

Honors Forum – Social Science

Instructor Information

Dr. Elizabeth Rard
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Office Hours:
M 1:00-2:30
T 10:30-11:30
W 9:00-10:30
F 9:30-10:30

Course Information

Honors 3D 52500
Fall 2020

Delivery: 100% Online
Asynchronous Lectures

Recorded Synchronous Discussion: Thursdays (and possibly an occasional Tuesday) 12:00-1:00

*Attendance at these discussions is an important part of this course. If you will be unable to make these meetings regularly please contact me ASAP.

Description

This is an interdisciplinary investigation of a contemporary issue through the perspective of those disciplines considered part of the Social Sciences. Enrolled students will be required to present their research as the culminating portion of the course.

Text

While we do not have an official textbook for this class I will occasionally recommend sections from:

Bhattacharjee, Anol, "Social Science Research: Principles, Methods, and Practices" (2012). Textbooks Collection. 3.

Which can be downloaded for free at:

https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/oa_textbooks/3/?utm_source=scholarcommons.usf.edu%2Foa_textbooks%2F3&utm_medium=PDF&utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages

In addition, supplemental materials will be posted to Canvas throughout the semester.

Faculty Mentor

While I will provide you with as much guidance throughout this process as I can you will also need to find a faculty mentor who can give you additional guidance and feedback related to your project. You may choose an instructor or staff member who is knowledgeable in your research subject, or who will provide you with general guidance throughout the semester. If you know of someone who is an expert in your topic but who is not a member of the faculty or staff of Reedley (or another college) you may choose a mentor from outside academia. Students should choose their mentor by the end of Week 6.

Grading

15% Weekly Discussion Board Updates (1% x15)

10% Collegiality

10% Research Proposals

1st Draft (3%)

2nd Draft (3%)

Final Draft (4%)

10% Individual Progress Meetings (5% x2)

30% Presentations

Initial Research Proposal Presentations (5%)

Proposal Presentations (5%)

Midterm Presentation (5%)

Research Update Presentation (5%)

Final Class Presentation (5%)

Final Research Findings Presentation (5%)

10% Research Poster

Draft Poster (4%)

Final Poster (6%)

5% Slides

Draft Slides (2%)

Final Slides (3%)

10% Quality of Research

Final Grade Breakdown:

<u>Percent of total points</u>	<u>Grade</u>
90-100	A
80-89.99	B
70-79.99	C
60-69.99	D
50-59.99	F

Course Policies

Course Communication policy

Keeping in contact with your instructor is key to your success in any course. Here is some important information about how we'll keep in touch throughout the semester.

Where to find everything:

- **Canvas:** All course materials, instructions, assignments, etc. will be posted on Canvas. New course content will be released every Monday between 12:00-1:00. Course content will be organized in weekly modules.

How you can contact me:

- **Email:** You can contact me by sending an email to me at elizabeth.rard@reedleycollege.edu, or by messaging me through Canvas. When contacting me please include your **full name and class number** in the subject line of your message, and observe professional email etiquette. If emailing me directly please use only your official SCCCD email account. I am available Monday-Friday between the hours of 9am and 5pm and will respond to your email within 24 hours.
- **Office Hours:** During my office hours I am available via either of the above methods. In addition, I will be available through Zoom for live one-on-one video and audio drop in office hours. Please see the **Office Hours Page** of the **Course Information** module for my up-to-date office hour schedule, and for more information about how to join office hours using Zoom.

How I will contact you:

- **Class Announcements:** I will post weekly class announcements on Canvas that will include reminders about upcoming assignments, any changes to our plan, or any other important information that I need to share with the class. Students are expected to check class announcements regularly on our course page.
- **Individual Messages:** If I need to get in contact with you specifically I will send a message through the Canvas inbox. Students are expected to check their SCCCD email regularly to monitor for any important communications.

Attendance and Drop Policy

Students are expected to participate consistently and regularly in all parts of this course throughout the semester.

- **Week One Drop:** During the first week of class students must post an introduction message or video in the **Introduction Discussion**. Any student who does not post by **noon on Thursday of the first week of class** will be dropped as a no show.
- **Attendance:** Each week students are expected to post to a weekly discussion board. Attendance will be recorded based on completion of the discussion board. Failure to post before our class

meetings on Thursday will count as an absence for the week. If a student has **more than two absences** prior to the end of Week 9 they may be **dropped from the class**. Please contact your instructor immediately in case of any emergency situation that results in more than two absences.

In addition, there are weekly Zoom meetings (Thursday 12:00-1:00, with the option to add a Tuesday from time to time). Regular attendance at these is expected throughout the semester, and most of your presentations will be given during these meetings. If you are unable to commit to regular attendance at these meetings please contact me ASAP to discuss our options.

Late Work Policy

Staying on top of course work is crucial to a smooth and successful semester. The late penalties outlined below are designed to help you stay on track and not fall behind. That being said I realize that sometimes life gets in the way. Always communicate with your instructor (me!) in a timely fashion if events occur that will prevent your timely completion of class assignments.

- **Discussion posts:** These assignments are given weekly and are time sensitive. The weekly discussion board will become available at **noon on Monday** of the week they are given, and will close at **noon on Monday of the following week**. Once this assignment has closed it cannot be made up. Note: This assignment also counts as your attendance for the week. The two lowest scores for each will be dropped.
- **Presentations:** Presentations are time sensitive as they are designed to keep you moving forward on your research project, and to allow you to get regular timely feedback on your work. If you miss a scheduled presentation and have a **valid, documented reason** you will be allowed to make up the presentation, but will need to make it up within **one week**, at the next class meeting, in a small group meeting, or in a one-on-one with the instructor. The setting of the makeup will be determined by the instructor.

There are two mandatory presentations that cannot be made up:

Thursday, Oct. 8, 6:00-7:00 pm

Thursday, Dec. 10, 6:00-7:00 pm

If you cannot make these two presentations you need to contact me ASAP! If it is impossible for you to attend these meetings due to circumstances beyond your control then the presentations will be made up in a different setting.

- **All other assignments:** All other assignments (such as proposals, slides, posters etc.) can be submitted past the due date. If an assignment is not **submitted by the deadline** it will receive a 10% penalty. If an assignment is more than **24 hours late** the penalty will increase to 20%. Because of the cumulative nature of the assignments in this course, late work will **not be accepted** if it is more than **2 weeks past the due date**. As always, contact me if there are extreme circumstances.

Coursework

Discussion Board Posts

Students are required to post to a weekly discussion board, and to reply to at least three fellow classmates per week. Specific directions will be provided each week but usually you will be giving an update on your research that is shorter than a class presentation, and will be providing feedback to your classmates on their progress. Students need to make their **initial post** by **noon on Thursday** of the week they are due, and must post **responses** to other students by **noon on the following Monday**. Please follow academic etiquette when interacting on discussion boards.

Collegiality

This is a course not only in developing and presenting a research project, but in becoming a responsible member of an academic community. You are expected to support each other through advice, feedback, and constructive critique. Your collegiality score will measure the extent to which you provide feedback and support to your classmates in Zoom meetings and on Discussion boards, and contribute to the Resources discussion board.

Research Proposal

The first step in a research project is to clearly define what it is you will be researching. Your research proposal will go through three rounds of revisions, with the goal of creating a research proposal that is ready to submit to future conferences.

Individual Progress Meeting

To ensure that everyone is on track and getting the support they need we will have (at least) two one-on-one meetings during the semester during which we discuss your progress and plan your next steps. Your score for this will be based on attendance and preparation for these meetings.

Presentations

A huge component of both academic and professional research is the presentation of the research. This is how you inform others about what you are discovering, and how you get the feedback necessary to polish your own work. You will give a total of 6 presentations over the semester, some during our weekly Zoom meetings and others at two culminating presentation events during the semester.

Research Poster

Poster presentations are a common method of research presentation. You will each create a poster that presents your research in the standard form, and will polish this poster *as if* you were going to present it at a conference.

Slides

Because of the current situation, you will be giving your presentations via the internet rather than during a face-to-face poster presentation session. The slides will present the same information that is contained in your poster, but formatted in a way that can be easily presented in a short online presentation.

Quality of Research

A portion of your grade will be determined by the level of quality of the research you conduct throughout the semester. This grade will evaluate the content of your research project and will be an evaluation of the work you present throughout the semester. The grade will be based on:

- Developing a clear research question
- Determining well-defined goals for your project
- Meeting the goals of your proposal
- Proper research methodology
- Demonstration of depth and rigor in research
- Demonstrated understanding of the context of your research
- Addressing questions surrounding your research
- Clearly communicating your results
- Showing passion and enthusiasm for your research

Where to find your grade

Grades will be available on Canvas. Assignment/exam scores will be posted to Canvas.. **IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO BRING ANY MISSING/WRONG SCORES TO THE ATTENTION OF THE INSTRUCTOR ASAP.** All problems must be reported to the instructor within 24 hours of the final exam. After that scores will not be changed. Any student with a question about their current grade in the course should feel encouraged to contact the instructor.

Special Needs Requests

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact your instructor as soon as possible.

Academic Dishonesty

Students at Reedley College are entitled to the best education that the college can make available to them, and they, their instructors, and their fellow students share the responsibility to ensure that this education is honestly attained. Because cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the integrity of the college, each student is expected to exert an entirely honest effort in all academic endeavors. Academic dishonesty in any form is a very serious offense and will incur serious consequences.

Cheating

Cheating is the act or attempted act of taking an examination or performing an assigned, evaluated task in a fraudulent or deceptive manner, such as having improper access to answers, in an attempt to gain an unearned academic advantage. Cheating may include, but is not limited to, copying from another's work, supplying one's work to another, giving or receiving copies of examinations without an instructor's permission, using or playing notes or devices inappropriate to the conditions of the examination, allowing someone other than the officially enrolled student to represent the student, or failing to disclose research results completely.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating: the use of another's words or ideas without identifying them as such or giving credit to the source. Plagiarism may include, but is not limited to, failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others, failing to identify the contributors to work done in collaboration, submitting duplicate work to be evaluated in different courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors involved, or failing to observe computer security systems and software copyrights.

Incidents of cheating and plagiarism may result in any of a variety of sanctions and penalties, which may range from a failing grade on a particular examination, paper, project, or assignment in question to a failing grade in the course, at the discretion of the instructor and depending on the severity and frequency of the incidents.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Place a focus of research within a Social Science context
2. Explain how different disciplines can contribute information to a common research question.

Objectives

In the process of completing this course, students will:

1. Write appropriately documented essays which define, evaluate, interpret, and argue interdisciplinary topics.
2. Practice critical thinking skills in evaluating and presenting research
3. Develop interdisciplinary hypotheses and questions about a focus of research with guidance from the instructor.
4. Lead/participate in discussions to investigate questions and concerns regarding the identified focus of research.
5. Revise "first thoughts" or original hypotheses in light of deeper research and in collaboration with the instructor, classmates, and experts in the field.
6. Build a background in a social science discipline broad enough to contribute to a multi-discipline research project.
7. Experience an integrated academic atmosphere in an effort to stimulate intellectual curiosity and university-level discussion on a focus of research.
8. Synthesize information and knowledge using skills obtained from separate disciplines within the Social Sciences.

Advisories

ENGL 1A or ENGL 1AH Reading and Composition

The following course schedule is **tentative**. The amount of time we spend on any given paper/topic will be partly determined by the energy of the discussion and the level of participation. Material will be removed from the schedule to allow for more in depth discussion when required. Any changes to the schedule will be announced in class ahead of time.

Week	Plan
Week 1 8/10 - 8/14	<p><u>Zoom Discussion: Thursday 12:00-1:00</u> Introductions, Interests, and Developing your Research Question</p> <p><u>Discussion Board Post</u> Initial Post Due 8/13 by noon. Peer Feedback Posts Due 8/17 by noon.</p>
Week 2 8/17 -8/21	<p><u>Zoom Discussion: Thursday 12:00-1:00</u> Developing your topic and proposal</p> <p><u>Discussion Board Post</u> Initial Post Due 8/20 by noon. Peer Feedback Posts Due 8/24 by noon.</p> <p><u>Important Dates</u> 8/21 is the last day to drop with a refund</p>
Week 3 8/24 – 8/28	<p><u>Zoom Discussion: Thursday 12:00-1:00</u> Initial Research Proposal Presentations</p> <p><u>Discussion Board Post</u> Initial Post Due 8/27 by noon. Peer Feedback Posts Due 8/31 by noon.</p> <p><u>Assignments</u> 1st Draft Proposals are Due 8/26 by noon</p> <p><u>Important Dates</u> 8/28 is the last day to drop to avoid a 'W' in person. 8/30 is the last day to drop to avoid a 'W' on WebAdvisor</p>
Week 4 8/31 – 9/4	<p><u>Zoom Discussion: Thursday 12:00-1:00</u> Initial Research Proposal Presentations</p> <p><u>Discussion Board Post</u> Initial Post Due 9/3 by noon. Peer Feedback Posts Due 9/7 by noon.</p> <p><u>Assignments</u> 2nd Draft Proposals are Due 9/2 by noon</p>

	<p><u>Individual Meeting w/ Instructor</u> Meet with instructor during week 4-5</p>
<p>Week 5 9/7 – 9/11</p>	<p><u>Zoom Discussion: Thursday 12:00-1:00</u> Proposal Presentations</p> <p><u>Discussion Board Post</u> Initial Post Due 9/10 by noon. Peer Feedback Posts Due 9/14 by noon.</p> <p><u>Assignments:</u> Final Proposals are Due 9/9 by noon.</p> <p><u>Individual Meeting w/ Instructor</u> Meet with instructor during week 4-5</p> <p><u>Important Dates</u> 9/7 Labor Day (no classes) 9/11 Last Day to change to/from Pass/No Pass grading</p>
<p>Week 6 9/14 – 9/18</p>	<p><u>Zoom Discussion: Thursday 12:00-1:00</u> Proposal Presentations</p> <p><u>Discussion Board Post</u> Initial Post Due 9/17 by noon. Peer Feedback Posts Due 9/21 by noon.</p>
<p>Week 7 9/21 – 9/25</p>	<p><u>Zoom Discussion: Thursday 12:00-1:00</u> Research Progress Updates</p> <p><u>Discussion Board Post</u> Initial Post Due 9/24 by noon. Peer Feedback Posts Due 9/28 by noon.</p> <p><u>Assignments</u> Survey Questions Due 9/23 by noon (if applicable).</p>
<p>Week 8 9/28 – 10/2</p>	<p><u>Zoom Discussion: Thursday 12:00-1:00</u> Research Progress Updates</p> <p><u>Discussion Board Post</u> Initial Post Due 10/1 by noon. Peer Feedback Posts Due 10/5 by noon.</p>
<p>Week 9 10/5 – 10/9</p>	<p><u>Zoom Discussion: Thursday 12:00-1:00</u> Research Progress Updates</p> <p><u>Midterm Presentation: Thursday 6:00-7:00</u> Introduce your project and present on status of your research.</p> <p><u>Discussion Board Post</u> Initial Post Due 10/8 by noon.</p>

	<p>Peer Feedback Posts Due 10/12 by noon.</p> <p><u>Important Dates</u></p> <p>10/9 Last day to drop a full-term class</p>
<p>Week 10</p> <p>10/12 -10/16</p>	<p><u>Zoom Discussion: Thursday 12:00-1:00</u> Research Progress Updates</p> <p><u>Discussion Board Post</u></p> <p>Initial Post Due 10/15 by noon. Peer Feedback Posts Due 10/19 by noon.</p> <p><u>Individual Meeting w/ Instructor</u> Meet with instructor during week 10-11</p>
<p>Week 11</p> <p>10/19 – 10/23</p>	<p><u>Zoom Discussion: Thursday 12:00-1:00</u> Research Update Presentations Start Posters</p> <p><u>Discussion Board Post</u></p> <p>Initial Post Due 10/22 by noon. Peer Feedback Posts Due 10/26 by noon.</p> <p><u>Individual Meeting w/ Instructor</u> Meet with instructor during week 10-11</p>
<p>Week 12</p> <p>10/26 – 10/30</p>	<p><u>Zoom Discussion: Thursday 12:00-1:00</u> Research Update Presentations</p> <p><u>Discussion Board Post</u></p> <p>Initial Post Due 10/29 by noon. Peer Feedback Posts Due 11/2 by noon.</p>
<p>Week 13</p> <p>11/2 – 11/6</p>	<p><u>Zoom Discussion: Thursday 12:00-1:00</u> Research Update Presentations</p> <p><u>Discussion Board Post</u></p> <p>Initial Post Due 11/5 by noon. Peer Feedback Posts Due 11/9 by noon.</p> <p><u>Assignment</u> Slides Draft Due 11/4 by noon</p>
<p>Week 14</p> <p>11/9 – 11/13</p>	<p><u>Zoom Discussion: Thursday 12:00-1:00</u> Work on Final Presentations, Posters, and Slides</p> <p><u>Discussion Board Post</u></p> <p>Initial Post Due 11/12 by noon. Peer Feedback Posts Due 11/16 by noon.</p> <p><u>Assignment</u> Poster Draft Due 11/11 by noon.</p>

	<p>Important Dates 11/11 Veterans Day (no classes)</p>
<p>Week 15 11/16 – 11/20</p>	<p><u>Zoom Discussion: Thursday 12:00-1:00</u> Final Class Presentations</p> <p><u>Discussion Board Post</u> Initial Post Due 11/19 by noon. Peer Feedback Posts Due 11/23 by noon.</p> <p><u>Assignment</u> Presentation Slides are Due 11/18 by noon</p>
<p>Week 16 11/23 – 11/27</p>	<p><u>Zoom Discussion: Tuesday 12:00-1:00</u> Final Class Presentations</p> <p><u>Assignments:</u> Final Posters are Due 11/25 by noon</p> <p><u>Important Dates</u> 11/26-11/27 Thanksgiving Holiday (no classes)</p>
<p>Week 17 11/30 – 12/4</p>	<p><u>Zoom Discussion: Thursday 12:00-1:00</u> Final Class Presentations</p> <p><u>Discussion Board Post</u> Initial Post Due 12/3 by noon. Peer Feedback Posts Due 12/7 by noon.</p>
<p>Week 18 12/7 – 12/11</p>	<p>Thursday, December 10, 6-7pm Final Research Findings Presentations</p>