

SOCIOLOGY 300
Principles of Sociological Inquiry

Instructor:	Jonathan Dial Office: Saunders 220 Phone: 956-3725 Email: dialjonathan@gmail.com
Class Schedule:	T-TH 12:00-1:00 (GAR 103)
Lab Schedule:	T 8:30-10am (Crawford 212), W 8:30-10am (Saunders 342), TH 8:30-10am (Saunders 342)
Office Hours:	Immediately following lectures and/or by appointment only
Text:	Neuman, Lawrence W. 2011. <i>Basics of Social Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches (The 3rd edition)</i>

Class Objectives:

The objective of this class is to help students gain a basic understanding of quantitative and qualitative research methods. This process includes learning how to choose appropriate research topics, designing effective and appropriate research methods, properly conducting and analyzing data and reporting the results accurately and succinctly. While this course includes the theoretical and methodological issues vital to properly conducting survey research, it also provides an opportunity for students to learn from experience. The course is centered around the creation and analysis of (a) an original survey and (b) a handful of semi-structured interviews in an attempt to provide a practical application of the technical elements of social research methods. The assignments build on each other from week to week as the students first choose realistic research topics, then create and conduct a research instrument, and finally analyze the data and report the findings. The lab periods will be used as an opportunity for students to work toward their various assignments, as the labs focus more on the technical aspects such as literature searches, data entry and analysis, while the lectures focus on the principles of social research.

The assignments in this course are included to help students develop clear and effective verbal and written communication skills. Therefore I expect students' written work to be clear and the meaning of ideas effectively conveyed. Students must display a wide vocabulary and proper choice of words and exhibit proper sentence structure, some sentence variety, and cohesion between sentences. Papers and presentation must be carefully edited and include few errors in grammar, and the conventions of standard written English must be observed.

Assignments:

Readings You are expected to have readings completed in the week they are assigned to participate and contribute in the class/lab discussion. The text is also a supplementary resource for conducting your research.

* This schedule is subject to change to accommodate the progress of lectures and projects. Supplementary reading materials may be distributed throughout the course.

Exams There will be four short tests and one final exam. The tests will be drawn primarily from the course text and lecture material. The short tests include 15-20 multiple-choice questions each and will consist of the readings and material covered in class up to the time of the exams (3 or 4 chapters). If you are not present for the short exams you will not receive a score, unless you have a valid written excuse. The final exam is a cumulative exam. It will be made up of the material covered throughout the entire class. You will have 2 hours to complete the final exam, which will be taken in class on the assigned day.

Written Work Written work for this course is composed of two parts.
(1) A quantitative research paper including Introduction, Literature Review, Data and Methods, Findings, Analysis/Discussion, and Bibliography.
(2) Drafts and summaries (1-2 pages) of your progress for your qualitative and quantitative projects. Due in the labs.

Presentations Students will make a presentation on their qualitative research in the final 2 weeks of labs. This will include all of the major sections and information of a research paper but will take the form of an oral/visual presentation.

Grading:

Weekly lab assignments for quantitative/qualitative projects – **15%**
Quantitative Project – **20%**
Short Exams – **20%**
Qualitative Project – **20%**
Final Exam – **15%**
Participation/Attendance – **10%**

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1 –

8/26 – Introduction & Syllabus
8/28 – Ch. 1 – Doing Social Research
Lab: None

Week 2 –

9/2 – Ch. 1 – Doing Social Research
9/4 – Ch. 3 – Ethics in Social Research
Lab: Research Topic

Week 3 –

9/9 – Ch. 2 – Theory and Social Research
9/11 – Ch. 2 – Theory and Social Research
Lab: Literature Review; Initial Lit. Review Due

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Week 4 –

9/16 – Exam 1 (Chapters 1, 2, 3)

9/18 – Ch. 4 - Reviewing the Scholarly Literature and Planning a Study

Lab: Create the survey; Rough Draft of Survey Questions Due

Week 5 –

9/23 – Ch. 7 – Survey Research

9/25 – Ch. 7 – Survey Research

Lab: Sampling; Final Draft of Questions Due; Conduct 20 Surveys by next lab meeting

Week 6 –

9/30 – Ch. 5 – Qualitative and Quantitative Measurement

10/2 – Ch. 5 - Qualitative and Quantitative Measurement

Lab: Intro. to SPSS; Refined Intro. and Lit. Review Due

Week 7 –

10/7 – Exam 2 (Chapters 4, 5, 7)

10/9 – Ch. 6 - Qualitative and Quantitative Sampling

Lab: SPSS Analysis; Methods Section Due

Week 8 –

10/14 – Ch. 10 – Analysis of Quantitative Data

10/16 – Ch. 10 - Analysis of Quantitative Data

Lab: Findings & Discussion; Findings & Discussion Sections Due

Week 9 –

10/21 - Ch. 14 – Writing the Research Report

10/23 – Ch. 14 – Writing the Research Report

Lab: Writing a Paper (Putting It All Together); Final Paper Due on 10/26 by midnight

Week 10 –

10/28 – Exam 3 (Chapters 6, 10, 14)

10/30 – Film: *America Beyond the Color Line*

Lab: Preparing To Do Your Interviews; Create first draft of interview questions. Why are you choosing these questions? What is different? What is your sample? Who are you going to interview? Why these people? Are they hard to access? If so, how will you get to them?

Week 11 –

11/4 – No Class – Election Day

11/6 – Ch. 11 – Field Research and Focus Group Research

Lab: Preparing To Do Your Interviews; Create a consent form that speaks to your research project and a demographic questionnaire for your respondents. Also, refine interview questions and begin conducting interviews. Four interviews and two interview transcripts are due next meeting.

Week 12 –

11/11 – No Class – Veterans Day

11/13 – Ch. 11 – Field Research and Focus Group Research

Lab: Interviews and transcripts due. Interpreting Data & Methods Section; write a rough draft of your discussion section. How do the themes from your data fit with your literature review? Or, how does your data support or contradict themes from your literature review? Use your best quotes to exemplify this. (Remember that quotes are data.)

Week 13 –

11/18 – Ch. 13 – Analysis of Qualitative Data

11/20 – Ch. 13 – Analysis of Qualitative Data

Lab: Findings and Discussion Section & Preparing to Present

Week 14 –

11/25 – Ch. 12 – Historical-Comparative Research

11/27 – No Class – Thanksgiving Day

Lab: Presentations

Week 15 –

12/2 – Ch. 12 – Historical-Comparative Research

12/4 – Exam 4 (Chapters 11, 12, 13)

Lab: Presentations

Week 16 –

12/9 – Ch. 9 – Nonreactive Research and Secondary Analysis

12/11 – Review for Final Exam

Lab: No labs (Except for Thursday's Lab for Presentations)

Final Exam: 12/18 – 12-2pm (Exam is cumulative)

Kokua

Any student in need of additional help, due to disability, can contact me personally and the KOKUA program officer to discuss ways to accommodate specific needs. KOKUA can be reached at (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612 or by email (kokua@hawaii.edu). The KOKUA office is located in room 013 of the Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services.

Plagiarism

“Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, submitting, to satisfy an academic requirement, any document that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual’s work without identifying that individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation a documented idea that has not been assimilated into the student’s language and style; paraphrasing a passage so closely that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; and “dry-labbing,” which includes obtaining and using experimental data from other students without the express consent of the instructor, utilizing experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of the course or from previous terms, and fabricating data to fit the expected results.”

- University of Hawai`i at Manoa *Student Conduct*

< <http://www.catalog.hawaii.edu/about-uh/campus-policies1.htm> >

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" are not considered valid excuses when it comes to plagiarism.