

# SOCY 2112: RESEARCH METHODS II

In person

Mondays + Wednesdays @ 2:15-4:30p  
in 3611 James Hall @Brooklyn College - CUNY

Prof. Emily Tumpson Molina  
Fall 2021

THE SECOND COURSE IN RESEARCH METHODS FOR SOCIOLOGY MAJORS + THE QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS COURSE FOR SOCIOLOGY CONCENTRATIONS IN THE URBAN SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM.

Prof. Molina's contact info:

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Office hours: Mondays/Wednesdays 1-2p  
in 3606 James Hall @BC  
+ by appointment on Zoom

## ABOUT THE COURSE



**This course introduces you to when, why, and how social scientists and other data analysts use statistics and other quantitative methods.**

You'll learn when a quantitative approach to answering questions is helpful and when it can be problematic. You'll learn to identify good surveys from bad and when to side-eye a shocking average published in the media. You'll be able to figure out when data represent what they say they do and when they don't. You'll better understand odds and statistical risk, and you'll create well-designed graphs and other visuals from spreadsheets. You will analyze NYC public data sets, identify what you can conclude from them and what would be a stretch, write about the patterns you find, and creatively represent those patterns to a professional audience. After passing this course, you can add "proficiency in Excel, spreadsheets, basic statistics, and creating infographics" to your resume, and you'll be prepared to take more advanced courses in quantitative methods and data analytics.

## YOU WILL LEARN TO:

- Be less freaked out about using spreadsheets, statistics, and programming in social research.
- Identify when quantitative methods are appropriate to use.
- Design quantitative research projects.
- Analyze and visualize public data in Excel / Google sheets.
- Evaluate statistics reported in media.
- Understand the logic behind statistical sampling, probability, odds, and risk.
- Calculate, interpret, and effectively present basic descriptive statistics like percentages, ratios, averages, and standard deviations in written reports and visuals.

### WHAT MATERIALS DO YOU NEED?



This course site +  
Blackboard + Excel



A simple calculator

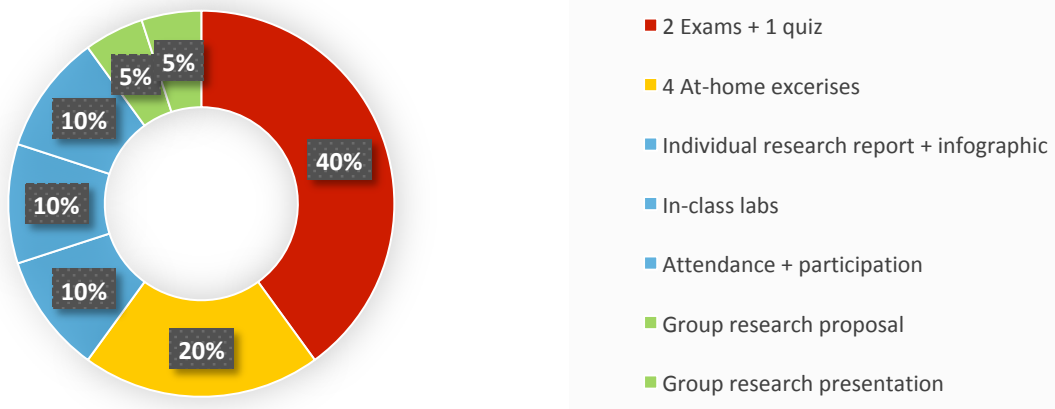
- Perform, interpret, and effectively communicate the results of bivariate analyses like t-tests, bivariate tables, chi-square tests, correlations, and simple regressions in written reports and visuals.

**ON THE WAY TO THESE OUTCOMES, YOU’LL DISCOVER:**

- how terrible humans are at acting on statistical evidence, odds, and risk.
- statistical misrepresentation in all kinds of media.
- the survey language you should never use.
- tons of other statistical tips and tricks.

**GRADE BREAKDOWN**

Here’s how you’ll be graded:



**ADVICE FOR DOING WELL**



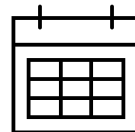
Don’t miss any classes.



Avoid falling behind.



Try to ask at least one question per class session.



Come to office hours or make an appointment to check in with me – whether or not you have a specific reason.



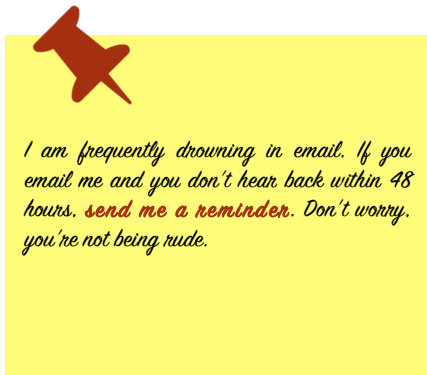
Do the reading.



Study with your classmates and take your group work seriously.

## COURSE POLICIES

- **Assignments are due at the beginning of class.** I don't accept **late** assignments or excuse any absences without a university-approved, documented excuse (i.e. a doctor's note.)
- **If you miss class, you miss the opportunity to turn in that day's lab and any assignments that are due that day.** You might want to check back at the way your grade is calculated, but this can end up being a pretty big deal.
- If you know you need to miss a class at some point this semester for a **religious holiday**, no problem! Just let me know ASAP.







- Please **stay off of your phone and other devices** unless you're taking notes or doing internet research during a lab. If you're a caretaker or emergency worker on call, that's different – let me know if this is the case ASAP!
- Don't be **late**.
- I'm assuming you're generally a **respectful, reasonable** student, classmate, and overall human. But in the very off chance you're not, we might need to check in about that.
- What **email address** do you have listed with BC? That's where all my communication with you will go, so please **check** ASAP. **All of my announcements and reminders will go to this email address – it is your responsibility to make sure it's the correct one.**

## EXAMS + ASSIGNMENTS

	<b>Exercise 1: Operationalization</b>	<b>DUE WEDNESDAY 9/20</b>
	<b>Exercise 2: Research design</b>	<b>DUE WEDNESDAY 9/27</b>
	<b>Midterm exam</b>	<b>MONDAY 10/18</b>
	<b>Quiz</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY 11/3</b>



	<b>Exercise 3: Bivariate analysis 1</b>	<b>MONDAY 11/22</b>
	<b>Exercise 4: Bivariate analysis 2</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY 12/1</b>
	<b>Individual data report + infographic</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY 12/8</b>
	<b>Final exam</b>	<b>MONDAY 12/20</b>



## RESOURCES YOU SHOULD USE

### University Policy on Academic Integrity

The [University Policy on Academic Integrity](#) tells you clearly what constitutes **cheating and plagiarism**, and the consequences for students who cheat. FYI, if a faculty member confirms cheating or plagiarism, the faculty member is **required to report the violation**.

### State Law on Non-Attendance Due to Religious Beliefs

See this and more academic policies in the [Undergraduate Bulletin](#).

### Student Bereavement Policy

Students who experience the death of a loved one can request accommodations. See more [here](#).

### Center for Student Disability Services

In order to receive disability-related academic accommodations, students must first be registered with the [Center for Student Disability Services](#) (CSDS). If you have already registered with the CSDS, make sure you give me your course accommodation form ASAP so we can discuss a semester plan. If you have a documented disability or suspect you may have one, set up an appointment with the Director of the CSDS.

### The Magner Center

65% of employers prefer that college students have at least 2 internships before they graduate. The [Magner Center](#) can help you **find an internship, prep your resume, and practice interviewing**. They can also help you find ways of **getting paid** for your internship. Stay in touch with them and check their calendar for events and stipend deadlines.



## SUPPORT, RESOURCES, + PROGRAMMING @ BC

### Immigrant Student Success Office

<https://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/about/offices/studentaffairs/student-support-services/isso.php>

### Black + Latino Male Initiative

<https://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/about/offices/studentaffairs/student-support-services/blmi.php>

### Women's Center

<https://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/about/offices/studentaffairs/student-support-services/womenscenter.php>

### LGBTQ Center

<http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/academics/centers/lgbtcenter.php>