

Econ 106 - Introduction to Research Methods II**Instructor:** Hakan Ercan (hercan@metu.edu.tr) **Office:** A207**Lectures:** Wed. 14.40-17.30 – FZ16**Office Hours:** Wed. & Thurs. (13.40-14.30)

Course Description: Qualitative and quantitative scientific research methods and their application in economic research. Major types of social research, problem selection, research design, measurement, data sources, and data evaluation.

In Econ 101, you were exposed to thinking like an economist. Economists base their analyses on qualitative and quantitative evaluation of data. We analyze individual choices, institutions, and markets to make informed decisions regarding our potential action sets as economic agents.

“Methodology” here refers to procedures of uncovering the “what”, “how”, and “why” of things. In this course, we will learn about methods of social research and how to design them. Economics degrees are relevant in a continuum of careers such as academia, banking, finance, business, government, international organizations, NGOs, non-profits, data science, etc. to name a few. During your careers, most of you will be looking at many types of data and their visualization and will be exposed to the results of several types of qualitative and quantitative research, including surveys. This class will help you make sense of this information.

By the end of this course, students will:

1. Understand the basic methods of social research
2. Become a competent user of social research
3. Acquire skills relevant to designing social research

Textbook (required)

Neuman, W. L. (2013). Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches. United Kingdom: Pearson.

Course Evaluation

We will cover approximately two thirds of the book, at the pace of about one chapter a week. We will provide you with additional reading for the analysis of quantitative data.

Assessment:

Attendance	10%
Assignments	15%
Midterm Exam	35%
Final Exam	40%

Note that assessment may cover any aspect of the course material covered in lectures, assigned readings, and discussions made during classes.

Communication: <https://odtuclass.metu.edu.tr>

Note that all information regarding the course, reading materials, assignments, exams, and announcements will go through this system. It is your responsibility to check this site at regular intervals and be up to date with all relevant information.

Academic Honesty: Any form of dishonest behavior for any part of the course, which includes but not limited to; cheating during exams, plagiarizing and inappropriate collaboration in assignments, will ensure a failing grade for the course and will result in further disciplinary action in line with university regulations depending on the severity of the violation.

Information for Students with Disabilities Students who experience difficulties due to their disabilities and wish to obtain academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids must contact ODTU Disability Support Office and/or course instructor and the advisor of students with disabilities at academic departments (for the list: <http://engelsiz.metu.edu.tr/en/advisor-students-disabilities>) as soon as possible. For detailed information, please visit the website of Disability Support Office: <https://engelsiz.metu.edu.tr/en/>

Course Outline: Below is the outline of the topics we will cover throughout the semester.

Week 1	Ch 1 – Why do research?
Week 2	Ch 2 – Major types of research
Week 3	Ch 4 – Meaning of methodology
Week 4	Ch 5 – Literature review
Week 5	Ch 7 – Qualitative and quantitative measurement
Week 6	Ch 8 – Qualitative and quantitative sampling
Week 7	Midterm examination
Week 8	Supplementary material – Polls
Week 9	Ch 10 – Survey research
Week 10	Ch12 – Analysis of quantitative data
Week 11	Supplementary material – Analysis of quantitative data
Week 12	Ch 13 – Field research and focus group research
Week 13	Ch 15 – Analysis of qualitative data
Week 14	Ch 16 – Writing a research report