Objectives of the course
Social research is a vast and contested terrain. In this course we will focus on the logic and practice of major approaches to contemporary social research. This course mainly focuses on qualitative methods, but there will be occasions when the quantitative approach will be discussed. It is expected that at the end of the semester, students will be able to develop their own research project to the areas of their interest, understand general principals of contemporary social research practices, and critically evaluate sociological research reports, journals, and books.

Unit I: Introduction
In the introduction section, we will review the basic process of social research. In particular we will focus on framing research questions and choosing appropriate research designs. This unit will also examine the relationship between epistemology, theory, methodology, and methods.

Readings


Unit II: Quantitative Research
In this section, we will begin with the (post)positivism paradigm in the social sciences and then review the notion of scientific methods and debate surrounding it. We then focus on the logic of quantitative research in sociology. The key concepts we review in this unit are: variables, measurement, hypothesis, casualty, reliability, and validity.
Readings


Unit III: Qualitative Research
Unit III provides an introduction to social constructionism and interpretivism. Our focus in this unit will be meaning and interpretation, which generally inform qualitative research. We will thus chiefly focus on designing, conducting, and analyzing qualitative research projects.

Readings

Berg, B.L. and H. Lune. 2004. *Qualitative research methods for the social sciences.* MA: Pearson [Selected Chapters]


Unit IV: Ethics, Values, and Writing Research Reports
Doing research and writing research reports might appear as a straight forward process, but we will see that they have their own complexities. In this final unit, we will review the art and politics of doing research and writing research reports.

Readings


