



SOCI 434

Social Research Methods
Fall 2026 – Online

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Starr

Office Hours: M, T, W, Th 9am-10am and Mon and Th 2pm-3pm, in JWLA 127F and by appointment. [Book office hour appointments here](#)

Office: JWLA 127F (Jack Williamson Liberal Arts Building) or virtual
Office phone: 575-562-2301 (email is the fastest way to reach me)

Email: chelsea.starr@enmu.edu

Be sure to write SOCI 434 in the subject line of your email so I see it immediately and know which class you are in! Use your ENMU email, not gmail/yahoo/hotmail etc. because these emails often end up in the SPAM filter and I never see them.

Email, (rather than phone) is the best way to reach me quickly. I do prefer email over Canvas messages because it's hard to keep track of messages in Canvas, and it often eats attachments if you send them. If you email an attachment, use ENMU email and attach it as an attached file, not as a link or shared document.

Response Time for Questions

You can expect a reply to email within 24 hours unless you email after 5pm on a Friday, or over a holiday, in which case you may not hear back until Monday morning or the next business day. Email is the best method to reach me.

****Technical problems/questions** about Canvas access, course videos, or similar should be directed to Distance.Learning@enmu.edu Phone: 575-562-2165.

Office Hours

Office Hours: M, T, W, Th 9am-10am and Mon and Th 2pm-3pm, in JWLA 127F and virtually, and also by appointment. [Book office hour appointments here](#)



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Required Materials and Technology

Technology: A computer, webcam, and microphone are required for taking tests using the Respondus Lockdown Browser in this course (details on Canvas). This course cannot be taken on a mobile phone.

Readings: Course readings are provided by the instructor and will be posted in the relevant Canvas module. There is no textbook to buy.

Learning Management System

The university has provided a learning management system called **Canvas**. With your ENMU student account, you can access Canvas from the [myENMU Portal](#) or directly from the [Canvas Login Page](#).

Canvas works with most computers, mobile devices, and browsers. You can check the following webpage to see if your computer/device and browser are compatible: [What are the browser and computer requirements for Canvas?](#). Mobile apps for Android and Apple devices can be downloaded for free from Google Play and the Apple App Store, respectively.

If you are new to using Canvas, here are a few tips:

- **Welcome Tour** - A welcome tour will pop up and show you the main features of the system. This is a great way to get started.
- **Help & Support Menu** - If you need help, click on the Help & Support menu. From there, you can:
 - Watch [Canvas Overview Videos](#)
 - Search [Canvas Guides](#) for step-by-step directions
 - For help with the mobile app, check out the guides for [Android](#) or [Apple](#) devices
 - Call or live chat with Canvas Support 24/7, 365 days a year
 - And more - click Help & Support in Canvas to see all the support we offer



Course Description: *Basic methods of research in the social and behavioral sciences, including field observations, experiments, and the ethics of social research. (F,S)*

Other information: This course is taught online-only in Fall semesters; and in-person-only in Spring semesters.

Learning Outcomes

This course helps you build and communicate key career and technical skills that employers and graduate schools value.

- Define, recognize, and evaluate common social science research methods as used in sociology.
- Determine which method is appropriate for a given research situation.
- Articulate the strengths and weaknesses of different research methods in different situations.
- Articulate research ethics and IRB/Human Subjects requirements.
- Construct feasible research questions, hypotheses, and sampling strategies for the methods covered.
- Demonstrate understanding of data collection techniques through designing data collection instruments.
- Describe the research cycle (literature review, research design, data collection, data analysis, reporting, presenting, and evaluating the research).
- Participate in a (course-based and defined) community-based social research project, presenting results to community stakeholders.
- Demonstrate an understanding of practical constraints in community research through reflective writing.

ENMU Competencies for Career and Academic Success

*This course helps you build and communicate key career and technical skills that employers and graduate schools value. **These are also known as “transferable skills” you can apply to any occupation or profession:***

Communication and Collaboration: Students will develop and practice these skills in the context of a community-based research project, interacting with classmates, the instructor, and community stakeholders.

Critical Thinking: Students will develop and practice these skills by matching research design and activities to particular research situations.



Leadership and Responsibility: Students will work in teams to carry out community research activities and follow-up.

Technology and Information Fluency: Students will use their skills to find and evaluate scholarly, statistical, and research information.

Creativity and Innovation: Students will face research challenges as they emerge from the community project, and work together to innovate adjustments and solutions.

Targeted Career Skills learned in this course:

Targeted career skills of special interest to Criminal Justice majors:

- Interviewing skills applicable to field and witness interviews.
- Content analysis skills applicable to intelligence work.
- Ethnography includes observation skills applicable to investigative work.
- Survey skills applicable to producing and understanding reports on crime, program efficacy, and departmental function assessment.

Targeted career skills of special interest to Sociology and other social science majors:

- Interviewing skills applicable to careers in market research, non-profit/government agency research, and academic research.
- Content analysis skills applicable to work in market research, government intelligence work, and academic research.
- Ethnography skills applicable to market research, non-profit and social service agency research, and academic research.
- Survey skills applicable to market research, non-profit and social service agency research, and academic research.

Course Requirements

Check your ENMU email at least 3 times per week for important announcements, information, and/or instructor emails.



Assignments: Details and complete schedule will be posted in Canvas and in Modules; an overall summary is below:

- Video lectures with embedded quizzes (number of lectures may change based on emerging needs for additional instruction): 15 @ 25 pts each = 375 points
 - Written assignments/annotations: 8 @ 10 pts each = 80 points
 - Week 4 test: 50 points
 - Week 8 test: 100 points
 - Discussions: 10 @ 5 pts each = 50 points
 - Community research project activities = 100 points total
 - Final presentation = 100 points
 - Attendance/Course participation = 100 points
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Total points in course: 955

Attendance/Course Participation (100 points, calculated at the end of the course) is based on the following criteria, based on Canvas records and the instructor's judgment:

- *Log on to Canvas to review course materials for a minimum of 3 hours a week, accessing all materials in each week's module.*
- *Complete all assignments by the due date each week.*
- *Check your ENMU email (and/or Canvas Announcement page) at least 3 times per week for important announcements, information, and/or instructor emails. If a communication from you indicates you have not, points will be deducted.*
- *Respond to instructor emails within 3 days of receipt. Emails to instructor are formal and use professional tone, spelling, and grammar.*



- *View your test and assignment comments/feedback in Canvas. The next assignment(s) reflects corrections made in response to comments/feedback.*
- *Do not schedule travel such that it interferes with your ability to turn work in when it is due. Late work is not acceptable outside of truly extenuating circumstances. See late policy for details.*

Points may be deducted from the 100 point total you begin with for not completing/observing the items listed above.

Course Grading

Late work policies:

ATHLETIC/UNIVERSITY TRAVEL: You know your travel schedule in advance; any work you will miss needs to be turned in **before you go**, not late when you return. I also am aware that not all members of the team/group travel on any scheduled trip, and I will verify that you personally are on the required travel list.

EMERGENCIES: If you have an emergency, notify me right away. We will go from there. Don't wait days or weeks to contact me. I will ask for documentation if appropriate.

LATE WORK: Is not accepted outside of emergencies. Your family travel, vacations, long weekends, athletic events, concerts, wedding attendance, and similar are not emergencies. Plan ahead to **turn work in before you go**. Please do not ask for an extension for the reasons listed here.

Be proactive: If you are having an issue, get in touch right away, not afterwards (JWLA 127F or Chelsea.Starr@enmu.edu)

ABOUT GRADES:

The following is how ENMU defines what the grades A-F mean. This section is taken from the 2025-27 Undergraduate Catalog, page 34.

Grading System – Grade Points

Grades are based solely upon performance. They are not based upon how difficult the subject is for the student, how much time the student must devote to the course or on the student's academic status. Above all, grades are not negotiable.

Grades "A," "B," "C," "D" and "F" are earned and recorded at ENMU:



- **A** – The “A” grade indicates that the work has been **outstanding**, the quality has been exceedingly high and more than the minimum amount of work has been done. The “A” student will demonstrate both a wider and deeper understanding of the subject than any other student.
- **B** – The “B” grade indicates that the quality of the work has been high; all of the assigned work has been properly and correctly done and that classroom performance on tests, recitations, reports, etc. has been **consistently well above average**. The “B” student occasionally exceeds the minimum mandates of the course. This grade should identify the student who is ready for and is capable of advanced work in the same subject.
- **C** – The “C” grade indicates that the quality of work **has been generally good**, that most of the assigned work has been acceptably done and that classroom performance is **quantitatively average** for the class.
- **D** – The “D” grade indicates that the quality of the work has been poor, that the assigned work has been substandard and often incomplete (or late) and that classroom performance has been **well below average**. A “D” grade will not count in the student’s major or minor programs.
- **F** – The “F” grade indicates failure and is given in cases of exceptionally poor performance.

Grading Scale vs. Points for this course of 955 total points:

A – 860 to 955 points

B – 764 to 859 points

C – 669 to 763 points

D – 573 to 668 points

F – 572 points and below

Final Course Grading



Final Course Grades correspond to a traditional grading scale where 90-100% is an A; 80-89% is a B; 70-79% is a C; 60-69% is D; and below that is an F.

Rounding and taking improvement into account is at the discretion of the instructor; please don't request it. That said, I do automatically round .50 and higher to the next grade (e.g. 89.5% or higher automatically becomes 90) for final course grades (only).

Please note: Official final grades will reflect rounding at the .5 level as described above, but Canvas will not show it, ever. What gets sent to the Registrar as a final course grade is what goes on your transcript, not what shows in Canvas, so please don't send emails asking about that. You can check your official final grades from within your Portal page (not Canvas). Canvas gradebook grades are not official grades, they are an approximation of your grade listed online for your convenience.

Practice Time Management for Success:

Use time management to help plan all your activities; it will help you figure out how to allocate your time to avoid last-minute crunches or overloading.

Top 4 free time management apps for students:

1. [Google Calendar](#)
2. [Todoist](#)
3. [Pomofocus](#)
4. [Notion](#)

Timeframe for Feedback

Turnaround time for grading: Written work normally will be graded within two weeks after the deadline to turn work in.

Syllabus Modification

This instructor may modify any aspect of this syllabus should it be required. Any modifications will be posted to Canvas, and sent to students as a Canvas announcement. It is your responsibility to check your ENMU email frequently when the course is in session. Any typographical errors that may appear in this syllabus will be corrected upon being discovered, and are not a basis for any claim regarding a grade or policy exception or change.



Academic Integrity Policy

Plagiarism and Cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. See the Student Handbook for further information. **I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. Additionally, the use of AI-generated content (for example, via ChatGPT and other AI tools) and the attempt to submit AI-generated content as your own work is considered academic dishonesty.** I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so **please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.** Plagiarism is a serious offense. When in doubt, please cite your sources! Please refer to the Catalog for information concerning plagiarism; action can include but is not limited to failure of the assignment; failure of, or a reduced grade for the course; suspension or dismissal from your program of study.

Accessibility Statement

If you have, or believe you have a disability, you may contact the Accessibility Resources and Testing Center to coordinate reasonable classroom accommodations, access to technology, or other academic assistance. The Accessibility Resources and Testing Center serves students with a wide range of disabilities including but not limited to medical or health impairment, vision or hearing disability, physical disability, learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder, or mental health impairment. All information will be treated confidentially.

Accommodations are not retroactive. They begin only after:

- 1) Appropriate documentation has been received and accepted by the Coordinator of Disability Services;
- 2) Letters of Accommodation (LOA) have been prepared; and
- 3) You have delivered your Letters of Accommodation to your instructors.

Appropriate academic accommodations may then be provided for you. You may contact Accessibility Resources and Testing Center by visiting Room 189 of the Student Support Services building, or contacting them via telephone at (575)562-2280.



FERPA and Privacy

As a student, your educational records are considered confidential. Under FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act), your records are confidential and protected. Under most circumstances your records will not be released without your written and signed consent. However, some directory information may be released to third parties without your prior consent unless a written request to restrict this is on file. You can learn more about student rights to privacy on the university's [FERPA webpage](#).

In this course, we will be working with third party applications online (i.e., wikis, blogs, and other Web 2.0 applications). The different proprietors of these sites may or may not have privacy guarantees and the FERPA policy at ENMU does not apply to these sites. It will be your responsibility to read the privacy documentation at each site. There are many other options to protecting your information at these sites. If you have filed the paperwork and are classified as protected under the ENMU FERPA qualifications, it will be acceptable for you to use an alias when using the Web 2.0 sites required for this course. If you still have concerns, please e-mail me as soon as possible to discuss your options.

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are either linked to or are being used in compliance with the Fair Use doctrine to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this classroom environment and your use only. All copyrighted materials are credited to the copyright holder.

Title IX

ENMU is committed to fostering a safe, productive learning environment and we comply with all aspects related to Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and 34 C.F.R. Part 106. Title IX prohibits sex discrimination to include all forms of sexual harassment as defined in the university's [Title IX Policy](#).

Incidents of harassment or assault can be reported to the Title IX Coordinator by phone at (575)562-2235 or by email at titleix.coordinator@enmu.edu. You may report any crime including sexual assault to the ENMU Police Department by calling (575)562-2392 or 911. If you wish to receive fully confidential support and victim's advocacy you can contact ENMU's Health and Wellness at (575)562-2211.

Confidentiality and Mandatory Reporting

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. I also have a mandatory reporting responsibility. I am required to share information regarding sexual misconduct or information about a crime that may have occurred on ENMU's



campus with the Title IX Coordinator and/or the ENMU Police. Students may speak to someone confidentially by contacting ENMU's Health and Wellness at (575)562-2211.