

PSC 269: Research Methods for Political Science
Fall 2022 / TR 8:00-9:50am / KBB 109

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Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday (noon-2:30pm)

Objective:

The course introduces students to a variety of research methods used regularly by social scientists. Over the next four months we will cover in detail the process of theory building and data collection as well as touch upon the utility of quantitative and qualitative methods of theory testing. If you put in the effort to learn the material and are intellectually inquisitive enough to challenge some of the discipline's core assumptions, you will leave this course both better prepared to read mainstream political science journals and better prepared to conduct research of your own.

Student Learning Outcomes:

This course is designed to introduce you to the basics of social science research. You learn the fundamental strategies employed by political scientists observing the world of politics and how these observations themselves lead to hypothesis testing. The overarching aim of this course is to make you a better-informed consumer of information in the discipline of political science as well as a better-informed consumer of information in the political world in general. By the end of this course students are able to:

- Generate research questions and hypotheses appropriate to political science.
- Design and critique case selection strategies common to the discipline.
- Design and critique controlled experiments and quasi- experiments common to the discipline.
- Operationalize variables using various techniques common to the discipline.
- Understand and be able to communicate the strengths and weaknesses of the methods used in a typical political science scholarly journal article.

Requirements:

Though it may be altered slightly and/or clarified by professorial edict either in class or via email, consider this syllabus a tentative contract between you and your professor that lists both what you can expect from class and what is expected of you. Check it regularly. You are expected to read everything assigned on the syllabus, which can be more than 50 pages a week. Perhaps more importantly in this class, you are also expected to play around with the concepts covered until you know them! You are expected to attend and pay attention at every lecture. Visiting me on occasion during office hours to discuss issues raised in class and/or proposal topics for your research proposal will not hurt either. If you do these things, you will do very well in the course and put yourself in a good position to do well in PSC270 and your 300- and 400-level PSC courses. If you do not do these things, you will not do so well in the course. Though this class is certainly manageable for conscientious students, and most do quite well in it each semester, for students used to putting in a minimal amount of work at the last minute and achieving good results, PSC 269 can be a brutal experience. Consider this fair warning up front. You will be evaluated in this class based on your performance in three areas. These areas, along with their relative weights, are as follows:

Exams (60%) – Over the course of the semester you will be given two opportunities to demonstrate your mastery of concepts covered in the readings, lectures, and discussions. Together these exams constitute a bit more than half of your final course grade. Exams may be a mix of multiple choice, short answer, and essay formats. There will be no review sheets. Excused late or early exams will only be given in extreme circumstances and only with acceptable documentation. Unexcused late exams will be penalized at a rate of 10 points per day. If you miss an exam, it is your responsibility to contact me as soon as possible to schedule a make-up exam during my next office hours.

Hands on Methods Assignments (10%) – During the course, we try our hand at a number of short scholarly assignments and data gathering exercises. You should be an active participant in these eight assignments both in class and outside of class. If you turn in the assignment on time and meet expectations, you will receive full credit (1 point). Expectations are that you have put in the time, effort, and reflection the assignment requires to earn a passing mark. If you turn in a document that is late or does not meet expectations, you receive no credit for the assignment. Your lowest Hands on Methods assignment grade is dropped. Seven of these assignments are due via Blackboard and the eighth is due via the Qualtrics survey app. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO UPLOAD THE ASSIGNMENTS TO BLACKBOARD AND QUALTRICS. IT IS ALSO YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO VERIFY THAT UPLOADING HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL. I advise saving your dropped assignment in case either of those platforms is malfunctioning for you and to immediately figure out what caused your submission problem and get it fixed. I will neither consider nor respond to email submissions. Because you get to drop your lowest grade and know about these assignments well in advance, late assignments are not accepted.

Research Proposal (30%) – There are two components to the Research Proposal portion of your grade. The first portion requires you to complete a worksheet (available on Blackboard) about your project and bring it to your assigned small group meeting before week 8. Though this worksheet and meeting is ungraded, it is an invaluable opportunity to solicit critical feedback from your professor and peers before the written assignment is due and failure to have this meeting will result in a 20-point deduction on your research proposal. The second portion is your written proposal which will include a 1) Project Abstract, 2) Literature Review, 3) Expected Outcomes and Results, 4) Research and Methods, and 5) a Budget. The assignment should not be more than 3 single-spaced pages long. A grading rubric and sample of this proposal is available on our course Blackboard site. If you put a lot of thought into the assignment not only will you earn a good grade, but you will have the makings of a good Fulbright proposal as this proposal format is virtually identical to theirs. Your final Research Proposal is due via Blackboard/Turnitin. Unexcused late proposals will be penalized at a rate of 10 points per day.

Important Due Dates*:

Exam #1	Tuesday 27 September
Exam #2	Tuesday 13 December
Research Proposal	
Meeting	Weeks 6 or 7 as assigned
Proposal	Tuesday 22 November
Hands on Methods Assignments	
#1 Posner Article Critique	Tuesday 20 September
#2 CITI Training	Tuesday 25 October
#3 Dataset Review	Tuesday 1 November
#4 Interview Notes	Thursday 3 November
#5 Participant Obs. Notes	Tuesday 8 November
#6 Survey Hypotheses	Tuesday 15 November
#7 Survey Enumeration	Thursday 1 December
#8 Biruk Review	Thursday 1 December

* Turned in assignments are due no later than 8am on their due date.

Grading:

The course letter grade will be determined according to the following scale:

<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Quality Points</i>	<i>Numeric Scale*</i>
A	4.0	92.5 and above
AB	3.5	87.5-92.49
B	3.0	82.5-87.49
BC	2.5	77.5-82.49
C	2.0	72.5-77.49
CD	1.5	67.5-72.49
D	1.0	60-67.49
F	0.0	Below 60

Required Texts:

- (JRM)** Johnson, Janet Buttolph, H. T. Reynolds, and Jason D. Mycoff. 2020. *Political Science Research Methods*, 9th ed. (Also a required text for PSC 270!)
- (KMR)** Kapiszewski, Diana, Lauren MacLean, and Benjamin Read. 2015. *Field Research in Political Science*.
- Biruk** Biruk, Crystal. 2018. *Cooking Data*.
- (☞)** Article or chapter available through UT Blackboard.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The course schedule is subject to change at the professor's sole discretion. Any changes will be announced in class, via email, and/or via Blackboard.

Week 1 (August 29 – September 2)

- Tuesday** Introduction
Readings: ☞ syllabus
- Thursday** Scientific Study of Politics
Readings: ☞ Dryzek, John and Stephen Leonard. 1988. "History and Discipline in Political Science." *American Political Science Review* 82(4): 1245-1260.

Week 2 (September 5 – 9)

- Tuesday** Foundations of Social Scientific Research
Readings: JRM chs 1, 2, 4, and 6
- Thursday** Asking a Research Questions and Situating Scholarship in a Literature Review
Readings: JRM ch 3

Week 3 (September 12 – 16)

- Tuesday** Selecting Cases: Case Studies and Comparative Methods
Readings: JRM ch 7

Thursday Selecting Cases: Large N
Readings: JRM ch 5 and Fisman, Ray. 2008. "Cos and Effect." *Slate* (11 January).

Week 4 (September 19 – 23)

Tuesday Seminar Discussion on Research Design
Readings: Posner, Daniel N. 2004. "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi." *American Political Science Review* 98 (4): 529-545.

HANDS ON METHODS Assignment 1

Assignment: Write a short article critique of Posner by answering the following questions: 1) What is the article about (Abstract less than 500 words)?; 2) What is the text's research question?; 3) What hypotheses are tested in the work?; 4) What methods does the article employ to answer the research question and test the stated hypotheses (Be as specific and thorough as possible)?; 5) What are the strengths and weaknesses of the article (Justify your answers)? Make sure to identify which questions you are answering by numbering them and submit them to Blackboard before this class.

Thursday Methods Jeopardy

Week 5 (September 26 – 30)

Tuesday **EXAM #1**

Thursday Fulbright US Student Research Program
Readings: "Victoria Sunseri '18 Awarded 2018 Fulbright US Student Research Award to Italy." April 12, 2018. University of Tampa website.

Week 6 (October 3 – 7)

Tuesday Research Proposal Meetings I (For students whose UT IDs end in 0-3; have worksheet completed)

Thursday Research Proposal Meetings II (For students whose UT IDs end in 4-6; have worksheet completed)

Week 7 (October 10 – 14)

Tuesday Research Proposal Meetings III (For students whose UT IDs end in 7-9; have worksheet completed)

Thursday IRB and CITI Training
Readings: Oakes, J. Michael. 2002. "Risks and Wrongs in Social Science Research: An Evaluator's Guide to the IRB." *Evaluation Review* 26 (5): 443-479.

HANDS ON METHODS Assignment 2

Assignment: ALL students MUST pass the CITI "Social and Behavioral Sciences" Training at University of Tampa for the IRB. You will need this research clearance in this class and many of your upper-level PSC and IST courses. This training should be completed and your certificate of completion uploaded to our course Blackboard site before Week 9. Failure to upload your completion certificate to Blackboard will result in you forfeiting all credit for data gathering assignments assigned prior to upload. Instructions on how to complete the training can be found behind the Bb Readings and Lectures tab for this week.

Week 8 (October 17 – 21)

Tuesday Fieldwork and the Qualitative/Quantitative Divide
Readings: KMR chs 1-4.

Thursday Data Collection: Archival Research and Text Analysis
Readings: KMR ch 5 and Bernard, H. Russell and Gery Ryan. 1998. "Text Analysis: Qualitative and Quantitative Methods." In *Handbook of Methods in Cultural Anthropology*, ed. H. Russell Bernard. Altamira Press: Walnut Creek, CA.

Week 9 (October 24 – 28)

Tuesday Research Proposal Mid-Semester Check-In #1

Thursday Finding Canned Data
Readings: ICPSR. "User Manual."

HANDS ON METHODS Assignment 3

Assignment: Register with ICPSR and search through their database. Find the one data set MOST potentially useful to your research proposal. Include the formal ICPSR citation for the data set and then write a paragraph about what is in the data set and another about how this is potentially useful to your research. This assignment is due via Blackboard before our next class.

Week 10 (October 31 – November 4)

Tuesday Data Collection: Interviews, Oral Histories, and Focus Groups
Readings: KMR ch 6.

HANDS ON METHODS Assignment 4

Assignment: As a class we will develop an interview tool and a strategy to collect a representative sample. Before our next class you will be responsible for selecting an interview subject using the strategy we choose and conducting an interview. You should upload your interview notes to Blackboard.

Thursday Data Collection: Ethnography and Participant Observation
Readings: KMR ch 7.

HANDS ON METHODS Assignment 5

Assignment: As a class we will develop a participant observation data collection tool. Before our next meeting you will be responsible for collecting data using this strategy. You should upload your observation notes to Blackboard.

******* November 7 Last Day to Withdraw *******

Week 11 (November 7 – 11)

Tuesday Research Proposal Mid-Semester Check-In #2

Thursday Data Collection: Surveys

Readings: KMR ch 8.

HANDS ON METHODS Assignment 6

Assignment: As a class we will develop a survey tool and a strategy to collect a representative sample. For this meeting you will be responsible for selecting AT LEAST three hypotheses we can test with a survey of your UT peers. In addition to identifying your independent and dependent variables in each hypotheses, offer a brief explanation of why your hypothesis deserves to be one of the hypotheses tested. You should upload your hypotheses to Blackboard before next class.

Week 12 (November 14 – 18)

Tuesday Developing our Survey Instrument

Thursday Developing our Protocol for Respondent Selection and Field Testing our Survey

HANDS ON METHODS Assignment 7

Assignment: As a class we will develop a survey tool and a strategy to collect a representative sample. Once we have a survey developed you will be charged with interviewing ten of your peers following our chosen randomization protocol. You should upload your results via the Qualtrics telephone app before our last meeting of Week 14.

Week 13 (November 21 – 25)

Tuesday Survey Administration

RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE

Thursday Happy Thanksgiving – No class

Week 14 (November 28 – December 2)

Tuesday Data Collection: Experiments in the Field

Readings: KMR ch 9.

Thursday Seminar Discussion on the Limits of Data

Readings: Biruk

HANDS ON METHODS Assignment 8

Assignment: Write a short (1500 words or less) book review of Biruk following the guidance of the “How to Write an Academic Book Review” flier available to you on Blackboard and submit it for a grade before coming to this class.

Week 15 (December 5 – 9)

Tuesday Looking at our survey data

Thursday Methods Jeopardy

******* EXAM #2 administered in class from 8:30am-10:30am on Tuesday 13 December *******

Class Rules, Etiquette, and Advice:

I like my job a lot. There are few things I can imagine doing more satisfying than providing inquisitive minds with an atmosphere conducive to thinking more critically about their own assumptions and the world in which we live. The image of students leaving my classroom just a bit more prepared to make their society better is sustaining. Following is a list of policies and practices designed to help you make the most out of the course and improve the classroom experience for the both of us.

DO take care of your mental health – College can be a stressful time in a young person's life. The American Psychiatric Association published a recent study of college students observed over the course of a single academic year. Over 60% of students reported feeling things were hopeless one or more times, almost 40% of the men and 50% of the women reported feeling so depressed that they had difficulty functioning one or more times, and 10% of the students reported seriously considering attempting suicide at least one time. If at some point during your time at UT you begin to feel out of control for any reason you should realize that you are not alone and there is help available to you. Your professors are happy to counsel you on the problems you are having coping with academic life, but there are dedicated mental health counselors available to you through UT's Health and Counseling Center located at 111 North Brevard Ave (behind Austin Hall) who you may feel more comfortable disclosing certain types of non-academic problems to. The time to deal with mental health issues is when they arise and not after your grade has deteriorated. The Health Center's email is counseling@ut.edu and their phone numbers are 813-253-6250 (during business hours) and 813-257-7777 (outside of business hours for emergencies).

DO read the assigned texts – The amount and content of the reading assignments are well within the realm of reasonable for a class at this level. I have looked at syllabi from many different institutions of higher learning to come confidently to this conclusion. Do the assigned readings before each class and you will get the most out of the lectures. Though there are some things covered in the assigned readings that will not be covered in lecture, and vice versa, the lectures and readings build off each other. I will not hesitate to pull exam questions from readings not covered in class and from lectures not covered in the readings.

DO engage in class discussions thoughtfully – There will be lots of opportunities for you to contribute to conversations in the classroom. Most of my lectures have a built-in component for student input because I think it is important that you not only read and hear the information, but have to reconstitute and challenge it. I am also delighted to entertain questions when you have them and follow tangents that you would like to explore. Class periods when students are engaged and contributing seem to go by much faster than class periods when students are checked out. Students who regularly contribute to the classroom conversation do significantly better than students who do not on exams. So pretend the information we are covering is really interesting and jump at the opportunity to challenge the material. After a while you will find that you do not

have to pretend any more. If you are shy this is good practice for you. Use the class to build your confidence and public speaking skills. If you are worried about your peers' impressions of you forget about it. Those who value education will find your contributions useful and those who roll their eyes are dull and uninteresting.

DO visit me during office hours – If you have a question about something we covered in class, need feedback on an assignment, want to discuss something you discovered outside of class that you think connects to course content in an interesting way, or just want to chat FEEL FREE to drop by office hours. I keep at least five hours per week and these hours are for you. You are not pestering me or taking me away from something more important. It is nice to talk with students outside of our regular classroom setting.

DO NOT use your laptop or telephone in class – Research consistently shows that students who use electronic devices in the classroom are more distracted and distract those around them. To help combat the temptation for distraction, laptops and telephones should be stored out of sight during class time. Individual exceptions to this policy are rare, require more than a preference for digital notetaking, and must be pre-approved by the professor. In an emergency or if directed to do so as part of a classroom assignment, this rule is suspended.

DO NOT send me an email unless it's absolutely necessary – With several classes and nearly 100 students a semester emails can become cumbersome. While I know email seems convenient from the student point of view because it is more instantly gratifying and relatively labor free, I have found the method of communication a poor way to convey the complex concepts we deal with in class and for general points of inquiry it is inefficient as emails regularly get lost in my Inbox. So how can you decide if an email must be sent to me? I would encourage you to ask yourself the following three questions:

- 1) Can I find the answer on the syllabus, in a text, or online?
- 2) Is it something one of my colleagues in class can answer?
- 3) Can it wait until next class or office hours?

If you answer any of these questions in the affirmative, PLEASE fight against the temptation to hit send. If you answer all of the questions in the negative, feel free to send the email. Make sure, however, to send it from your @spartans.ut.edu email account and keep in mind that I don't check email every day. Also, if you submit an assignment by email I will NOT grade it.

DO NOT ask if it is on the exam – I do not give out study guides. This is a university class and when I attended university ages ago study guides, like the iPod and indoor plumbing, were not yet invented. This experience taught me that learning things the readings and lectures cover that are not on the exam can be just as important and enlightening as learning things that will appear on the exam. Anything in the readings or lectures is fair game for an exam. Things covered in both readings and lectures, which I post online in the form of Powerpoint slides, are slightly more likely to show up on the exam.

DO NOT ask for extra credit – Rarely I give out extra credit opportunities. When I do, the opportunity is initiated by me and open to all students in class. I have never given an extra credit assignment to a student who initiates the request. Giving out extra credit opportunities to select students makes grades for my courses unreliable measures of student success and your goal should be to master the material assigned on the syllabus.

DO take responsibility for missed classes – There are an infinite number of reasons students miss class. On exam days and your small group proposal meeting, you owe me an excuse if you want to avoid a late penalty. For all other class days, you do not need to ask permission to miss, nor do you owe me an explanation. You do not even need to send me an email explaining your absence. The lectures and discussions you miss, however, are testable material that may show up on an exam. I do NOT provide individualized make-up lectures to students who miss a class. It is not unusual for handful of students to miss each class and the expectation that each will receive a personalized lecture is unreasonable. I do NOT answer questions similar to “did I miss anything important?” Answering such questions implies that a two-hour lecture/discussion can be boiled down into an email or few minute recitation and gives the false impression to many students that content not covered in the recap will not be on the exam. So what should you do if you miss a class? Make connections with your colleagues, especially those who take good notes. When you miss, ask them to share. If you expect your colleagues to be helpful in times of need, it behooves you to return the favor. Do the readings, go through the Powerpoint slides I upload as a courtesy to students with your colleague’s notes, and write down any questions you have about the content therein. Feel free to drop by office hours to ask those questions.

DO understand what your grade represents – I assume all students who enter my class want to take away a greater understanding of the slice of the world we are studying and that the grade they receive is but a formal, and somewhat abstract and imprecise, reflection of the knowledge they have gained. The average student in my courses typically earns a low B (3.0). This grade represents both effort and skill so students that put in more effort than average and/or are more skilled than average will do better than this, whereas students who put in less effort than average and/or are less skilled will do worse. It is not easy to earn an A in my course, but a few will. On the other hand, it is even more difficult to earn an F in my course but a few students every semester put in nearly no effort and/or do not have the skills necessary for a college-level course in Political Science. I have given failing marks to students who I think are wonderful people and given A grades to students who I would rather never see again. Grades are not personal statements on your character, they are a professional opinion of the work you submit.

DO learn how to question grades respectfully – I do my best to communicate expectations and make sure my comments on graded assignments pinpoint areas where you did well and areas where you needed to put in some more work. There will, however, occasionally be questions about the grade you receive. I will NOT change a grade or let you resubmit an assignment simply because you want a better grade. If, however, you think I made a

mistake I will consider changing a grade ONLY after the following conditions have been met: 1) You must wait at least 24 hours but no more than two weeks after your grade is submitted to Blackboard to file a complaint; and 2) You must submit in writing (*typed and printed* out) a detailed explanation of why you think you deserve a different grade. I will review your submission and give you my final decision within a week of receipt at which time I will consider the “negotiation” complete and any further appeals on the issue will be directed to the university Grade Appeal procedure.

DO know the university policy on “excused” absences – I do not take roll so the only time you need an excused absence is when there is an assignment due. The UT catalog has a detailed section on excused absences. It falls under the heading “Class Attendance and Participation” in the Academic Policies and Procedures section. There are no excuses for late Blackboard submitted assignments. You know about them well in advance and a last-minute illness or death in the family should not affect your ability to turn in the assignment. Excuses for missed exams or meetings are granted following university procedures. The best way to be granted an excused absence is with prior approval. If you will miss an exam or presentation due to a previously scheduled event, let me know at least two weeks in advance and you will usually be allowed an early exam or presentation. In the event that prior approval is not possible, you must provide acceptable documentation detailing the reasons for your excuse as soon as possible. Be thorough with this documentation as the burden of proving an absence is excusable falls on the student. For each assignment listed in this syllabus there is a detailed policy regarding late penalties. Many of these policies grant an exception for “excused” absences. Whether an absence is “excused” or not is up to the discretion of your professor based on the guidelines outlined above.

UT Policies:

These are a few things every student should know.

Syllabus Subject to Change - This syllabus is informational in nature and is not an express or implied contract. It is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances, as a result of any circumstance outside the University’s control, or as other needs arise. If, in the University’s sole discretion, public health conditions or any other matter affecting the health, safety, upkeep or wellbeing of our campus community or operations requires the University to make any syllabus or course changes, or move to remote teaching, alternative assignments may be provided so that the learning objectives for the course, as determined by the University, can still be met. The University does not guarantee that this syllabus will not change, nor does it guarantee specific in-person, on-campus classes, activities, opportunities, or services or any other particular format, timing, or location of education, classes, activities or services.

Title IX & Reporting Sexual Misconduct - Sexual misconduct, including, but not limited to acts of sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, nonconsensual sexual

contact, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, gender-based harassment or sexual exploitation are prohibited by Title IX, the Student Code of Conduct and other University policies.

The University strives to maintain a safe and nondiscriminatory campus community, and to do so, it is important for the Spartan community to report any safety concerns, such as acts of sexual misconduct. If you experience or witness any of these University prohibited actions, the University encourages reporting these matters, so that the University is able to take prompt action to stop, prevent and remedy the effects of the harassment. University resources and grievance procedure information will be provided to individuals who may seek services or redress.

There are many options to making a Title IX/Sexual Misconduct report. You may report this information through the University's online Title IX Report form.¹ The information will be forwarded and reviewed by the Title IX Coordinator or a Title IX Deputy Coordinator, who will contact you to provide further information on University grievance procedure options and resources that are available.

You may also make a direct report by contacting the University's Title IX Coordinator:
Kelsey San Antonio, Title IX Coordinator
Southard Family Building Suite #266
(KSanAntonio@ut.edu) (813)-257-3748

If you decide to discuss an incident with your course professor, it is important to note that they are considered a Responsible Employee and are obligated to report the information you share to the University's Title IX Coordinator.²

If you are not ready to disclose or report this information to the University, you may disclose the information to a confidential party, such as a Victim Advocate, and/or a Counselor or Medical Clinician at the Student Health Center³, to discuss any further options and resources available before deciding to report.

* The Victim's Advocacy Hotline: (victimadvocacy@ut.edu) (813) 257-3900

* Counseling Center (counselingservices@ut.edu) (813) 253-6250

* Student Health - Medical Services (healthcenter@ut.edu) (813) 253-6250

For more information, see The University of Tampa's Title IX webpage⁴ and the Student Code of Conduct⁵ webpage.

ADA Statement - Students with disabilities: If you require accommodations because of a disability, please call (813) 257-5757 or e-mail disability.services@ut.edu for information on registering with Student Disability Services. You can also submit your request for accommodations and supporting documentation via an Accommodation Request.⁶ Please

¹ www.ut.edu/titleixreport

² There is an exception to this required reporting for preventative education programs and public awareness events or forums. For more information about exempt events, please contact the Title IX Office.

³ A disclosure to a Dickey Health and Wellness Center Counselor or Medical clinician is only confidential when the disclosure is within the course of mental or medical health treatment and services.

⁴ <https://www.ut.edu/titleix>

⁵ <https://www.ut.edu/studentconduct>

⁶ https://ut-accommodate.symphlicity.com/public_accommodation/

feel free to discuss this with me in private for more information. If you encounter disability-related barriers accessing the online content for this course, please contact Sharon Austin, Academic Technology Accessibility Specialist, at saustin@ut.edu. If the initial access to the content cannot be resolved, the university will provide individuals with disabilities access to, and use of, information and data by an alternative means that meets the identified needs.

Campus Closure Statement - Course interruption due to adverse conditions: In case of any adverse condition or situation which could interrupt the schedule of classes, each student is asked to access UT Homepage⁷ for information about the status of the campus and class meetings. In addition, please refer to UT Blackboard⁸ for announcements and other important information. You are responsible for accessing this information.

Academic Integrity Statement - The University of Tampa is committed to the development of each student to become a productive and responsible citizen who embraces the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Upholding academic integrity and promoting an ethical standard that does not condone academic misconduct is an important demonstration of these values and underpins how we live and learn in a community of inquiry. Students are expected to act ethically in the pursuit of their education and to avoid behaviors that run counter to participation in and demonstration of their learning. The Academic Integrity Policy⁹ lists several common types of violations related to cheating, unauthorized collaboration or assistance, plagiarism, and more. While the policy lists common violations and examples, it is not an exhaustive list and instructors may identify other types of conduct that impacts their ability to evaluate what has been learned substantively enough to constitute a violation of this policy. An instructor may impose a wide range of sanctions for academic integrity violations from completing a more difficult replacement assignment to an F in the course. Particularly severe violations or multiple violations throughout a student's academic career may result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

Attendance Policy and Excused Absences - The University of Tampa has a General Attendance Policy in the Catalog. As stated, students are expected to attend class and academic programs and individual faculty may require specified levels of attendance for successful completion of a course. However, the University has identified specific types of absences as either excused or unexcused absences. Students should be aware of each type of absence and the impact on their ability to complete work that was missed during their absence.

Faculty must be notified of scheduled excused absences in advance in order for students to receive accommodation for work missed. The type of absence must fall within the

⁷ <http://ut.edu>

⁸ <https://utampa.okta.com>

⁹ <http://ut.smartcatalogiq.com/en/current/catalog/Academic-Policies-and-Procedures/Academic-Integrity-Policy>

categories specified in the catalog and the faculty member may determine how far in advance notification must be provided.

Certain types of unscheduled absences may also qualify as excused. Faculty may require documentation or verification. This would include isolation or quarantine due to COVID.

The policy requires faculty to accommodate excused absences, including graded work, in a fair manner. This is determined by the faculty member and is dependent on the structure of the course and what work was missed. This may include replacement of work with something equivalent or having the work excluded from the student's grade. Faculty are NOT required or expected to provide accommodation through remote access to the class or by providing a recording of the class session.

Faculty may determine that a student has missed too much participant-dependent work to successfully accomplish learning outcomes, even if the absences meet the criteria for excused absences.

Faculty are not required to allow a student to make up work missed due to unexcused absences.

Class Disruption Statement - Every student has the right to a comfortable learning environment where the open and honest exchange of ideas may freely occur. Each student is expected to do his or her part to ensure that the classroom (and anywhere else the class may meet) remains conducive to learning. This includes respectful and courteous treatment of all in the classroom. According to the terms of the University of Tampa Disruption Policy, the professor will take immediate action when inappropriate behavior occurs. Details of the policy may be found at Disruption of the Academic Process.¹⁰

¹⁰ <http://ut.smartcatalogiq.com/en/current/catalog/Academic-Policies-and-Procedures/Disruption-of-the-Academic-Process>