

# Choosing a Methodological Approach to Research

## Group Meeting 4

SOC 201 - Research Methods

April 23, 2018

### Directions

- 1) Identify your population and sample. You must explain how you are random sampling. What is the population from which you are sampling? How large is that population? What is your sampling frame? How large will your sample be? How are you randomizing -via random number generator, for example? Explain any potential short comings of your sampling procedure (no sampling procedure is perfect so I expect everyone to discuss the shortcomings of their sampling procedure). You must also explain your random assignment procedure. How many subjects are in your control group? How many are in your non-control group? Does the control group get any type of placebo treatment?
- 2) Operationalize your variables. This is where you identify, discuss and justify your choice of treatment effect (otherwise known as an “intervention” - it serves as your independent variable). This is also where you construct your pre and post tests for measuring your dependent variable -simply write them down in the same way your subjects would see them.
- 3) Choose your statistical method of analysis. For most basic experimental approaches, a difference of means test is the most appropriate statistical method of analysis.
- 4) Finally, you need to visually depict your experiment like shown in the chart below, except you must include include labels that identify what the population is, what the sample, the number of subjects in each group, and the actual treatment effect. Everyone must have a completed visual design. I will checking everyone’s visualization during our group meeting. If you are absent during that class period you must seek my approval for your visualization on your own time (i.e. during my office hours or by email).

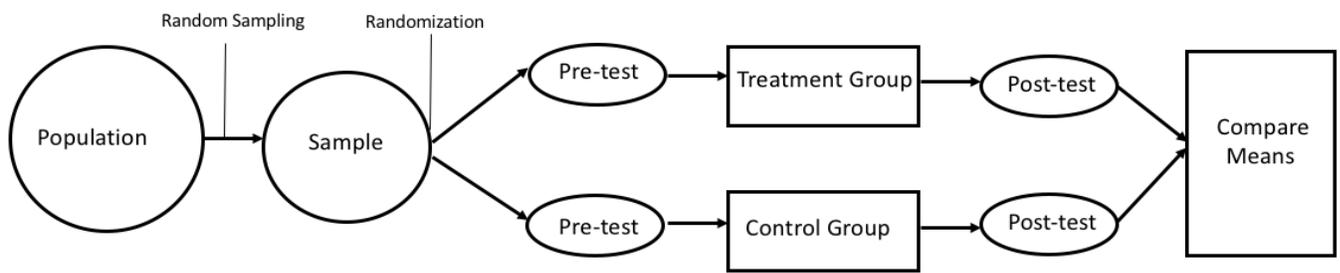


Figure 1: Experimental Design Visualization