PADM-GP 4501.001
Data Collection for Evaluation, Policy, and Management
Spring 2022

• Professor Rachel Swaner
• Email: RLS200@nyu.edu
• Office Hours: by appointment

Course Information
• Dates: 3/28/2022-5/9/2022
• Day: Monday
• Location: 25 West 4th Street, C-11
• Time: 4:55pm - 6:35pm

Course Description
Research is an important part of the policy process: it can inform the development of programs and policies so they are responsive to community needs, it can help us determine what the impacts of these programs and policies are, and it can help us better understand populations or social phenomena. This half-semester course serves as an introduction to how to ethically collect data for research projects, with an in-depth look at focus groups and surveys as data collection tools. We will also learn about issues related to measurement and sampling. Students will create their own focus group protocol and short survey instrument designed to answer a research question of interest to them.

Course and Learning Objectives
Course objectives include:

1) Becoming familiar with different types of data collection;
2) Developing the ability to formulate clear research questions;
3) Drafting a sample focus group protocol;
4) Designing a short survey; and
5) Understanding basic research ethics and anti-oppressive research practice.

Learning Assessment Table
Course Requirements

We will be covering research topics in a community-learning environment; as such, class preparation and participation by everyone are absolutely essential. Students are expected to read all texts in advance and be prepared to contribute to class discussions. There is both a speaking and listening component to participation: sharing your ideas and reflecting on/responding to the ideas of others.

Some of the readings provide rich descriptions of that week’s topic; others are case studies that show how the topic has been implemented in practice; finally, some expose us to key concepts in order to strengthen our ability to apply anti-oppressive frameworks to our research. All readings are under Resources on NYU Brightspace.

In addition to the reading assignments and class participation, students will write one brief memo, develop a focus group protocol, and develop a short survey instrument. More detailed instructions for each assignment are posted on NYU Brightspace under Assignments.

Grading

Relative Weight of Assignments
- Class participation, 10%
- Research Questions Memo, 30%
- Focus Group Protocol, 30%
- Short Survey, 30%

Letter Grading
- A: 94.5+
- A-: 88.5 - 94.4
- B+: 85.5 - 88.4
- B: 82.5 - 85.4
- B-: 78.5 - 82.4
- C+: 76.5 - 78.4
- C: 73.5 - 76.4
- C-: 68.5 - 73.4

Course Schedule and Readings
Class 1 (3/28/22) Research Questions; Positionality

- UCLA Library. 2021. Positionality & Research: How our Identities Shape Inquiry. Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTHFud7fr8c. (2 minutes 20 seconds)
- UCLA Library. 2021. Positionality & Research: Awareness Strategies. Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORrF7cKktrQ. (1 minute 51 seconds)

Class 2 (4/4/22) Qualitative Methods


Due: Research Questions Memo

Class 3 (4/11/22) In depth: Focus Groups

Class 4 (4/18/22) Quantitative Measurement


Due: Focus Group Protocol

Class 5 (4/25/22) In depth: Surveys


Class 6 (5/2/22) Sampling


Class 7 (5/9/22) Human Subjects/Ethics


Due: Short Survey

NYU Brightspace

All announcements, resources, and assignments will be delivered through the NYU Brightspace site.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a vital component of Wagner and NYU. All students enrolled in this class are required to read and abide by Wagner’s Academic Code. All Wagner students have already read and signed the Wagner Academic Oath. Plagiarism of any form will not be tolerated and students in this class are expected to report violations to me. If any student in this class is unsure about what is expected of you and how to abide by the academic code, you should consult with me.

Henry and Lucy Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at NYU

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please visit the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) website and click on the Reasonable Accommodations and How to Register tab or call or email CSD at (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are strongly advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

NYU’s Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays

NYU’s Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays states that members of any religious group may, without penalty, absent themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations. Please notify me in advance of religious holidays you plan on missing.