Quantitative Research Skills

Class: Thursday 6:30-8:20 at 19 West 4th Street, Room 212
Professor’s Office Hours: Thursday 4:00-6:00 – 19 W 4th Street, Room 303

Instructor: Matt Stevens mfs301@nyu.edu

This course covers the primary methods for collecting information in the social sciences. These methods are used both in academic work and in professional fields, and are intended for students following either career path.

Prerequisites: Students should have taken at least one statistics course, or have equivalent background, and be familiar with the basics of regression and inferential statistics.

Requirements: Students will be graded on the basis of one 1-3 page paper, worth 20% of your grade, and two 4-6 page papers, each worth 40% of your grade.


Margaret LeCompte and Jean Schensul, Designing and Conducting Ethnographic Research: An Introduction (Lanham: AltaMira Press, 2010)

Sept 5 Theories and Evidence J&R chapter 3; Hancké
Sept 12 Experiments J&R chapter 5
Sept 19 Survey Research I: Sampling & Screening J&R chapter 7; Fowler
Sept 26 Survey Research II: Questionnaire Design Converse & Presser
Oct 3-10 Focus Groups Morgan
Oct 17 Elite Interviewing J&R chapter 10; Rubin & Rubin
Oct 24 Direct Observation J&R chapter 8; LaCompte & Schensul
Nov 7-14 Document Analysis J&R chapter 9; Weber
Nov 21 Other Techniques TBA
Dec 5 Basics of Meta-Analysis Wolf
Dec 12 Review