

**Sociology 300:
Principles of Sociological Inquiry
Summer 2011
(Online 6/6/11 – 8/13/11)**

Instructor: Yoko I. Wang

Class Meeting Time (online): Online discussions (anytime Mon.-Fri.)

Office Hours (online): Via e-mail (anytime Mon.-Fri.)

E-Mail: yokoaida@hawaii.edu

Course Website: <https://laulima.hawaii.edu/portal>

Course Description (from the Course Catalog):

This course is about the basic methods of sociology for production and analysis of data. Foundations for understanding research and for advanced courses in methods and statistics. (DS)

This is an online class offered via Laulima. After registering for the course, students may access the class at <https://laulima.hawaii.edu>. Students are required to use their UH account (username@hawaii.edu) for the duration of the course. For additional information about online classes, see www.hawaii.edu/dl.

About this ONLINE course:

This is an online course and therefore it is *very* important to read the syllabus *very* carefully so that you know exactly what you have to do. An online course is similar to any traditional face-to-face course in some ways, yet different in others. You do not have to be on campus. You can work wherever and whenever you like. However, you still have to do all the readings, perhaps more intensively than in a face-to-face course because the instructor will not give “lecture” about readings. You must read the textbook and other materials thoroughly in order to be successful in class discussions and exams. It is not possible to pass this online course without actually participating in class discussions because all of your “participation” must be submitted in written forms.

Textbooks:

Babbie, Earl. *The Basics of Social Research*. 5th edition. Wadsworth Publication [Required]

*Supportive materials will be posted on Laulima as necessary.

The Sociology Writing Group. 2008. *A Guide to Writing Sociology Papers*. 6th edition. Worth Publishers. [Recommended: This book will be very helpful for your final paper project.]

Course Requirements:

ATTENTION: This is an online class and I will not accept excuses that your computer or the Internet did not work. Make sure you have a back-up plan in case yours "acts up" in any way.

Discussion (30%)

I will post various discussion questions early on each week and every student is expected to enter his/her responses **at least three times a week: at least ONE response to the instructor's discussion questions and TWO responses to other students' postings. You must post on different days. Multiple postings on the same day are considered as one posting.** If you do not participate you will be losing the points for that week. There is no make-up by ‘over-participating’ the following week. **You can earn up to 3 points every week (3 x 10 = 30 points)** for your participation depending on the quality of your postings. It is not considered participating in a discussion when you “just post” comments at the end of the week: your comments should be thoughtful and constructive. A discussion should be an interactive communication between the instructor and all students throughout the week dealing with the particular topic of the week. I will look favorably on responses that are posted on or before Wednesdays.

Examinations (25%)

There are a total of 5 exams (each exam will be a combination of multiple choice quizzes and short essays) that will test the students' understanding of the materials that are covered in the readings and discussions. Exams will be open for *two days* (Friday 12:00AM through Saturday 11:59 PM) via Laulima and are **worth 5 points each, a total of 25 points**.

Writing Assignments (15%)

You will complete three short essays, which are the building blocks for your final paper. Your essays will be graded for quality. **Completion of each assignment is worth 5 points of the total grade (5 x 3 = 15 points)**. Guidelines for the assignments will be posted on Laulima as the course progresses.

Final Paper (30%)

You will work on your unique research project throughout the course period so that you can acquire practical experience of doing social research and writing a sociological paper. All of you are required to complete a short research paper (about 10, double-spaced pages) by the end of the course, and you will be working on the major parts of your paper through three "writing assignments" described above.

For a quantitative paper, you 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. (SPSS tutorial is available online at <http://www.stat.tamu.edu/spss.php>; GSS dataset is available for download <http://www.norc.uchicago.edu/GSS+Website/>; SPSS has downloadable free 30-days trial version through its website <http://www.spss.com/downloads/>.)

For a qualitative paper, you will select a topic, review the literature in the area, select the methods, collect and analyze the data.

More detailed guidelines for the final paper will be posted on Laulima as the course advances. **The final paper is worth 30 points/percent of the final grade.**

Important Note on the Submission of Written Assignments:

For accreditation purposes, University of Hawaii and the 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 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: F10, S11), 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: **300SU11JonNakagawaFinalPaper.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):

*Tips for planning

Week 1 (6/6-6/11) *START thinking about research topic for your final paper project

6/6 (Mon.) - 6/10 (Fri.) Introduction; Discussion on Ch1-3

6/10 (Fri.) - 6/11 (Sat.) Exam#1 Open (Ch1-3)

Week 2 (6/13-6/18) *START narrowing down your research topic

6/13 (Mon.) - 6/17 (Fri.) Discussion on Ch4-5

6/17 (Fri.) - 6/18 (Sat.) Exam#2 Open (Ch4-5)

Week 3 (6/20-6/25) *DECIDE on your research topic and START reading about the topic

6/20 (Mon.) - 6/24 (Fri.) Discussion on Ch6-7

6/24 (Fri.) - 6/25 (Sat.) Exam#3 Open (Ch6-7)

Week 4 (6/27-7/2)

6/27 (Mon.) - 7/1 (Fri.) Discussion on Ch8-9

7/2 (Sat.) Noon Research Proposal Due

Week 5 (7/4-7/9) *START working on Assignment#1

7/4 (Mon.) - 7/8 (Fri.) Discussion on Ch10-12

7/8 (Fri.) - 7/9 (Sat.) Exam#4 Open (Ch8-12)

Week 6 (7/11-7/16)

7/11 (Mon.) - 7/15 (Fri.) Discussion on Ch13-14

7/18 (Fri.) - 7/22(Sat.) Exam#5 Open (Ch13-14)

Week 7 (7/18-7/23) *START working on Assignment#2

7/18 (Mon.) - 7/22 (Fri.) Discussion on Ch15

7/23 (Sat.) Noon Assignment#1 Due

Week 8 (7/25-7/30) *START working on Assignment#3

7/25 (Mon.) - 7/29 (Fri.) Discussion on Assignment#1 (getting/giving feedbacks)

7/30 (Sat.) Noon Assignment#2 Due

Week 9 (8/1-8/6)

8/1 (Mon.) - 8/5 (Fri.) Discussion on Assignment#2 (getting/giving feedbacks)

8/6 (Sat.) Noon Assignment#3 Due

Week 10 (8/2-8/13)

8/2 (Mon.) - 8/12 (Fri.) Discussion on Assignment#3 (getting/giving feedbacks);

Discussion on assembling Assignments#1-3 into the final paper

8/13 (Sat.) Noon Final Paper Due