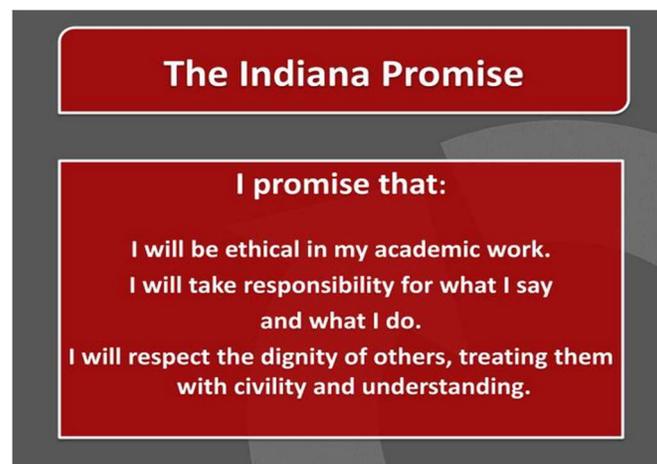
Additional readings will be made available in PDF form via Canvas.

Backing Up Your Work

Students...even grad students...have recently reported "losing" their work: laptops get stolen, hard-drives crash, memory sticks get forgotten in the library.

This is YOUR responsibility. There are lots of ways to make sure you have extra back up of your work:

1. Email it to yourself
2. IU has an arrangement with the cloud storage company [Box](#). It's free. [Investigate it](#).
3. There are plenty of other cloud storage services that you can pay for. I use [Dropbox](#) and have had good experience with it.



Disabilities

To request disability accommodations, please contact IU Disabilities Services (855-3508) or visit their Website for more information.

Academic Misconduct

All acts of dishonesty in any academic work constitute academic misconduct. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following:

Cheating-using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise.

Plagiarism-representing the words, ideas, or data of another as one's own in any academic exercise.

Fabrication-unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.

Aiding or abetting academic dishonesty-intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another student commit an act of academic dishonesty.

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated in this class. If misconduct is suspected, the professors will meet with you to discuss it. A summary of the incident and that discussion, any evidence, and a description of the sanction will be sent to the Office of Student Ethics. Consequences may include a grade deduction on your assignment and/or your course grade. You have the right to appeal this sanction and the Office of Student Ethics will inform you of that process.

Religious Holidays

According to IU policy, accommodations will be made if you need to miss class for observance of a religious holiday. However, there are some things that you **MUST** do in order for these accommodations to be made. It all begins by you filling out this form and bringing it to us. (see [Forms ->Religious Observances](#)).

Sexual Misconduct and Title IX

As your instructor, one of my responsibilities is to create a positive learning environment for all students. Title IX and IU's Sexual Misconduct Policy prohibit sexual misconduct in any form, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, and dating and domestic violence. If you have experienced sexual misconduct, or know someone who has, the University can help. If you are seeking help and would like to speak to someone confidentially, you can make an appointment with:

- The Sexual Assault Crisis Services (SACS) at (812) 855-8900
 - (counseling services)
- Confidential Victim Advocates (CVA) at (812) 856-2469 d
 - (advocacy & advice services)
- IU Health Center at (812) 855-4011
 - (health & medical services)

It is also important that you know that Title IX and University policy requires me to share any information brought to my attention about potential sexual misconduct, with the campus Deputy

Title IX Coordinator or IU's Title IX Coordinator. In that event, those individuals will work to ensure that appropriate measures are taken and resources are made available.

Protecting student privacy is of utmost concern, and information will only be shared with those that need to know to ensure the University can respond and assist.

You are encouraged to visit stopsexualviolence.iu.edu to learn more.

Course Requirements

Assignments

30% of Final Grade

We will be reading quite a bit in the class about different research methods. But, eventually, research is something you DO. To make sure you understand concepts and techniques enough to properly utilize them. Each assignment will be designed to allow you to apply the things we have discussed in class, and/or ask you to consider particular aspects of research methods as they apply to your specific area of interest.

Reading Comments

15% of the Final Grade

This is an encouragement to read the chapters/articles assigned at a deep enough level that you can make comments on them. What wasn't clear? What did you find interesting? What was different than your view of the world?

Send them to rfpotter@indiana.edu with the subject line: T602 Reading Comments

They are due by 9am the day of class.

Final Written Proposal

30% of Final Grade

A major priority during T602 should be to develop a well-reasoned research proposal surrounding a topic of interest to you. The written proposal should follow APA style guidelines, be 25-30 pages long (not including appendices and references), and include the following sections:

Introduction (estimated 2-3 pages)

Literature Review & Hypotheses (10-12 pages)

Method--including a discussion of all applicable topics related to the method you choose to address your topic and copies of all instruments (10-12)

Proposed data analysis approach (1-2 pages)

There will be certain "mile markers" along the course of the semester where you will need to be turning in drafts to me. If you do not turn in drafts at those times you will not be able to receive an A on your final paper, no matter how good the finished product is.

It is expected that this paper represents "new" work. In other words, I trust that you are not simply re-treading a study design you have created in a previous semester. If, however, you are working on a literature review for another course portions of that paper may be included as a portion of the T602 paper. If you have questions about this, please ask.

Research proposal Presentation
15 % of Final Grade

Each student will have **15 minutes** to present their work. This will require practice on your part in order to give the rest of us an understanding of the reason for your interest in the topic area, the logical arguments for (at least some of) your hypotheses, and a substantial discussion of the research methods/instruments/and procedures you plan on using to address them. I invite you to visit me during office hours for help with this challenging portion of the assignment because a poor presentation will reflect poorly on your grade. You are--of course--also encouraged to consult with me on the *paper* portion of this final assignment as well.

Reading Group Presentation/Discussion Questions
10 % of Final Grade

The last three meetings of the course will be devoted to each student leading a critical discussion of an article that uses one of the methods discussed during the semester. The article must be from 2010 or later and you can provide me with a PDF copy of it via email at any time. I will put it on Canvas for the class to read. Those presenting articles that day will give a summary of their reading's purpose but focus on leading a discussion of the methodological choices the authors made. Those not presenting articles on a particular day will turn in to me a typed *paper* copy of questions or issues that they have for that day's articles. These are not meant to be too extensive but to demonstrate your preparation for the discussion.

Tentative Schedule

Date	Readings	Topics	Things Due
Mon Aug. 20		Syllabus	--
Wed Aug. 22	Basil & Potter (2018) Schultz (2018) Canvas	Starting a Research Program The Scientific Method	Before Class: Reading Comment
Mon Aug. 27	Repko (2012) Ch. 6 Raff (2013; link) Canvas	Literature Search Mapping Articles Original Sources	Before Class: Reading Comment In Class: Statement of your general area of research. Assignment 1: Literature Reviews Due Friday Aug. 31
Wed Aug. 29	Silvia (2007)	Writing Strategies	Before Class: Reading Comment
Mon Sep. 3		Labor Day	
Wed Sep. 5	APA Manual Ch: 1-4, 6, 8	Exploring APA style	Before Class: Reading Comment Assignment 2: Original Sources Due Wednesday Sept 12 @ 1pm
Mon Sep. 10	Coe & Scacco (2018) Elmelund-Præstekær et al. (2018) Leshner (2018) Canvas	Basics of 'the Big 3'	Before Class: Reading Comment
Wed Sep. 12	Babbie Ch. 4	Research Design	Before Class: Reading Comment
Mon Sep. 17	Babbie Ch. 5	Conceptual Definitions	Before Class: Reading Comment

Wed Sep. 19	Babbie Ch. 6 Carpenter (2018) Canvas	Levels of Measurement Operationalization Scales	Before Class: Reading Comment Mile Marker 1 due by Friday at 5pm
Mon Sep. 24	Babbie Ch. 14	Basic Statistics	Before Class: Reading Comment Assignment 3: Stats Due Friday Sep. 28
Wed Sep. 27	Babbie Ch. 15	Basic Statistics	Before Class: Reading Comment
Mon Oct. 1	Babbie Ch. 11 (re: Content Analysis) Pavelko & Grabe (2018) Canvas	Content Analysis	Before Class: Reading Comment
Wed Oct. 3	Codebooks Krippendorff (2013) Ch 7 Canvas	Content Analysis— Codebooks & Sampling	Before Class: Reading Comment
Mon Oct. 8	Krippendorff (2013) Ch 12 Trilling & Jonkman (2018) Canvas	Content Analysis— Reliability Automation	Before Class: Reading Comment Assignment 4: Content Analysis Due Friday Oct 12
Wed Oct. 10	Babbie Ch. 3 Keith & Fairfield (2018) Hames (2013) Canvas	Research Ethics IRB	Before Class: Reading Comment
Mon Oct. 15	Babbie Ch. 9	Survey Research	Before Class: Reading Comment
Wed Oct. 17	Hooker (2018) VonPape (2018)	Survey Research	Before Class: Reading Comment

Mon Oct. 22	Hopmann (2012)	Survey Research	Before Class: Reading Comment Assignment 5: Survey Research Due Friday Oct 26
Wed Oct. 24	Babbie Ch. 8	Experimental Research	Before Class: Reading Comment
Mon Oct. 29	Lee (2018) Bellman (2018) Lang (1993) Canvas	Experimental Research	Before Class: Reading Comment Assignment 6: Experiments
Wed Oct. 31	Ivory (2018) Canvas	Experimental Research	Before Class: Reading Comment
Mon Nov. 5	--	Work Day—No Class	
Wed Nov. 7	--	Work Day—No Class	Mile Marker 2 due by Friday at 5pm
Mon Nov. 12	--	Proposal Presentations	Proposal Presentations
Wed Nov. 14	--	Proposal Presentation	Proposal Presentation
Mon Nov. 19	--	Thanksgiving	
Wed Nov. 21	--	Thanksgiving	
Mon Nov. 26	TBA	Open Science Movement Pre-Registration	
Wed Nov. 28	TBA	Reading Group Presentation Kim, Sharma, Chae	Reading Group Presentation Mile Marker 3 due by Friday at 5pm
Mon Dec. 3	TBA	Reading Group Presentation Hao, Meisinger, Yan	Reading Group Presentation
Wed Dec. 5	TBA	Reading Group Presentation Famulari, Hatfield, Collins	Reading Group Presentation

