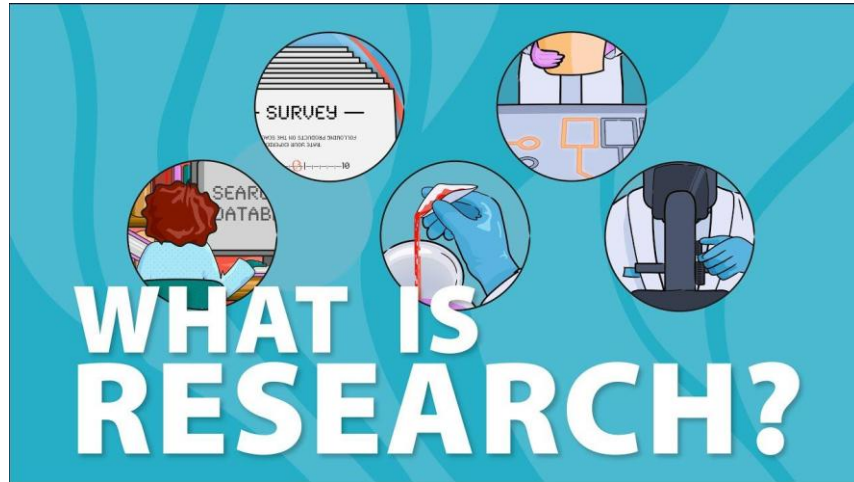


Monday 11:30-12:30; Weds & Thursday by apptSTS 205: Intro to Research Methods



Monday/Wednesday 8:30-9:50

Class Location: FMH 305

Facilitator: Dr. Theresa Hunt

Email: thunt@njit.edu

Office: 115 Cullimore Hall

Office Hours: by appointment

Prerequisites: HUM 101 and 102 or equivalent

Course Description:

This course is intended to give first and second year undergraduate students an understanding of what research is, what it is used for, how it is conducted, and how it is reported. It provides an overview of applying the scientific method to real-life research, including ethical concerns, qualitative and quantitative methods (and how and when they should be used), and how to critically evaluate published research findings. Students work with faculty mentors on research projects, while writing proposals for the support of future research.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Identify a research problem
- Identify and mitigate ethical issues associated with a research project
- Conduct a thorough literature review and critique published research
- Develop research questions and hypotheses
- Determine which type of data is most appropriate to answer the research questions
- Assess multiple formats for organizing, developing, and presenting research
- Develop a research network and understand how to communicate with faculty, graduate students, peers, etc. about research

Required Readings:

Excerpts from the following text, as well as several other articles and book chapters available on Canvas, will be assigned periodically throughout the class:

Bhattacharjee, Anol (2012). [*Social Science Research: Principles, Methods, and Practices 2e.*](#) Tampa: University of South Florida. **ISBN: 9781475146127**

Graded Assignments & Assessment

Formula

Research Project	55%	
• Peer Review Activities	10%	Structured peer feedback on draft work
• Presentation	10%	Research presentation
• Final Research Poster	15%	Research poster
• Final Research Proposal	20%	Formal written proposal
CITI Training:	5%	Completion of CITI certification in research ethics.

Graded Assignments & Assessment

Formula

Lab Practicum / Faculty Mentorship 25% Weekly applied practicum (3–5 hrs/weekly) in research

Class Participation & Attendance 15% Engagement in in-class activities, workshops, and advising.

Late Paper Submissions: Papers and other tasks will lose one grade for every day late (A to A-, A- to B+). Assignments will not be accepted more than 3 days late, with the exception of **final** projects, which will not be accepted 24 hours after the deadline.

Paper Formatting: All papers should be typed, double-spaced, 12 pt standard font (Times, Helvetica, Arial, etc), 1” margins. For digital submission, only the following file types are accepted: pdf, doc, docx.

Grading Scale (for assignments only, course grades will not include: A+, A-, B-, C-, D+):

96-100:A+; 93-95: A; 89-92: A-; 86-88:B+; 83-85:B; 79-82:B-; 76-78:C+; 73-75:C; 69-72:C-
66-68:D+; 60-65:D; 0-60: F

Academic Integrity:

Students are expected to follow the University Code on Academic Integrity. Plagiarism including the undocumented use of AI will not be tolerated. All cases of suspected plagiarism/cheating will be reported for investigation. For details, see:

<http://www.njit.edu/academics/integrity.php>

Technology Rules and Participation Expectations:

Students may use technology (ie laptops, tablets, phones) in this course for class-related activities only. Texting, playing games, etc. interrupts the flow of discussion, distracts other students, distracts instruction, and is therefore not allowed. During our conversations in class, students are expected to be **actively engaged**, and various methods will be employed to assess engagement throughout the semester. Use of LLMs such as ChatGPT to complete assignments should be done with extreme caution. We will be using the platform to experiment with ethical issues in primary research. However, having ChatGPT complete assignments for you and attempting to claim they are your own original work is grounds for failure of this class, as well as disciplinary action for violating NJIT’s academic integrity standards.

Students with Learning Differences:

Students who have special needs should contact NJIT's Student Disability Services to help procure accommodations in completing coursework. The center can be found at <http://www.njit.edu/counseling/services/disabilities.php>.

Course Schedule – Subject to Change as Needed

Week 1: Introduction

9/3 – Course Overview

Week 2: Research Foundations

9/8 – Required Reading: [Bhattacharjee](#), Chapters 1-3

9/10 – Guest Lecture: Dr. Viravid Nanagara presenting [Projects at the Center for Natural Resources](#)

Week 3: Research Prep

9/15 – Required Reading: Dixon, “The Ethics and Politics of Research”

Assignment 1 Due: Bio-sketch & preliminary topic interest summary

9/17- Guest Lecture: [Dr. Abriana Gresham](#)

CITI Certifications Due by 5 PM on Friday, 9/19

Week 4: Bibliographic Research Refresher

9/22 – Research Groups: Meeting 1

9/24 – Bibliographic Research Session; Class meets in VHL

Week 5: Research Debrief

9/29 – Research Groups: Meeting 2

10/1 – Guest Lecture: [Dr. Christine Liaukus](#)

Assignment 2 Due: Preliminary Lit Review

Week 6: Preparing for Practicum & On-Campus URI Opportunities

10/6 – Research Groups: Debrief & Practicum reminders

10/8 – **Practicum Work Begins**; schedule and assignments TBD

Week 7: Practicum

10/13 & 10/15 – Mentor Practicum; schedule and assignments TBD

Assignment 3 Due: Check-in #1

Week 8: Practicum

10/20 & 10/22 – Mentor Practicum; schedule and assignments TBD

Assignment 4 Due: Check-in #2

Week 9: Practicum

10/27 & 10/29 – Mentor Practicum; schedule and assignments TBD

Assignment 5 Due: Check-in #3

Week 10: Progress & Proposals

11/3: Required Reading: [Barwich, “The Value of Failure in Science”](#); [Eise, “What Institutions Can Do To Improve Science Communication”](#); Choose a project of interest from the [2025 URI Symposium Book of Abstracts](#) & be ready to summarize it during class!

11/5: Required Reading:

- [Sample Research Proposal 1 \(with comments\)](#)
- ["Organizing Your Social Sciences Research Paper: Writing a Research Proposal."](#) University of Southern California Libraries, Jan. 15, 2019.
- [“How To Prepare a Research Proposal.”](#) Al-Riyami, *Oman Medical Journal* 2008 PMID: [22379539](#).

Week 11: Progress & Posters

11/10 – Required Reading: “[Preparing and Presenting Effective Research Posters.](#)” Miller, *Health Services Research* 2007.

11/12 – Research Groups Meet: Planning Sessions TBA

Week 12: Practicum

11/17 & 11/19 – Mentor Practicum; schedule and assignments TBD

Week 13: Practicum & DRAFT Ideas

11/24 – Mentor Practicum; schedule and assignments TBD

Assignment 6: Draft Proposal Due 11/25

Week 14: Lab Practicum

12/1 & 12/3: Mentor Practicum; schedule and assignments TBD

Assignment 7: Proposal Peer Reviews Due 12/5

Week 15: Project Presentations

12/8 – Session 1; **Assignment 8-A: Reviews due by end of class time**

12/10 – Session 2; **Assignment 8-B: Reviews due by end of class time**

Final Proposal and Poster Due by midnight on Friday, December 12