

School of Library & Information Science  
Louisiana State University

**LIS7009 Understanding Research  
Fall 2021**

**Instructor:** Dr. Boryung Ju  
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**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 2:30 – 3:30 pm (Zoom)  
Or by appointment

**Credit Hours:** 3 semester credits

**Assistance and Communication**

Requests for support should be directed to the appropriate resources depending on the nature of the support requested. Please review the options below when requesting support while taking your course.

1. Content or general course questions. If you have questions about course content or about the course in general, use the following resources in the course site:

- Forum, "Ask Your Instructor" on the Instruction page.
- Weekly Q & A forums each week.

2. Personal progress questions. If you have questions regarding your course progress, grades, or other issues of a personal nature, you should send an email to your course instructor.

3. Technical questions or issues. If you have any technical problems or questions, email the ITS Help Desk at servicedesk@lsu.edu or call them at (225) 578-3375. Be sure to include your name, course number, and section in your contact.

4. Email responses. If you have questions regarding your course progress, grades, or other issues of a personal nature, you should send an email to your course instructor. You can expect a response within 24 hours M-F, next business day on weekends.

**Course Description:**

This course provides students with an overview of research in library and information science and social sciences. It broadly covers research methods and their applications to library and information phenomena, definitions of research problems, selection of inquiry tools, quantitative and qualitative data collection methods, and the emphasis on evaluation of research.

## Course Outcomes:

On completion of this course, the students should be able to:

1. Understand basic research methodologies and their applications to research in library and information science.
2. Define research and identify basic concepts and process of research.
3. Apply research method concepts to design and conduct research in library and information.
4. Evaluate research studies in the field of library and information science and apply findings from research to practical issues.
5. Appreciate the need and the role of research in the library and information science professions.

## Materials and Resources:

The item listed below (by Schutt) is the **required textbook**, which should be obtained by students.

*Investigating the Social World: The Process and Practice of Research* by Russell K, Schutt. 9th ed. Sage Publications, 2018.

The instructor will post additional readings other than the required textbook on the Moodle course site.

## Evaluation Methods:

3 Homework Assignments (HAs)	30% (30 points)
1 On-line Exam	15% (15 points)
3 Quizzes (QZs)	20% (20 points)
Discussions (Weekly)	20% (20 points)
Final Paper	15% (15 points)

## Grading Scales:

Three homework assignments and the final project reports will be graded based on the scales of A/A- (100-90%), B (80%), C (70%), D (60%), F (fail). However, the final semester grades will be the accumulation of above-mentioned class performances and will be determined based on the following scale:

Grade	Percentage
A+	99-100
A	93-98
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	64-66
D-	60-63
F	Below 60

Throughout the semester, all grades for your class activities will be posted in the Moodle gradebook. Your semester grade will be a simple sum of all grades (points) you receive (except the Weekly Discussions; see the section below “Weekly Discussions (either individually or by group).” For the Weekly Discussions (20%) grades, calculation will be made in the final week based on both your weekly participations in the discussion forums and peer evaluation from your group members.

## **Class Activities**

- **Homework Assignments (HAs)**

Three homework assignments will be counted for 30% of the semester grade. The submission dues are midnight Sundays (CST) unless instructed otherwise. The reports (HAs) should be **single-spaced**, 12-pont. Left, right, top, and bottom margin of each page should be 1 inch. In case of medical emergencies, the student must submit an appropriate document with a written request for an exception, which includes a valid explanation for the late submission (or failure of submission).

Details for each assignment will be distributed according to the course schedule.

- **Quizzes (QZs)**

Three quizzes will be administered throughout the semester and will be counted for 20% of the semester grade (See the Evaluation Methods above; Quiz1 = 7.5 points; Quiz2 = 7.5 points; and Quiz3 = 5 points). Each quiz will have 10-20 questions. More details will be posted accordingly. No make-up quizzes will be allowed unless students have medical emergencies. In such cases, the student must submit an appropriate document with a written request for an exception, which includes a valid explanation for the quiz students missed.

- **Weekly Discussions (either individually or by group)**

The topics for the discussions will be given (posted) by the instructor in the weekly Discussion Forums. All students are required to participate (intellectually contribute: answer to/discuss those questions) timely. The postings should include substantive and meaningful contents to earn full points. Just paraphrasing or repeating others’ postings or simply agreeing/disagreeing without presenting your own ideas is not considered a credit-worthy posting.

Contributing to the forums needs to be done *individually* or *by groups*, depending on each week’s instructions by the instructor. Each of these activities will be graded and counted (see the Evaluation Methods; 20%) toward the final semester grade in the course.

In addition, at the end of the semester, you will be asked to evaluate your weekly discussion group members’ contributions to the discussion forums and this evaluation will be counted toward your discussion grades (evaluation categories: intellectual contribution to your group discussion, timely communication, preparation for the group discussion, and collegiality).

The maximum points you can earn from each discussion forum is 2 points (from 2 rounds of participations/week: 1+1). Total of 8 forums throughout the semester will be administered and peer evaluation (among discussion group members) will be also counted toward the weekly discussion points: (16 points (2x8 forums) + 4 points (peer eval) = 20 points. Therefore, the weekly discussion grades will be calculated *in the final week*. Meanwhile you will see the points you earn each week for the discussion forums on the Moodle gradebook.

Students are expected to collaborate and discuss actively in the discussion forums. Collaboration/group discussion will facilitate your learning of research methods and processes - how/what to apply – based on what you learn throughout the semester.

You have to remember that all your discussions (contents) **MUST be posted in the weekly discussion forums as discussion threads in the Moodle course site.** That is the only way the instructor of this course can see your contribution to your weekly discussions. Do not use other platforms for your weekly discussions. If you do so, you also need to post the same discussion threads to the course Moodle site too.

- **Online Exam**

Details for the exam will be announced. The scores you receive on the exam will be 15% of the semester grade.

- **Final Project: Writing a mini research proposal (either by individual or by group)**

Students are encouraged to make a small group (2 per group) and collaborate to design and write a mini research proposal. Collaboration will facilitate their learning about research methods and process (how/what to apply what they learn throughout the semester). However, if any students who want to work alone, they can choose to do it so. The expectation for the quality of the final project will be the same regardless of your choice for collaboration.

Final paper of 4-5 pages (excluding figures, tables, and references) is required and counts for 15% of the semester grade. The submission due is **Dec 7 (Tue)**. The paper should be produced with **single-spaced**, 12-pont. Left, right, top, and bottom margin of each page should be 1 inch.

The topics for students’ final papers need to be discussed with the instructor by the end of 10<sup>th</sup> week at the latest. Each group is required to develop a mini research proposal and do the literature review (at least 7-8 research articles as references). Specific guidelines for the final paper will be distributed.

### Course Schedule

<b>Date (Week)</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Homework Assignments (HAs) &amp; Quizzes (QZs)</b>
Aug 23 - 29 (Week 1)	Introduction; Course Overview	Powell (Chapter 1)	
Aug 30 – Sept 5 (Week 2)	Research: Basic Concepts & Process	Schutt (Chapter 1&2)	HA (Homework Assignment) 1 distributed
Sept 6 – 12 (Week 3)	Research Design; Conceptualization & Measurement;	Schutt (Chapter 4)	HA1 due: 9/12 (Sun)
Sept 13 – 19 (Week 4)	Research Ethics; Literature Review; Citations	Schutt (Chapter 3) Creswell (20-39); APA Style Guides	
Sept 20 – 26 (Week 5)	Sampling and Generalizability	Schutt (Chapter 5)	<b>Quiz 1 (9/21: Tue)</b>

Sept 27 – Oct 3 (Week 6)	Survey Research	Schutt (Chapter 8)	HA 2 distributed
Oct 4 – 10 (Week 7)	Experiments	Schutt (Chapter 7)	HA2 due: 10/10 (Sun)
Oct 11 – 17 (Week 8)	Qualitative methods: Schutt (Chapter 10) Focus Group Interviews: Seggern & Young's article (2003)		
Oct 18 – 24 (Week 9)	<i>Fall Holiday: 10/21- 12/24 (Thu – Sun)</i>		
Oct 25 – 31 (Week 10)	Sense-Making Methodology	Glazier & Powell (Chapter 6)	<b>Quiz 2 (10/26: Tue)</b>
Nov 1 - 7 (Week 11)	Content Analysis	White & Marsh's article (2006)	HA3 distributed
Nov 8 – 14 (Week 12)	<b>Online Exam (Nov 8 (M) – 10 (W))</b>		
Nov 15 – 21 (Week 13)	Mixed Methods	Schutt (Chapter 12)	HA3 due: 11/21 (Sun)
Nov 22– 28 (Week 14)	Qualitative Data Analysis: Schutt (Chapter 11) <b>Quiz 3 (11/23/21: Tue)</b>		
Nov 29 – Dec 5 (Week 15)	<i>Thanksgiving holiday, 11/24-11/28 (Wed – Sun)</i> Concentrated Study Period, 12/1-12/5 (Wed – Sun)		
Dec 6 – 11 (Week 16)	Final Exam Week	<b>Final paper</b>	<b>Dec 7 (Tue)</b>

*\*\* The Course Schedule is subject to change.*

## Course Policies

The following policies apply throughout your enrollment in this course. For specific questions about these policies, please contact either your instructor or the appropriate office listed in the subchapters.

### *Engagement and Participation*

Please check into your Moodle course frequently to keep track of your work. You are expected to contribute and collaborate according to the requirements of the specific activities and assessments described in this syllabus.

Timely communication is an e-learning best practice. Check your LSU email and the Class Announcements Forum on the course front page daily to make sure you do not miss any communications from your instructor or classmates.

### *Late Work/Late Submissions*

Unless students gain prior permission from the instructor for late submissions, late assignments will be penalized. Individual assignments turned in after the due date will be penalized 5% for each day turned in late.

### *Academic Integrity*

- **Academic Misconduct**

Students in LSU Online courses must comply with the LSU Code of Student Conduct. *Academic misconduct* includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records,

and/or any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student. Preventing academic misconduct requires learners to take ownership of their individual work for individual assignments and assessments. Learners who violate the LSU Code of Student Conduct will be referred to Student Advocacy & Accountability. For undergraduate students, a first academic violation could result in a zero grade on the assignment or failing the class and disciplinary probation until graduation. For a second academic violation, the result could be suspension from LSU. For graduate students, suspension is the appropriate outcome for the first offense.

To read more, please visit the [LSU Code of Student Conduct page](#).

- **Plagiarism and Citation Method**

It is your responsibility to refrain from plagiarizing the academic property of another and to utilize appropriate citation method for all coursework. In this class, you must use either APA or Chicago citations. Ignorance of the citation method is not an excuse for academic misconduct. Remember, there is a difference between paraphrasing and quoting and how to properly cite each respectively.

One tool available to assist you in correct citations is the “References” function in Microsoft Word. This program automatically formats the information you input according to the citation method you select for the document. This program also has the ability to generate a reference or works cited page for your document. The version of Microsoft Word with the “References” function is available in most University computer labs. A demonstration of how to use this tool is available online at the [LSU Student Advocacy & Accountability page](#).

- **Unauthorized Assistance**

All work must be completed without assistance unless explicit permission for group or partner work is given by the faculty member. This is critical so that the professor can assess your performance on each assignment. Read the syllabus and assignment directions carefully. When in doubt, e-mail your instructors or ask in a discussion forum. Seeking clarification is your responsibility as a student. Assuming group or partner work is okay without permission constitutes a violation of the LSU Code of Student Conduct.

### ***Accessibility***

A learner with a disability is entitled by law to equal access to university programs. Two federal laws protect persons with disabilities in post-secondary education: the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Pub. L. No. 93-112, as amended), the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (Pub. L. No. 101-336) and the ADA Amendments Act (Pub. L. No. 110-325). LSU A&M is committed to ensuring that its websites, online courses, and all online materials are accessible to people with disabilities.

If you have accessibility needs that we can help with, visit the [LSU Disability Services page](#) and register for accommodations before you begin your course work.

If you notice that your course contains material that is not accessible, please contact your instructor directly to discuss accommodations.

### ***Netiquette***

Communication in the online classroom comes across differently than the communication we are accustomed to through academic writing and face-to-face classroom discussion. Use online etiquette guidelines like the ones listed in the document below to craft your communication.

You can also read [The Core Rules of Netiquette](#) by Virginia Shea (1994) to understand the human aspect of online communication.

### ***Diversity Statement***

Diversity is fundamental to LSU's mission and the University is committed to creating and maintaining a living and learning environment that embraces individual difference. Cultural inclusion is of highest priority. LSU recognizes that achieving national prominence depends on the human spirit, participation, and dedicated work of the entire university community. Through its Commitment to Community, LSU strives to create an inclusive, respectful, intellectually challenging climate that embraces individual difference in race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, age, spirituality, socioeconomic status, disability, family status, experiences, opinions, and ideas. LSU proactively cultivates and sustains a campus environment that values open dialogue, cooperation, shared responsibility, mutual respect, and cultural competence—the driving forces that enrich and enhance cutting-edge research, first-rate teaching, and engaging community outreach activities.