

SOCIOLOGY 300
Principles of Sociological Inquiry

Instructor: Jonathan Jarvis
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Class Schedule: T-TH 12:00-12:50 (Physical Science Bldg 217)

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)*

Supplementary Readings: By assignment.

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 geared toward 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 to 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.

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 a mid-term and a final exam. The exams will be drawn primarily from the course text and lecture material. The mid-term will consist of the readings and material covered in class up to the time of the mid-term. The final exam is not a cumulative exam. It will be made up of the material covered in the second half of the class. You will have the class period to complete the exam, which will be taken in class on the assigned day.

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

- 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.

Presentations Students will make a brief presentation in the final weeks of classes.

Grading:

- (1) Weekly assignments and presentations from labs that contribute to the creation of the quantitative term paper and qualitative presentation – 10%
- (2) Quantitative Project – 20%
- (3) Midterm – 15%
- (4) Qualitative Project – 20%
- (5) Final Exam – 25%
- (6) Participation/Attendance – 10%

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1 - August 23 & 25

Readings: Chapter 1 Doing Social Research

Week 2 - August 30 & September 1

Readings: Chapter 2 Theory and Social Research

Week 3 - September 6 & September 8

Readings: Chapter 3 Ethics in Social Research

Week 4 - September 13 & September 15

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

Week 5 - September 20 & September 22

Readings: Chapter 5 Qualitative and Quantitative Measurement

Week 6 - September 27 & September 29

Readings: Chapter 6 Qualitative and Quantitative Sampling

Week 7 - October 4 & October 6

Readings: Chapter 7 Survey Research

Week 8 - October 11 & October 13 (Midterm Exam)

Readings: Chapter 8 Experimental Research

Week 9 - October 18 & October 20

Readings: Chapter 9 Nonreactive Research and Secondary Analysis

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Week 10 - October 25 & October 27
Readings: Chapter 10 Analysis of Qualitative

Week 11 - November 1 & November 3
Readings: Chapter 11 Conducting Qualitative Research

Week 12 - November 8 & November 10
Readings: Chapter 12 Historical-Comparative

Week 13 - November 15 & November 17
Readings: Chapter 13 Analysis of Qualitative Data

Week 14 - November 22 & November 24 (No Class)
Readings: Chapter 14 Writing a Research Report

Week 15 - November 29 & December 1
Readings: Chapter 14 Writing a Research Report

Week 16 - December 6 & December 8
Review

Final Exam December 13th (Tuesday) 12:00pm – 2:00pm

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

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

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