

SOC 4850 - Research Methods

Summer 2026 Syllabus, Section A01, CRN 30851,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Dr. Amanda Fehlbaum

Professional Qualifications:

Ph.D., Sociology, The University of Oklahoma

Master's, Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Texas at Dallas

Bachelor's, Gender Studies, University of Texas at Dallas

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Communication Expectations:

I typically respond to email within 24 hours on weekdays. I strive to grade assignments within one week.

How to Refer to me:

Dr. Fehlbaum

Course Description

4850. Research Methods. An introduction to methods employed in social research. Attention is given to (1) the logic of scientific inquiry and the relationship between theory and methods; (2) the various qualitative and quantitative methods; (3) research design, data collection, organization, analysis, interpretation and application; (4) the social, cultural, political, and ethical context of social research; and (5) computer skills employed in data analysis. Listed also as ANTH 4850 or GERO 4850. Prereq.: SOC 3701, ANTH 3701. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	The Art and Science of Social Research. 2nd Ed.	Carr, Deborah, et al.	9780393537529

- Gordon, Liahna E. "Reviewing the Literature" in *Real Research*, 2nd Ed. Los Angeles, CA: Sage.
- [University of California Berkeley Library. 2026. Sociology: Lit Reviews.](#)
- Blackstone, Amy. 2012. "Research Design" in *Principles of Sociological Inquiry – Qualitative and Quantitative Methods*
- [Oregon State University Department of Sociology. *Writing Within Sociology: A Guide for Undergraduates*.](#)
- [The University of California Berkeley Department of Sociology. 2011. *Writing for Sociology*, 2nd Edition.](#)

This course is First Day Ready which means that your book is included as part of your tuition and fees. You may [opt-out of these charges](#) though it is strongly discouraged.

Students are required to have access to [Blackboard](#) as this course takes place online. These are the [computer lab locations](#) on campus.

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.



Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
5/11	• Syllabus • ASSR: Chapter 1 - The Art and Science of Social Research: An Introduction • ASSR: Chapter 2 - Linking Sociological Theory to Research	MODULE 1 Sociology as a Research Discipline	• Discussion: Whatcha Studyin'? • Watch: "Research Methods On The Job with Deborah Carr" • Watch: "Research Methods Can Be Fun! With Shelley Correll" • Watch: "Sociology Capstone: Picking a Research Topic" • Writing for Sociology Tutorial: Organizing Your Ideas • Writing for Sociology Tutorial: Developing Research Questions • Research Questions Brief + Instructor Check-In • Syllabus Quiz
5/18	• ASSR: Chapter 3 - Ethical Issues in Social Science Research	MODULE 2 Research Ethics & Human Subjects Protection	• Discussion: CITI Training Reflection • Watch: "Ethical Issues in Social Science Research with Mary Waters" • CITI Training • Ethics & Feasibility Memo
5/25	• ASSR: Chapter 4 - From Concepts to Models • "Reviewing the Literature," Gordon • RECOMMENDED: "Sociology: Lit Reviews," UC Berkeley	MODULE 3 Research Questions, Concepts, & Literature	• "How to Frame Sociological Questions for Research Papers, from a Professor" Watch: • Peer Review: Concept Lab - What Dimensions Are We Missing • Writing for Sociology Tutorial: Writing a Literature Review • Applied Literature Mapping and Annotated Bibliography
6/1	• ASSR: Chapter 5 - Evaluating Research • ASSR: Chapter 6 - Sampling Strategies • ASSR: Chapter 7 - Survey Research	MODULE 4 Quantitative Research Methods	• Watch: "Writing Effective Survey Questions with Deborah Carr" Watch: • Watch: "Sampling Strategies with Jeremy Freese" Peer Review • Peer Review: Concept Precision and Measure Validity Lab • Quantitative Methods Research Assignment
6/8	• ASSR: Chapter 10 - Ethnography • ASSR: Chapter 11 - In-Depth Interviewing • ASSR: Chapter 12 - Materials-Based Methods	MODULE 5 Qualitative Research Methods	• Feedback Fruits Discussion – CHOOSE ONE: "CJ Pascoe on Ethnographic Research" OR "Shamus Khan on Historical Data" • Qualitative Research Methods Assignment
6/15	• REVIEW: ASSR: Ch 4, 6-7, 10-12 • RECOMMENDED: "Research Design," Blackstone	MODULE 6 Research Design & Methods Integration	• Feedback Fruits Discussion: • "Vinnie Roscigno on Mixed Methods" • Proposed Methods Section Assignment
6/22	• ASSR: Chapter 14 - Communicating Social Science Research Findings • RECOMMENDED: Writing Within Sociology by Oregon State University • RECOMMENDED: Writing for Sociology by UC Berkeley	MODULE 7 Interpreting & Communicating Sociological Research	• Discussion: Journal Fit - Where Would Your Research Belong? • Writing for Sociology Tutorial: Writing an Effective Introductory Paragraph • Final Research Proposal • LinkedIn Profile & Portfolio

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