

SOCIOLOGY 300
Principles of Sociological Inquiry

Instructor: Jonathan Jarvis
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Class Schedule: T-TH 12:00-1:00 (KUY 301)

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2:00pm to 3:00pm or by appointment

Text: Neuman, Lawrence W. 2011. *Basics of Social Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches (The 3rd edition)*

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 entire course is focused on 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 that 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 in order to participate and contribute in the class discussion. The text is also a supplementary resource for conducting your research.

Exams There will be three short exams and one final exam. The exams will be drawn primarily from the course text and lecture material. The short exams include 15 multiple-choice questions and will consist of the readings and material covered in class up to the time of the exams (3 or 4 chapters). You will have 30 minutes to complete these short exams. If you are not present for the short exams you will not receive a score. The final exam is a cumulative exam and will include multiple-choice and a long answer question. 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 paper describing the research topic, a brief literature summary, the creation of the survey, the sample and the findings.
(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 brief presentation in the final week of classes.

Grading:

Weekly assignments and presentations from labs that contribute to the creation of the quantitative term paper and qualitative presentation – 10%
Quantitative Project – 20%
Short Exams – 15% (5% each)
Qualitative Project – 20%
Final Exam – 25%
Participation/Attendance – 10%

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1 - August 21 & 23

Syllabus & Expectations

Readings: Chapter 1 Doing Social Research

Week 2 - August 28 & August 30

Readings: Chapter 1 Doing Social Research

Film “Obedience”

Week 3 - September 4 & September 6

Readings: Chapter 3 Ethics in Social Research

Readings: Chapter 2 Theory and Social Research

Week 4 - September 11 & September 13 (Short Exam #1 – Chapters 1, 2, 3)

Readings: Chapter 2 Theory and Social Research

Readings: Chapter 7 Survey Research

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

Week 5 - September 18 & September 20

Readings: Chapter 7 Survey Research

Readings: Chapter 5 Qualitative and Quantitative Measurement

Week 6 - September 25 & September 27

Readings: Chapter 5 Qualitative and Quantitative Measurement

Readings: Chapter 6 Qualitative and Quantitative Sampling

Week 7 - October 2 & October 4

Readings: Chapter 6 Qualitative and Quantitative Sampling

Readings: Chapter 10 Analysis of Quantitative

Week 8 - October 9 & October 11 (**Short Exam #2 – Chapters 7, 5, 6, 10**)

Readings: Chapter 10 Analysis of Quantitative

Readings: Chapter 4 Reviewing the Scholarly Literature and Planning a Study

Week 9 - October 16 & October 18 (Quantitative Paper #1 Due October 22nd)

Film: America Beyond the Color Line

Readings: Chapter 11 Field Research and Focus Group Research

Week 10 - October 23 & October 25

Readings: Chapter 11 Field Research and Focus Group Research

Readings: Chapter 13 Analysis of Qualitative Data

Week 11 – October 30 & November 1

Readings: Chapter 13 Analysis of Qualitative Data

Readings: Chapter 12 Historical-Comparative

Week 12 - November 6 (No Class) & November 8 (**Short Exam #3 – Chap. 11, 13, 12**)

Readings: Chapter 12 Historical-Comparative

Week 13 - November 13 & November 15

Readings: Chapter 8 Experimental Research

Week 14 - November 20 & November 22 (No Class)

Readings: Chapter 9 Nonreactive Research and Secondary Analysis

Week 15 - November 27 & November 29

Readings: Chapter 9 Nonreactive Research and Secondary Analysis

Readings: Chapter 14 Writing a Research Report

Week 16 - December 4 & December 6 (Qualitative Project Presentations – In Labs)

Readings: Chapter 14 Writing a Research Report & Review

Final Exam December 13th, 12:00pm – 2:00pm (**Exam is cumulative**)

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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).

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

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