

University of Salahaddin- Hewler  
Department of Social Work  
3rd Stage  
2023-2022



**Methods in Social Research**  
Course book

**Instructor:** Sangar Y. Salih

**Office Hours:** Monday 10:00 – 12:00

**Class Time:** Saturday 10:30 – 11:15 AM

**E-mail:** [Sangar.salih@su.edu.krd](mailto:Sangar.salih@su.edu.krd)

11:30 – 12:15

Tuesday 8:30 – 10:15

11:30 – 1:15

### **Course description:**

An introduction to the process, logic and skills of social science research inquiry. The course discusses issues such as: what is scientific social research; how does it differ from other ways of viewing and representing social world; how empirical research interacts with social theory and existing knowledge; why are we talking about methodological pluralism in social sciences; what are the basic principles in social research and on what ontological and epistemological assumptions are they based; what are the methodological implications of choosing one or the other of the research approaches. Ethics and politics in social research as well as the criteria for assessing the quality of social research will be also discussed.

### **Course Objectives:**

This course is designed to achieve the followings:

1. Understand how social scientists generate our knowledge about the social world, and why we do it the ways we do.
2. Know how to use a variety of tools and approaches to assist in your (or others') research.
3. Being able to recognize and differentiate between the nature of qualitative and quantitative researches.
4. Gain insight into systematic literature review in social science researches.
5. Develop your own empirical research question(s) and ability to find answers.
6. Being familiar with Ethics and politics in social research.

### **Course Outcomes:**

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

1. Demonstrate their comprehension of knowledge production process.
2. Identify the major paradigms, concepts, and methods in social research and recognize the relations between theory and research.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the nature of qualitative and quantitative methods.
4. Generate research questions and identify the techniques that help them to find answers
5. Conduct systematic literature review.
6. Recognize the ethical principles of conducting research.

### **Teaching Methods**

Lecture, group discussions, student presentation, individual work, and selected readings.

**Google classroom:** You can find all readings and course materials on Google Classroom . I will also use google classroom for the course announcements and updates, including an up-to-date version of the syllabus should there be any changes. You are responsible for reading everything posted on the course site and/or sent to you by email.

**Course Assignments and gradings:**

**1. Class attendance (5%):**

Students must be seen in each lecture, fully prepared with the materials that given to them by their coordinator.

**2. Weekly class participation and quizzes (5%):**

Students should be prepared to discuss each week's assigned readings and to participate in the class discussions. Students must be prepared for sudden quizzes during the course.

**3. Individual work (%10):** Each student will be asked to choose research(s) in any language, read and have a critical reflection on what they read, then they will have a chance to present their feedback during their presentation in the class.

**4. Individual/ Group assignment (%10):** Students are required to choose a topic and conduct a literature review based on the readings and class discussions. Maximum, two students are allowed to do this assignment together, it means that students can do it alone as well.

**4. Exam (10%)**

Students will have exam (s) in which they will be announced and students will be informed beforehand about the date and any information related to the exam(s).

**Format and Procedures:**

1. You are expected to attend all lectures. If a student cannot attend a class session, the teacher must be notified prior to that.
2. Please be on time and ready to begin class at the prescribed time.
3. Make sure your **Cell** phone(s) is **turned off/ silent** within the class.
4. You are expected to have read all the assigned readings for each class, and come prepared to engage in discussions on them.
5. There will be unannounced quizzes in class to evaluate your comprehension of the assigned reading material.
6. Use **EXTRA** available resources in the library or any academic references that helps to improve students' knowledge and understandings.
7. Academic Dishonesty: academically dishonesty is a completely unacceptable code of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form.

**Course readings:**

1. W Lawrence, N., 2014. Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches. Seven Edition.
2. Bryman, A., 2012. Social research methods. Oxford university press. Fifth Edition.
3. Kumar, R., 2018. Research methodology: A step-by-step guide for beginners. Sage.
4. Krysik, J.L., 2010. Research for effective social work practice. Routledge.
5. Allen, R. and Babbie, E., 2009. Research methods for social work. Belmont, CA: Thomson Brooks/Cole.

### Course Content

Week	Subject	Readings
1	Course Introduction	- Course Book
2	Why do research?	- W. Lawrence Neuman , Pp 1-25
3	The nature and process of social research and its types.	- Bryman, A., 2012, Pp 3-16 - Kumar, R., 2018, Pp 1-15
4	The major types of social researches.	- W. Lawrence Neuman , Pp25-54
5	The Context of Social Work Research	- Krysik, J.L., 2010, Pp 1- 25
6	Research Strategy: 1. Epistemological and ontological issues 2. Theory and research (induction, deduction and abduction)	- Bryman A., 2012, Pp 18-44. - Lawrence Neumann, 2000, Pp 55-89.
7	1. Theory and research (induction, deduction and abduction)	- Lawrence Neumann, 2000, Pp 55-89 - Allen, R. and Babbie, E., 2009, Pp54-72
8	<b>Mid-Term Exam</b>	
9	<i>Ethics and politics in social research - criteria for assessing the quality of social research.</i>	- Krysik, J.L., 2013 Pp 26-47 - Allen, R. and Babbie, E., 2009, Pp73-105
10	Nature of quantitative research	Bryman, A., 2012, Pp 159-182
11	Nature of qualitative research	Bryman, A., 2012, Pp 379-413
12	Reviewing Literature	Kumar, R., 2018, Pp 31-42
13	Criteria in Social Research: Reliability, Replication, Validity, Relationship with research strategy	Bryman A., 2012, Pp 46-48 Kumar, R., 2018, Pp 177-187
14	Student's Presentations	Students
15	Student's Presentations	Students