Department	International College of Liberal Arts

Semester	Spring 2025	Year Offered (Odd/Even/Every Year)	Every Year

Course Number	PSCI/SOCI/ECON210

Course Title	Methods of Social Research

Prerequisites	None

Course Instructor	LARATTA Rosario	Year Available (Grade Level)	1
Subject Area	Political Science	Number of Credits	3
Class Style	Lecture	Language of instruction	English

(NOTE 1) Depending on the class size and the capacity of the facility, we may not be able to accommodate all students who wish to register for the course

Course Description	This course provides foundational tools for students to comprehend social research, focusing on crafting high-quality research papers/projects. Learn fundamental techniques to produce academically and scientifically rigorous work.
Class plan based on course evaluation from previous academic year	The feedback from students' course evaluations in the previous academic year was overwhelmingly positive, with no specific areas identified for improvement.
Course related to the instructor's practical experience (Summary of experience)	With over two decades of experience, I have been a reviewer for numerous peer-reviewed academic journals in this field.
Learning Goals	This course offers students a concise overview of social research, covering key approaches commonly employed in research projects. It furnishes practical insights into project execution. The primary aim is to ignite students' curiosity in conducting social research projects. By guiding them through the process, the course aims to demonstrate that engaging in a research project can be enjoyable and exhilarating.

iCLA Diploma Policy	DP1／DP2／DP3／DP4

iCLA Diploma Policy

(DP1) To Value Knowledge – Having high oral and written communication skills to be able to both comprehend and transfer knowledge

(DP2) To Be Able to Adapt to a Changing World – Having critical, creative, problem-solving, intercultural skills, global and independent mindset to adopt to a changing world

(DP3) To Believe in Collaboration – Having a disposition to work effectively and inclusively in teams

(DP4) To Act from a Sense of Personal and Social Responsibility – Having good ethical and moral values to make positive impacts in the world

Active Learning Methods	Problem-Based Learning／Flipped Classroom／Discussion, Debate／Presentation				
More details/supplemental information on Active Learning Methods	This course involves a collaborative learning environment where students are required to share their work for evaluation by both their peers and the instructor. This process functions as a form of learning competition, gradually familiarizing students with the standards expected in high-level research papers/projects.				
Use of ICT	This course utilizes various tools, including Google Scholar for searching, EndNote for referencing, Excel for data management, and SPSS and NVivo for statistical and qualitative analysis, respectively. Additional software may also be introduced as needed.				
Contents of class preparation and review	Throughout the course, students will engage in a portfolio of activities conducted during class sessions as well as outside the classroom, with each activity corresponding to an assignment for submission. These assignments will contribute to the final evaluation of the course, aligning with the course rubric.	Hours expected to be spent preparing for class (hours per week)	4 hours	Hours expected to be spent on class review (hours per week)	1 hours
Feedback Methods	Communication between students and the instructor will occur primarily through UNIPA. Students can arrange private discussions with the instructor either face-to-face or online during designated office hours (refer to the timetable provided by the administration office). Prior appointments with the instructor via email are necessary. Individual feedback sessions with the instructor will be provided to students after the midterm test and presentations.				

Grading Criteria		
Grading Methods	Grading Weights	Grading Content
Portfolio Activities	20%	students are require to work on activities/exercises throughout the course
Participation in Class	30%	taking part in exercises
Midterm written-Essay	20%	equivalent to the Literature Review
Final Paper	30%	the final paper with all sections

Required Textbook(s)	The following textbook will be used for this course: Walliman, N. Research Methods: The Basics. Routledge (Approx. 23.00US$)
Other Reading Materials/URL	To find out more, students can consult also this other Textbook: Bryman, A. Social Research Methods. 5th Edition. Oxford Uni. Press. (Approx. 60.00US$) Students should also expect to read handouts as part of their activities and exercises.

Plagiarism Policy	Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense, which depending on the gravity can cause you to fail a course or you are suspended from the university. Plagiarism Checking: All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to iCLA for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. The use of ChatGPT or any other artificial intelligence or paraphrasing software is strictly forbidden in the MIDTERM WRITTEN ESSAY and FINAL PAPER for this class.
Other Additional Notes (Outline crucial policies and info not mentioned above)	For students considering enrollment in this course, I highly advise attending the first class, which serves as an orientation session. During this session, students will gain insights into the requirements for achieving success in the course, as well as an understanding of its structure and contents.

(NOTE 2) Class schedule is subject to change

Class Schedule	
Class Number	Content
Class 1	Orientation and Syllabus Explanation
Class 2	Foundations of Research: A Comprehensive Overview (Part I)
Class 3	Foundations of Research: A Comprehensive Overview (Part II)
Class 4	Integration of Analysis: Uniting Research Problems, Variables, and Questions
Class 5	Annotated Bibliography: A Comprehensive Guide
Class 6	Comprehensive Review: Theoretical, Methodological, and Empirical Perspectives
Class 7	Crafting a Research Plan or Design: Strategies and Frameworks

Class 8	Exploring Data Collection Methods: Techniques and Approaches
Class 9	Presenting Research Findings: Strategies and Techniques
Class 10	Analyzing Results Critically in Relation to Literature Review Findings
Class 11	Addressing Research Questions and Exploring Implications
Class 12	Selecting a Research Topic and Crafting a Bibliography with EndNote
Class 13	Navigating Reference Sources Effectively
Class 14	Mastering the Art of Writing a Research Summary or Abstract
Class 15	Constructing Your Own Annotated Bibliography: A Step-by-Step Guide
Class 16	Crafting a Literature Review from Annotated Bibliography Entries
Class 17	Expanding Understanding: Literature Review Challenge (Part I)

Class 18	Expanding Understanding: Literature Review Challenge (Part II)
Class 19	Expanding Understanding: Literature Review Challenge (Part III)
Class 20	Midterm Feedback Session: Assessing Student Progress
Class 21	Midterm Feedback Session: Assessing Student Progress
Class 22	Understanding Methodology: Introduction (Part I)
Class 23	Exploring Data Collection Methods: Methodology (Part II)
Class 24	Surveying Methodologies: Questionnaires & Interviews (Part III)
Class 25	Sampling Techniques: Methodology (Part IV)
Class 26	Test on Methodology
Class 27	Analyzing Data: Step-by-Step Process

Class 28	Analyzing Texts, Documents, and Discourse: Qualitative Approach
Class 29	The Role of Introduction and Conclusion in Research Papers
Class 30	Recap Session: Summarizing Course Content

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