

NRES 389: Methods in Social Science
Mondays & Wednesdays, 9:30-10:45, TNR 255
Spring 2019 Syllabus

Course Instructor

Dr. Kendra Liddicoat

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Office Hours: Mondays 11:00-12:00, Tuesdays 4:00-5:30, Thursdays 1:00-3:00

Course Catalog Description

Connect natural resources with people using a variety of problem analysis skills.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide students in the human dimensions of natural resource management with an introduction to social science research methods. The growing need for understanding the role of individuals, communities, and society in shaping the natural environment has led to a greater emphasis on natural resource social science and providing training in the research methods to support these efforts. It is an exciting time to enter this arena as many research and community initiatives are combining the efforts of natural and social scientists to achieve better conservation outcomes, promote sustainable behaviors, and increase awareness and understanding of the complex environmental challenges facing our society.

Learning Objectives

Developing your research skills is a continuous process that is enhanced by each opportunity to expand the tools available to you by building your understanding of the methods that drive this work. It is important to know that many of our natural resource social science challenges cannot be addressed solely by applying one set of research tools, but rather it is common that researchers apply the best set of methods -- often using a mixed methods approach -- to assist them in achieving their research objectives. Over the course of the semester students will cultivate a number of professional skills based on the following objectives:

1. To understand the role of human dimensions research in natural resource management.
2. To understand the common phases of developing both theory-driven research and program evaluation.
3. To conceptually model the relationship between social variables and understand the types of research methods available to explore these relationships.
4. To develop a basic understanding of analysis tools and techniques available for quantitative and qualitative data sets.

Course Resources

Text rental: O'Leary, Z. (2017). *The essential guide to doing your research project (3rd ed)*. Los Angeles, CA: SAGE.

D2L: Selected articles and chapters. Lecture PowerPoints posted at the instructor's discretion.

Course Policies

In order to help you gain as much as possible from the course, we need to create an environment that is conducive to learning. Therefore, you will be an active course participant, arrive on time, refrain from cell phone use during class, and be prepared for each class by completing assignments by the designated dates. If something comes up that interferes with your participation in class, please let me know. One excused absence from class will be allowed with no point deduction if arranged prior to absence.

Learning Assessments

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Points</i>
Attendance and Participation	30
CITI Human Subjects Training (> 80%)	12
Research Summary	10
Reading Questions (RQs) (10 required)	20
News article presentation	6
Case study presentation	14
In class exercises	14
Exams (3)	44
<i>Total</i>	<i>150</i>

All submissions should be submitted through D2L unless otherwise specified. Professionally presented papers are clear and cohesive, have been checked for spelling and grammatical errors, and are submitted by the deadline to earn full credit.

Course grade calculation:

$$\frac{\text{Total Points Earned}}{150} \times 100 = \text{percentage}$$

Grading Scale

93-100% = A 83-86 = B 73-76 = C 60-66 = D
90-92 = A- 80-82 = B- 70-72 = C- <59 = F
87-89 = B+ 77-79 = C+ 67-69 = D+

UWSP Community Bill of Rights and Responsibilities

UWSP values a safe, honest, respectful, and inviting learning environment. In order to ensure that each student has the opportunity to succeed, we have developed a set of expectations for all students and instructors. This set of expectations is known as the Rights and Responsibilities document, and it is intended to help establish a positive living and learning environment at UWSP. Click here for more information: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Pages/rightsandresponsibilities.aspx>. Academic integrity is central to the mission of higher education in general and UWSP in particular. Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) is taken very seriously. Don't do it! The minimum penalty for a violation of academic integrity is a failure (zero) for the assignment. For more information, see the UWSP "Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures" section of the Rights and Responsibilities document, Chapter 14, which can be accessed here:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/SRR-2010/rightsChap14.pdf>

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal law requiring educational institutions to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information about UWSP's policies, check here: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/ADA/rightsADAPolicyInfo.pdf>. If you have a disability and require classroom and/or exam accommodations, please register with the Disability and Assistive Technology Center and then contact me at the beginning of the course. I am happy to help in any way that I can. For more information, please visit the Disability and Assistive Technology Center, located on the 6th floor of Albertson Hall (the Library). You can also find more information here: <http://www4.uwsp.edu/special/disability/>

NRES 389: Methods in Social Science
Tentative Schedule for Spring 2019

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due	Location	
1	1/23	Introduction				
2	1/28	Being smart consumers	D2L: Girl Scout impact studies	Reading Questions (RQs1)		
	1/30	Making a difference through Evaluation and Research	Select article to share in class	News article presentation		
3	2/4	Asking good questions	O'Leary Ch 3	RQs 2 In-class exercise		
	2/6	Finding and using literature	O'Leary Ch 6	RQs 3	TNR 356	
4	2/11	Finding and using literature	D2L: McGregor			
	2/13	Finding and using literature	D2L: HDNRM Faculty research	Research summary	CCC 307	
5	2/18	Social science variables	D2L: Ewert, Mitten, & Overholt	RQs 4		
	2/20	Research/Eval designs	O'Leary Ch 8	RQs 5		
6	2/25	Research/Eval designs	D2L: Henderson, Bialeschki & Browne	RQs 6 In-class exercise		
	2/27	Exam 1				
7	3/4	Sampling	O'Leary Ch 11	RQs 7		
	3/6	Questionnaires & Surveys	O'Leary pp 224-238 D2L: Patten	RQs 8		
8	3/11	Questionnaires & Surveys		In-class exercise	CCC 307	
	3/13	Research Ethics	D2L: CITI Training			
		SPRING BREAK				
9	3/25	Interviews & Focus Groups	O'Leary pp 239-250	CITI Training certificate RQs 9		
	3/27	Interviews & Focus Groups		In-class exercise		
10	4/1	Observation	O'Leary pp 250-260	RQs 10 In-class exercise		
	4/3	Attend CNR Undergraduate Research Symposium (4/5)				
11	4/8	Exam 2				
	4/10	Quantitative Data Analysis	O'Leary Ch 14	RQs 11		
12	4/15	Quantitative Data Analysis				
	4/17	Quantitative Data Analysis		In-class exercise	CCC 307	
13	4/22	Qualitative Data Analysis	O'Leary Ch 15 D2L: Saldana & Omasta	RQs 12		
	4/24	Qualitative Data Analysis		In-class exercise	TNR 356	
14	4/29	TBD				
	5/1	Case studies		Case study presentation		
15	5/6	Case studies		Case study presentation		
	5/8	Case studies		Case study presentation		
Finals		Final exam				