# POLS2950 - Introduction to Social Research

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| Credits: | 3 (3/0/0) |
| Description: | Meets MnTC Goals 2 and 5. This course introduces methods and concepts used in the research process in the social sciences and related fields. Topics covered include the application of the scientific method to social and behavioral research, definitions and measurements of variables, research design, experiential methods and survey techniques. The use of literature reviews and the importance of critically evaluating research will be emphasized. Common descriptive and inferential statistics used in social science disciplines also will be introduced. This course is identical to SOC 2950 and PSYC 2950 and is cross-listed with both of those courses. Students may choose to enroll in the course with the prefix most appropriate to their transfer and career goals. |
| Prerequisites: | • Completion of six (6) credits in SOC, PSYC, or POLS<br>• ENGL1101<br>• MATH1020 |
| Corequisites: | |
| Pre/Corequisites*: | |
| Competencies: | 1. Describe the use of the scientific method in social and behavioral science disciplines.<br>2. Critique methods used in academic research.<br>3. Create a synopsis of relevant sources related to a research topic within the social and behavioral sciences.<br>4. Define attributes and variables appropriate to the study of human phenomenon.<br>5. Distinguish between qualitative and quantitative approaches to the study of human behaviors.<br>6. Examine definitions and methods of measurement.<br>7. Design a research question in the social or behavioral sciences.<br>8. Analyze the use of experimental design techniques.<br>9. Examine the use of survey instruments.<br>10. Identify appropriate sources and uses of outside data.<br>11. Explain how descriptive and inferential statistics are used in the social and behavioral sciences. |
| MnTC goal areas: | 2. Critical Thinking<br>5. History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences |

*Can be taking as a Prerequisite or Corequisite.*

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