

IND 6639

Methods of Research

Spring 2026

3 credits



Instructor: Sheila J. Bosch, Ph.D.
Meeting Time: T | Period 8-10 (3:00 – 6:00 pm)
Meeting Place: RINKER 225
Instructor: Office: 348 ARCH Building
Telephone: 352-294-1439 (off) | 813-417-9387 (cell)
Email: sheilabosch@ufl.edu
Office Hours: T: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
R: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm or by appointment

Zoom: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/8978667940>, ID: 897 866 7940

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This graduate-level course introduces advanced research methodologies used to investigate the relationships between interior environments and human experience. Students will explore both qualitative and quantitative approaches, as well as mixed-methods designs, to address complex questions relevant to interior design scholarship and practice. Emphasis is placed on developing rigorous research designs, data collection and analysis techniques, and ethical considerations in design research. Through critical review of existing studies, student presentations, activities and other assignments, students will learn to formulate research questions, select appropriate methods, and interpret findings to inform evidence-based design decisions. The course prepares students to contribute to the growing body of knowledge in interior design and to apply research principles to professional practice and thesis/dissertation research.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is intended to help students:

- Communicate the ability to critically evaluate other's research.
- Demonstrate the ability to formulate researchable questions and transform those questions into a plan of research using appropriate research methods, considering ethical issues that may arise.
- Describe a variety of research strategies, both qualitative and quantitative, and tools for data collection and analysis.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Bryman, A. (2021). *Social Research Methods* 6th edition. Oxford, UK: Oxford University

Press.

COURSE FORMAT

Class format will combine lectures, assigned readings, discussions, presentations, peer assessments, and team projects.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to arrive on time to class, remain for the duration of class, come prepared to discuss assigned readings, and actively engage in discussions. The best way to communicate outside of class time or during office hours is by email through Canvas. The instructor will make every effort to respond within 24 hours.

GRADES AND GRADING POLICIES

This course follows UF's policies for grading. Information regarding UF's grades and grading policy can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

• Papers	(35%)
• Research Methods Presentation	(10%)
• Exercises/Activities	(30%)
• Team Project	<u>(25%)</u>
TOTAL:	100%

Grades will be assigned as follows:

A=93-100	C+ = 77-79.9	D- =60-62.9
A- =90-92.9	C=73-76.9	E<60
B+ =87-89.9	C- =70- 72.9	
B=83-86.9	D+ =67-69.9	
B- =80-82.9	D=63-6	

RECOMMENDED STYLE GUIDE

- American Psychological Association (2019). Concise rules of APA style (7th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- See also Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) as a quick reference guide.

COURSE POLICIES

UF Policies

For the most up-to-date academic policies and resources, see this link:

<https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies>

Canvas:

The syllabus, course assignments, due dates, additional reading material, grades and other course-related information will be available in Canvas. You are responsible for checking Canvas regularly to track assignments, due dates, etc. You must post your completed assignments to Canvas by the start of class on the due date unless otherwise instructed. Please email the assignments to the instructor, on time, if you experience technical difficulties with Canvas.

Assignment Due Dates:

All assignments - completed or incomplete - must be turned in on the due date and will be graded as they stand. The right to make an exception will be reserved only in extreme cases (due to emergencies). A student wishing to submit a late assignment must provide the instructor(s), in writing, with a statement of why the assignment is late and the instructor(s) will determine whether or not to accept the late assignment. If the instructor(s) decides to accept the late assignment for a reason other than a documented emergency, 10 points will be deducted for each day (or partial day) that the assignment is late.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/ASSIGNMENTS**Papers (35%)**

Students will prepare two papers during the semester to deepen their understanding of research methods and how they may be applied to better understand environment-behavior relationships in interior environments.

Research Methods Presentation (10%)

Each student is required to facilitate class discussion. This will involve each student taking "ownership" of preparing and delivering information regarding a specific research strategy (e.g., survey design, interviews, focus groups, etc.) and developing an in-class activity for students to complete. The student will identify relevant readings if needed, prepare and deliver a PowerPoint presentation to the class, and lead the class through completion of the in-class activity.

Exercises/Activities (30%)

You will be assigned exercises and activities throughout the semester to strengthen your understanding and application of course materials.

Team Project (25%)

Students will work in teams to conduct data collection and analysis using at least one of the methods discussed during the course.

Tentative Course Schedule (subject to change by the instructor, see Canvas for current info)

Week (Date)	Topics/Activities	Readings	Assignments/Due/Notes
Week 1 1/13	Course Introduction Syllabus & Course Overview Research Ethics: UF IRB – review online submission Application of Theory <i>Assign student research methods presentation topics</i>	Bryman Ch 6	
Week 2 1/20	Research Process Research design Planning a research project Introduce Paper 1	Bryman Ch 3, 4	Due: Submit at least 2 peer-reviewed articles that utilized the research method you have chosen for your presentation and come prepared to discuss one of them
Week 3 1/27	Mixed-methods Research Overview	Bryman Ch 24	DUE: Submit conceptual model graphic showing how theory might inform your research or PILOT
Week 4 2/3	Quantitative Research	Bryman Ch 7, 8,	
Week 5 2/10	Quantitative Research	Bryman Ch 15	
Week 6 2/17	Observation Structured observations; Observation, trace measures and behavior mapping Introduce Paper 2	Bryman Ch12 Gifford (2016) Research Methods for Environmental Psychology <i>Ch 2 and 3</i> (full text available online at UF library (must be on VPN or proxy server)	Due: Submit Research Methods Presentation
Week 7 2/24	Questionnaires	Bryman Ch 10 - 11	DUE: Paper 1

Week 8 3/3	Qualitative Research Overview	Bryman Ch 16, 17, 23	DUE: Observation/Questionnaire Assignment
Week 9 3/10	Existing Data/Documents	Bryman Ch 14, 22	DUE: Submit article where analysis of existing data was primary method used. Prepare to discuss.
Week 10 3/17	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES		
Week 11 3/24	Interviews	Bryman Ch 9, 19	DUE: Paper 2 (on 3/29)
Week 12 3/31	Focus Groups	Bryman Ch 20	DUE: Interview/Focus Group Assignment
Week 13 4/7	Content Analysis In-class exercise Peer review research problem, significance and research questions	Bryman Ch 25	DUE: Draft Team Presentation
Week 14 4/14	Final Team Presentations		DUE: Content Analysis Assignment DUE: Final Team Presentation
Week 15 4/21	Field Trip location TBD		