

**Research Methods for Environmental Studies**  
**EST 255, Section 1; Spring 2016**  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-10:50am in 5 Illick Hall**

**Instructor:** Professor Andrea Parker, 108a Marshall Hall, amparker@esf.edu, office hours: 1:00-2:00pm Tuesday/Thursday, appointments preferred

**Teaching Assistant:** Lauren Tarr, information TBA on Blackboard

**Course Description:** This is an introductory methods course focused on research techniques used in environmental and natural resources social science research. This course reviews quantitative and qualitative methodologies for environmental studies research including but not limited to questionnaires, in-depth interviews, rhetorical critiques and content analyses.

**Pre- or Co-requisite:** EWP 290

**Learning Outcomes:** After completing this course students should be able to: (1) identify methods used in environmental studies research; (2) interpret research results on environmental and natural resources communication and policy; (3) apply research techniques to environmental and natural resources issues; and (4) make recommendations based on research findings for environmental and natural resources issues.

### **Required Readings**

#### ***Book***

Berger, A. A., (2016). Media and communication research methods: an introduction to qualitative and quantitative approaches, 4th Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

#### ***Chapters/Articles/Handouts***

Readings will be distributed via Blackboard at least one week prior to the date of discussion.

### **Assignments**

**Attendance:** In order to receive full participation points, you are expected to: (1) attend all classes with the exception of excused absences; (2) participate in all class activities and discussions; (3) come to class prepared including bringing your completed readings to class with you. This counts as 5% of your final grade.

**IRB Certification:** Complete the CITI Human Subjects Research training for Social-Behavioral-Educational (SBE) Modules (required modules). Go to <https://www.citiprogram.org/>, create an account using Syracuse University as your home institution, then complete the training. Submit a copy of your certification report via Blackboard by class-time on February 9<sup>th</sup>. This counts as 5% of your final grade.

***In-Class Assignments:*** These assignments correspond to different in-class activities, submitted as a group or individually. Please refer to the schedule for dates. These are graded assignments (eight total during the semester) and will count as 10% of your final grade.

***Quizzes:*** Quizzes will be given during the first 15 minutes of class and will address lecture materials and class readings. Quizzes are not cumulative. Lecture slides will be made available for study after the lecture date. Please refer to the schedule for dates. There are a total of four quizzes; the combined quizzes count for 10% of your final grade.

***Exams:*** There will be a total of three exams over the course of the semester. Exam #1 will be on February 16<sup>th</sup> and exam #2 will be on March 29<sup>th</sup>. These first two exams are not cumulative. The final exam (TBA) *will* be cumulative. Exams will address lecture materials, class readings and problem-solving scenarios. A review session for the final exam will occur the last day of class. The first two exams each count for 20% of your final grade, and the final exam counts for 30% of your final grade.

**Tentative Schedule with Readings and Assignments (subject to change)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
Jan. 19	Why research?	N/A	Review syllabus; lecture	N/A
Jan. 21	Data and IRB	Berger 2014 intro. & ch. 1	Lecture; the data game	N/A
Jan. 26	Library research	Berger 2014 ch. 2	Lecture	N/A
Jan. 28	Library research	Weigold 2001	Lecture; the great article hunt	In-class assignment
Feb. 2	Textual analyses	Berger 2014 ch. 3 & 4	Lecture	Quiz #1
Feb. 4	Textual analyses	Berger 2014 ch. 5, 6, 7	Lecture	N/A
Feb. 9	Interviews and focus groups	Berger 2014 ch. 8	Lecture	Due: IRB certificate
Feb. 11	Interviews and focus groups	Bradbury et al. 2009	Lecture; interview activity	In-class assignment
Feb. 16	Exam	N/A	N/A	Exam #1
Feb. 18	Historical analyses	Berger 2014 ch. 9	Lecture	N/A
Feb. 23	Historical analyses	Endres 2011	Lecture; discussion	N/A
Feb. 25	Ethnography and participant observation	Berger 2014 ch. 10 & 11	Lecture	N/A
Mar. 1	Ethnography and participant observation	Milstein 2008	Lecture; participant observation activity	In-class assignment
Mar. 3	Qualitative data analysis	N/A	Lecture	N/A
Mar. 8	Content analysis	Berger 2014 ch. 12	Lecture	N/A
Mar. 10	Content analysis	Boykoff and Boykoff 2007	Lecture; content analysis activity	Quiz #2; in-class activity
Mar. 15	Spring break	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mar. 17	Spring break	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mar. 22	Surveys	Berger 2014 ch. 13	Lecture	N/A

Mar. 24	Surveys	Teel and Manfredo 2010	Lecture; survey activity	In-class assignment
Mar. 29	Exam	N/A	N/A	Exam #2
Mar. 31	Experiments	Berger 2014 ch. 14	Lecture	N/A
Apr. 5	Experiments	Spence and Pidgeon 2010	Lecture; experiment activity	In-class activity
Apr. 7	Policy analyses	Tromborg et al. 2007	Lecture	Quiz #3
Apr. 12	Cost/benefit analyses	Carter and Keeler 2008	Lecture; cost/benefit activity	In-class activity
Apr. 14	Quantitative data analysis	N/A	Lecture	N/A
Apr. 19	Using Excel	Excel Handout	Lecture	N/A
Apr. 21	Using Excel	N/A	Lecture	Quiz #4
Apr. 26	Statistics	Berger 2014 ch. 15	Lecture	N/A
Apr. 28	Report writing	Berger 2014 ch. 16 & 17	Lecture; writing activity	In-class activity
May 3	Review session	N/A	Review session	N/A
TBA	Final Exam	N/A	N/A	Final Exam

## Grading

**Re-Grading Policy:** Requests for an assignment re-grade are allowed assuming valid cause is given (e.g., miscalculation or information overlooked). Potential outcomes of a re-grade can be as follows: grade increases, grade decreases or grade remains the same (i.e., equal points added and taken away or no change made). Such requests have to be made within one week (7 days) of receiving a grade or it will not be considered for re-grading.

Assignment	Points	Grade Percentage
Attendance	20	5%
IRB Certificate	20	5%
In-class assignments (8)	40	10%
Quizzes (4)	40	10%
Exam #1	80	20%
Exam #2	80	20%
Final exam	120	30%
Total	400	100%

A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D	60-69%
F	59% or below

**Students with Learning and Physical Disabilities:** SUNY-ESF works with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at Syracuse University, who is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations. Students can contact ODS at 804 University Avenue- Room 309, 315-443-4498 to schedule an appointment and discuss their needs and the process for requesting accommodations. Students may also contact the ESF Office of Student Affairs, 110 Bray Hall, 315-470-6660 for assistance with the process. To learn more about ODS, visit <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu>. Authorized accommodation forms must be in the instructor's possession one week prior to any anticipated accommodation. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty is a breach of trust between a student, one's fellow students, or the instructor(s). By registering for courses at ESF you acknowledge your awareness of the ESF Code of Student Conduct (<http://www.esf.edu/students/handbook/StudentHB.05.pdf>), in particular academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to plagiarism and cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct. The Academic Integrity Handbook contains further information and guidance (<http://www.esf.edu/students/integrity/>). Infractions of the academic integrity code may lead to academic penalties as per the ESF Grading Policy (<http://www.esf.edu/provost/policies/documents/GradingPolicy.11.12.2013.pdf>).