Course Description
This course covers the major issues a researcher must consider when conducting quantitative data collection and analysis. These include the selection of a research topic and the formation of key research hypotheses, identification of an appropriate theoretical perspective, conceptualization and measurement, scale construction, reliability and validity, question wording, coding, secondary analysis, data input into a statistical program (SPSS), and the statistical analysis of data, including descriptive and inferential statistics. The emphasis in this course is on the systematic preparation of your own project including data collection and statistical analysis.

Books
Additional readings distributed via Blackboard as needed

Grades and Evaluation
- Attendance is mandatory; multiple absences will affect your grade.  
- Participation. This class will rely on class discussions of the key issues. There are no rules for participation, except that everyone must contribute actively. There is also such a thing as “dis-participation,” such as answering your phone during class or arriving late and leaving early. Dis-participation lowers your grade.  
- Weekly or thereabouts assignments, some of which will be graded in detail, and some of which are simply required for discussion.  
- A project, including class presentation.  
- An exam.

The Project
Students will each conduct an original research project using quantitative data. Projects will be developed throughout the semester and must be completed in stages on a fixed schedule. Phases of research will include conceptualization, operationalization, sampling, coding, data collection, data analysis, and interpretation.