

SOCIOLOGY 300
Principles of Sociological Inquiry

Instructor: Jonathan Dial
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Class Schedule: T & TH 10:30am-11:45am (KUY 301)

Lab Schedule: T 12pm-1pm (Saunders 342), W 12pm-1pm (Saunders 342), TH 12pm-1pm (Saunders 342), F 12pm-pm (Saunders 342)

Office Hours: Tuesdays 2pm-3pm and/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 provide students with a basic understanding of quantitative and qualitative social 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 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 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.

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 three parts and will be assigned and turned-in in the labs. The lab instructors will distribute a separate syllabus for weekly assignments.

- (1) Drafts and summaries (1-2 pages) of your progress for your qualitative and quantitative projects. Due in the labs.
- (2) Quantitative Project Proposal – Including Introduction, Literature Review, Methodology, Expected Findings, and Bibliography
- (3) A quantitative research paper including Introduction, Literature Review, Data and Methods, Findings, Analysis/Discussion, and Bibliography. An automatic deduction of 15% will be applied to all late papers.

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. An automatic deduction of 15% will be applied to presentations not given in labs. You must present on the date and time assigned to you.

Grading	Weekly lab assignments –	15%
	Quantitative Project Proposal –	5%
	Quantitative Paper –	17.5%
	Short Exams –	20%
	Qualitative Project –	17.5%
	Final Exam –	15%
	Participation/Attendance –	10%

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1 –

1/12 – Introduction & Syllabus
1/14 – Ch. 1 – Doing Social Research
No labs this week

Week 2 –

1/19 – Ch. 1 – Doing Social Research
1/21 – Ch. 3 – Ethics in Social Research

Week 3 –

1/26 – Ch. 2 – Theory and Social Research
1/28 – Ch. 2 – Theory and Social Research

Week 4 –

2/2 – Exam 1 (Chapters 1, 2, 3)
2/4 – Ch. 4 - Reviewing the Scholarly Literature and Planning a Study

Week 5 –

2/9 – Ch. 4 - Reviewing the Scholarly Literature and Planning a Study
2/11 – Ch. 7 – Survey Research

Week 6 –

2/16 – Ch. 7 – Survey Research
2/18 – Ch. 5 - Qualitative and Quantitative Measurement

Week 7 –

2/23 – Ch. 5 – Qualitative and Quantitative Measurement
2/25 – Exam 2 (Chapters 4, 5, 7)

Week 8 –

3/1 – Ch. 6 - Qualitative and Quantitative Sampling
3/3 – Ch. 10 - Analysis of Quantitative Data

Week 9 –

3/8 -- Ch. 10 – Analysis of Quantitative Data
3/10 – Ch. 14 – Writing the Research Report

Week 10 –

3/15 – Ch. 14 – Writing the Research Report
3/17 – Exam 3 (Chapters 6, 10, 14)

Week 11 –

3/22 – **SPRING BREAK**
3/24 – **SPRING BREAK**

Week 12 –

3/29 – Film: *Sidewalks*

3/31 – Ch. 11 – Field Research and Focus Group Research

Week 13 –

4/5 – Ch. 11 – Field Research and Focus Group Research

4/7 – Ch. 13 – Analysis of Qualitative Data

Week 14 –

4/12 – Ch. 13 – Analysis of Qualitative Data

4/14 – Ch. 12 – Historical-Comparative Research

Week 15 –

4/19 – Ch. 12 – Historical-Comparative Research

4/21 – Ch. 9 – Nonreactive Research and Secondary Analysis

Week 16 –

4/26 – Ch. 9 – Nonreactive Research and Secondary Analysis

4/28- Exam 4 (Chapters 9, 11, 12, 13)

Week 17 –

5/3 – Review for Final Exam

5/5 –No Class

Final Exam: Tuesday, 5/10 – 9:45am-11:45am (**Exam is cumulative**)

The Sociology Department has established three Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) that support the Institutional Learning Objectives:

- SLO 1: Students will be able to evaluate sociological theories and use them to analyze and understand aspects of the social world.
- SLO 2: Students will be able to collect, analyze, and interpret data, and draw valid conclusions from their analyses.
- SLO 3: Students will have clear and effective verbal and written communication skills.

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. Instances of plagiarism will receive a grade of zero, and continued plagiarism will be reported to the University.