

Sociology 300:
Principles of Sociological Inquiry
Summer 2010
(7/6/09 – 8/13/09)

Lecture: MTWThF 12:00-1:15 PM (SAUND244)

Lab: TTh 10:30-11:45 AM (SAUND 342)

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Course Description (from the Course Catalog):

Basic methods of sociology for production and analysis of data. Foundations for understanding research and for advanced courses in methods and statistics. (DS)

Required Readings:

- Babbie, Earl. *The Basics of Social Research*. 5th edition. Wadsworth Publication
- Supportive materials will be distributed in the class sessions as necessary.

Outline of Course Requirements and Due Dates:

	Total points	Due dates
Attendance	10	N/A
Assignments	30	See below schedule
Examination	25	Monday, July 26
Presentation	10	MTW, August 9, 10, 11
Final paper	25	Friday, August 13 (Noon)
Total	100	

Attendance

Class and lab attendances are mandatory. No absence without prior notice will be excused, unless the student submits a doctor's note. **Every unexcused absence will cost 2 points (out of a total of 10 points given to attendance)**. When there is any in-class activity, attendance points are given upon the submission of the assignment that is due at the end of the class (no submission= 2 points deduction).

Assignments

Students will complete three short writing assignments. The assignments are designed to help students make progress on the research paper. Assignments will be graded for quality. **Completion of each assignment is worth 10 points of the total grade (10 x 3 = 30 points)**. Guidelines for the assignments will be distributed later in the classes.

Examination

One cumulative exam will test the students' understanding of the materials that are covered in the readings, lectures, and labs. A review session will be held in class on Friday, July 23rd. **The**

examination is worth 25 points, and it concludes the first half of the course that provides basic knowledge of social research.

Final Paper and the Presentation

Through the remainder of the course, students will concentrate on their unique research projects so that they will acquire practical experience of doing social research and writing a sociological paper. All students will be required to write a short research paper (about 10, double-spaced pages) and give a 10-15 minutes presentation. For a quantitative paper, students will select a topic, review the literature in the area, generate a hypothesis based on the General Social Survey (GSS) dataset, and use Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) to analyze the data. For a qualitative paper, students will select a topic, review the literature in the area, select the methods, collect and analyze the data. Guidelines for the final paper will be provided later in the classes. **The presentation is worth 10 points, and the final paper is worth 25 points (= a total of 35 points) of the final grade.**

Important Note on the Submission of Written Assignments:

For accreditation purposes, the UH and Sociology Department must evaluate the effectiveness of our courses and department. Therefore, all students must submit an e-copy of your written papers to the instructor/TA whenever papers are due. Papers should be saved in Microsoft Word-compatible formats that you can e-mail as attachments. The writing assignments should be submitted with a file name that includes the course number (ex: 300), the semester (ex: F08, S09), the student's name, and if more than one assignment is submitted for a course, an indication of the name of the assignment (ex: Review2; Final Paper). For this class, therefore, an example of correct file name may be:

300SU10JonNakagawaFinalPaper.doc

Departmental Statements:

Kokua Program

If you feel you need reasonable accommodations based on the impact of a disability, please contact the KOKUA Program, located in room 013 of the QLCSS or telephone 956-7511 or 956-7612; 2) speak with me privately to discuss your specific needs. I will be happy to work with you and the KOKUA Program to meet your access needs.

Plagiarism

The following definition of plagiarism comes from the UH-Manoa Student Conduct Code:

Plagiarism includes but is not limited to submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any work that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another's idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student's language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral or artistic material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; or "drylabbing," which includes obtaining and using experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of a course or from previous terms. (University of Hawai'i at Manoa Student Conduct Code (1992), p. 6)

It is ultimately each student's responsibility to learn about plagiarism and how to avoid it.

Ignorance of the rules, saying "I forgot about that" or "I made a mistake" is not considered a valid excuse when it comes to plagiarism.

Course Schedule (subject to change):

Week	Readings	Contents	Lab	Due
Week 1				
6-Jul		Introduction	No Lab	
7-Jul	Chapter 1	Human Inquiry and Science		
8-Jul	Chapter 2	Paradigms, Theory, and Research	"A big picture"	
9-Jul	Chapter 3	The Ethics and Politics of Social Research		
Week 2				
12-Jul	Chapter 4	Research Design		
13-Jul	Chapter 5	Conceptualization, Operationalization...	Assignment #1	
14-Jul	Chapter 6	Indexes, Scales and Typologies		
15-Jul	Chapter 7	The Logic of Sampling	ASA citation style, Avoiding plagiarism	
16-Jul	Chapter 9	Survey Research		
Week 3				
19-Jul		Sharing topics for final paper project		Paper topic*
20-Jul	Chapter 14	Assignment #2	Quantitative Research Methods	Assignment #1
21-Jul	Chapter 10	Qualitative Research Methods I		
22-Jul	Chapter 11	Qualitative Research Methods II	Univariate analysis	
23-Jul		Review session		
Week 4				
26-Jul		Examination		
27-Jul		Progress report on your final paper project	Univariate analysis	
28-Jul		Q&A for Assignment #2		
29-Jul		Assignment #3	Bivariate analysis	Assignment #2
30-Jul	Chapter 13	Qualitative data analysis		
Week 5				
2-Aug	Chapter 15	Communicating the data		
3-Aug		Writing the introduction and conclusion	Bivariate analysis	
4-Aug		Drafting your paper		
5-Aug		Final paper check list	Q&A for Assignment #3	Assignment #3
6-Aug		Getting ready for presentations		
Week 6				
9-Aug		Student presentations		
10-Aug		Student presentations	Work on final paper	
11-Aug		Student presentations		
12-Aug		Work on final paper	Work on final paper	
13-Aug		Submit final paper by Noon (on Laulima)		Final paper

* NOT to be graded, but you need to have a topic by the time!