## SIUE logo with black sans serif capital SIU and a red lower case e

## Syllabus for CODE123

Research and Systems Thinking – Face to Face

Spring 2023

[Time]

[Location]

## About the Instructor

Name: xxx

Phone: xxx

Email: xxx

Office Number: xx

Office Hours: xxx

## Welcome

Community-Oriented Digital Engagement Scholars (CODES) is a pathway for motivated students in all fields and majors to use their general education credits to work alongside community organizations to study and address the world’s most pressing problems. CODES students meet each semester in research-team courses facilitated by their mentoring professor and a community organization to address major social problems in our region. Teams analyze, visualize, and share their work with the broader public using skills central to the digital humanities, including data mining, mapping, storytelling, networking, and cultural analytics.

In this second core course in the program’s sequence, we will learn methods for conducting research thoroughly and ethically. You will practice qualitative research methods as you undertake ethnographic studies, conduct focus groups, and learn methods for analyzing and communicating your results in writing for several audiences and purposes. You will meet in your research team alongside your participation in this class. There you will tackle a content list to help you learn about your topic from a variety of perspectives and creating digital stories about your problem. Your work in the research team will inform this course, and you will take the skills you learn here back to your research teams.

## **Co-Requisites and Pre-Requisites**

Students must be enrolled in CODE122: Research Team II during the same semester they are enrolled in CODE 123: Research and Systems Thinking. Students must complete CODE120: Research Team I and CODE121: Transdisciplinary Communication with a C or better before enrolling in this course.

## **Catalog Description**

Introduces students to designing an ethical research plan and collecting quantitative and qualitative data across disciplines to solve a problem.

## **Course Goals**

* Understand how research can be used and collected in a variety of ways to understand problems and propose solutions
* Demonstrate ethical considerations in the design and conducting of research
* Articulate uses of research that would be helpful in for research team problems
* Be able to design research projects using mixed methods and disciplines
* Write the results of research to effectively tell a story, inform, and persuade multiple audiences

## **Course Materials**

* Green & Lageson-*Give Methods a Chance*
* Davis-*Freedom is a Constant Struggle*
* Chamberlain-*Necessary Lies*
* Howard Becker- *Telling About Society* (chapter 1 handout)
* Kathy Charmaz- “Grounded Theory Methods in Social Justice Research” in *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research* (handout)
* Lawrence & Lawless-*When They Blew the Levee  
  Race, Politics, and Community in Pinhook, Missouri* (excerpts)
* Andrew Jolivette-*Research Justice* (excerpts)
* Colin Gordon- *Mapping Decline* (excerpts)
* Rebecca Skloot-*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

## Overview of Assignments

1. Weekly exams and quizzes (20%)
2. Ethnographic research project (20%)
3. Focus group project (30%)
4. Research proposal (30%)

## Grading

At any time in the semester, you may calculate your grade by dividing your accumulated point total by the total possible points and converting it to a percentage.

***Scale***

A ≥ 90%

B ≥ 80%

C ≥ 70%

D ≥ 60%

F < 60%

# Course and University Policies

## Attendance Expectations

Students are expected to be in class on each day on time. According to the Norwegian pop band D’Sound, “Bein’ there is half the walk.” Class discussion in this course is just as important as the readings and assignments, alas, if you are not in class, you are not fully participating. Attendance is taken daily at the beginning of the class session. If you walk in late, it is your responsibility to check with me at the end of the class to be certain you were marked as present/late. Those who miss a week of class or less will be rewarded with one fewer essay question on the final exam. Three tardies equates to one absence.

## Number of Preparation Hours

As with any undergraduate course you will take, the calculation to determine the amount of time you need to spend on a course to be successful is to spend two hours outside of class for every hour in class. Class will be in session for two and a half hours per week, which means students should expect to spend at least five hours per week outside of class on readings, studying, assignments, journals and the research paper.

## Technology

*Slack* – The CODES pathway uses Slack for communications. Use it to talk to one another and to message me privately about our work or about your other experiences on campus. I’ll be available in Slack Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 and 5.

Blackboard – Blackboard is the web-based course management system used at SIUe. This is your primary source of information regarding the course. Through Blackboard, you may access the course syllabus and schedule, class slides in PDF format, homework assignments, your grades, links to online resources, announcements, and other materials relevant to the course. Access the Blackboard site by going to <http://bb.siue.edu/>. Your Blackboard login is your email username and your Blackboard password is your email password. Additional Blackboard resources include:

Blackboard Student Orientation Site: <http://www.siue.edu/its/bb/index.shtml>

Blackboard Help Line: 618-650-5500

## Academic Integrity/Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use of another person’s words or ideas without crediting that person. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated and may lead to failure on an assignment, in the class, or dismissal from the University, per the [SIUE academic dishonesty policy](http://www.siue.edu/policies/1i6.shtml). Students are responsible for complying with University policies about academic honesty as stated in the [University’s Student Academic Conduct Code](http://www.siue.edu/policies/3c2.shtml).

## Diversity and Inclusion

This pathway deliberately seeks to be on the cutting-edge of diversity efforts at the university, hence the racial demographics of CODES exceed the standards of most other classes and programs on campus. All students and faculty have the responsibility to co-create a classroom that affirms inclusion, equity, and social justice, where racism, sexism, classism, ableism, heterosexism, xenophobia, and other social pathologies are not tolerated. In addition to fully supporting the University's [diversity statement](https://www.siue.edu/about/mission-goals-plans/diversity.shtml), we plan to participate in regular conversations throughout the semester to consider additional barriers and opportunities associated with the evolving nature of diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives both on campus and more broadly.

## Services for Students Needing Accommodations

Students needing accommodations because of medical diagnosis or major life impairment will need to register with Accessible Campus Community & Equitable Student Support (ACCESS) and complete an intake process before accommodations will be given. Students who believe they have a diagnosis, but do not have documentation, should contact ACCESS for assistance and/or appropriate referral. The ACCESS office is located in the Student Success Center, Room 1203. You can also reach the office by emailing us at [myaccess@siue.edu](mailto:myaccess@siue.edu) or by calling [618-650-3726](tel:618-650-3726). If you feel you would need additional help in the event of an emergency situation, please notify your instructor to be shown the evacuation route and discuss specific needs for assistance.

## Academic and Other Student Services

As an enrolled SIUE student, you have a variety of support available to you, including:

* [Lovejoy Library Resources](http://www.siue.edu/lovejoylibrary/)
* [Tutoring Resource Center](https://www.siue.edu/lss/tutoring-resource-center/)
* [The Writing Center](http://www.siue.edu/lss/writing/index.shtml)
* [Academic Advising](http://www.siue.edu/advising/)
* [Financial Aid](https://www.siue.edu/financialaid/)
* [Campus Events](http://www.siue.edu/events/)
* [Counseling Services](https://www.siue.edu/counseling/)

If you find that you need additional support, please reach out to me.

## Cougar Care

Dealing with the fast-paced life of a college student can be challenging, and I always support a student's decisions to prioritize mental health. Students have access to counseling services on campus (Student Success Center, 0222). Make an appointment by visiting [cougarcare.siue.edu](http://cougarcare.siue.edu/) or by calling [618-650-2842](tel:618-650-2842).

# CODES Partners

CODES is a partnership between several University programs and Centers; members of these University groups will make frequent appearances in and provides support for your CODES courses.

## The IRIS Center

The IRIS Center at SIUE is an interdisciplinary facility designed to support scholarship and teaching that applies digital content as a primary methodology. IRIS Center staff offer instructional sessions on a variety of tools and software, and students can visit the center for support in designing digital projects. The IRIS Center is particularly invested in opportunities for students to learn by doing; our students have complete fieldwork abroad, work with rare books, and serve as mentors for digital humanities clubs at secondary schools. In IRIS, students learn skills applicable to future careers like writing for the web, web development, and data visualization. Visit <https://iris.siue.edu> to learn more about the IRIS Center.

## SIUE Successful Communities Collaborative

SIUE Successful Communities Collaborative (SSCC) is a cross-disciplinary program that supports yearlong partnerships between Illinois communities and SIUE to advance local resiliency and sustainability based on community-identified environmental, social and economic issues and needs. SSCC's mission is to connect Illinois communities with SIUE students and faculty. The SSCC team is eager to support you and your cohort. Visit <https://www.siue.edu/successful-communities/index.shtml> to learn more about SSCC and the resources it has available to support your work.

## The SIUE Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Campus Center

The SIUE Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Campus Center (TRHT) seeks to dismantle a hierarchy of human value by connecting community agencies already engaged in anti-racism work, establishing new relationships between those community agencies and SIUE, and preparing students to work alongside community members as agents of social change. As equal partners with all stakeholders, we establish authentic, trusting relationships for the upbuilding of sustainable communities where people of all backgrounds can thrive. Visit <https://www.siue.edu/provost/trht/index.shtml> to learn more about TRHT, its goals, programs, and initiatives.

# Course Schedule

1. Introduction to research/methods
   1. What are the social sciences?
   2. How is research used in the social sciences?
   3. Overview of methods
2. Ethics of research
   1. The case of Henrietta Lacks
   2. Chamberlain, *Necessary Lies*
3. Research justice
   1. Davis: *We Have to Talk about Systemic Change*
   2. Ferguson, MO as a case study
   3. Chamberlain, *Necessary Lies*
4. Qualitative Methods
   1. Survey of qualitative methods
   2. Chamberlain, *Necessary Lies*
5. Interviews
   1. Types of interviews
   2. Telling a Good Story
   3. Practical details of interviewing- recording, transcribing, and accurate portrayals
   4. Challenges and benefits of interviews
   5. The Central Park Five-
      1. What happens on the ground level?
      2. Whose stories to believe
      3. Testimony vs. interview- purpose and intention
6. Focus Groups
   1. Recruitment, facilitating, and moderating
   2. Professionalism and practical details
   3. Social construction and meaning making
   4. Challenges and benefits of focus groups
   5. Focus group project assigned
7. Ethnographic methods
   1. Basics of fieldwork and field notes
   2. Ethnography analysis assigned
   3. Ethnography practice
8. Content Analysis
   1. Focus on social media content analysis: i.e., Twitter and Facebook
   2. Hashtags as coded data
9. Quantitative methods- Introduction
   1. Survey of quantitative methods
   2. How numbers can tell stories
   3. How numbers can fabricate stories
   4. Finding information in big data
   5. Survey questions
   6. Online surveys
   7. Issues of survey bias
10. Quantitative methods: Visual Content Analysis
    1. Spatial analysis of community
    2. Using video and photography in visual content analysis
    3. Research proposal assigned
11. Screening of *When the Levees Broke*
    1. Systems that created Hurricane Katrina as a social problem
    2. The importance of the humanities in the social sciences
    3. Comparison to current events
12. Innovations in Social Science Research Methods
    1. GIS as a method and production of knowledge
    2. Storymapping
13. Storymapping
    1. Storymaps
    2. Case Study: Colin Gordon- *Mapping Decline*
14. Finalize research proposals
15. How to move forward with research?
    1. Final research proposal due