

SOCIOLOGY 606

Research Methods and Design

(Fall, 2017)

Meeting location: Miller Hall Room 1

Meeting time: Wednesday 2:00-4:30pm

Instructor: Dr. Wei Zhang

Office: Saunders 239

Office phone: (808) 956-7689

Office hours: by appointment

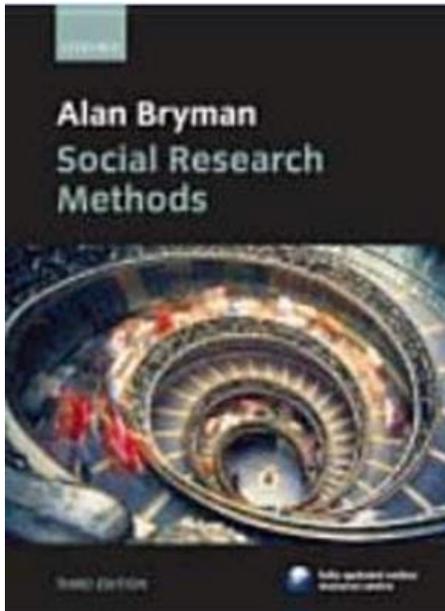
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

UH Catalog Course Description SOC606 Research Methods and Design (3) focuses on theory selection, theory construction, and choice of research strategies.

Instructor's Description The purpose of the course is to prepare graduate students in Sociology and other relevant fields and disciplines for their Master Thesis or Doctoral Dissertation Research. The course is divided into three basic sections. *The initial phase* of the course addresses issues of ethics, theory construction, and research appropriateness. *The second phase* will cover quantitative methods, design, and analytic strategies. *The third phase* of the course will cover qualitative methods, designs, and analytic strategies. By the end of the course students should be able to apply appropriate methods to answer their research questions and complete their research projects independently.

TEXTBOOKS



Author: Alan Bryman

Title: Social Research Methods, Third or higher Edition **Paperback**

Availability: UH Bookstore; Amazon.com; and addall.com.

COURSE PURPOSE

This course is to introduce students to the ethics and purpose of research, quantitative and qualitative methods, including research design and analytic strategies, and to afford opportunity for students to apply these techniques to their own work areas.

COURSE OUTCOMES

By the completion of the class, all students will have prepared a research document (proposal, protocol or report) using both quantitative and qualitative methods and will have participated in a peer-review of all proposals/papers prepared in the class.

COURSE DELIVERABLES

You will have several short writing assignments to prepare you for the final research proposal/paper. In addition, you will also have responsibility for the delivery of a 30-45 minute presentation on a specific topic. The topics will all be various research methods used in Social Sciences. Towards the end of the semester, you are expected to finish the final research proposal/paper built upon the short writing assignments, and participate in a peer-review exercise involving primary and secondary reviewer roles.

DETAILS ON ASSIGNMENTS

Writing Assignments

- Each student will be assigned several writing assignments related to his/her **own** final research paper/proposal.
 1. Pick up a research topic and state research questions
 2. Conduct a thorough literature review on the selected research topic
 3. Describe your research methods and justify why they are appropriate
 4. Prepare for the IRB application if needed (optional)

- Students will also be assigned as primary reviewers and secondary reviewers to evaluate research proposals/papers produced by **their classmates**. The written comments by reviewers will be evaluated by the instructor. Detailed instructions on how to review a paper will be handed out in class.

- To finish these writing assignments, you are expected to take on multiple roles: author of your own proposal/paper and reviewers of other students' proposals/papers.

Oral Presentations

- *Seminar Presentation*—each student will prepare a 30-45 minute presentation on a particular research method. Each student will also be responsible for facilitating a discussion regarding the research methods topic. This discussion will be at least 5-10 minutes in duration. At the conclusion of the session, all students will be provided with your PPT slides and the relevant references produced on the research methods topic.

- *Final Paper Proposal*—each student will prepare a research proposal/paper of approximately 25 pages on a topic agreed to between the instructor and the student. All proposals/papers will be subjected to a peer review in the last several sessions of the class, and then revised and resubmitted to the instructor by the assigned date (Dec. 15th). During the peer-review process, students (the authors) will first present their papers within 15 minutes, and then their primary and secondary reviewers and the instructor will offer comments and ask questions. Finally there will be a short open discussion among audience.
- Grading of presentations is based on the following criteria:
 - Is the presentation clear and well-organized?
 - Are the slides clear and well-written?
 - Is your presentation dynamic and interesting?
 - Are your responses to class questions adequate?

Final Research Proposal/Paper

- To complete your research proposal, you need to have: (1) an innovative topic that you are passionate about, (2) a very comprehensive literature review that synthesizes your areas of interest, (3) several testable research questions that address gaps in the literature, (4) a description and justification of possible data sources and methods that could be used to answer your research questions, (5) a summary of significance of your study, its practical implications, as well as your timetable, and (6) a reference list in ASA/APA citation style.
- To complete a research paper (might be your QR paper), you need to have: (1) an innovative topic that you are passionate about, (2) a comprehensive literature review that synthesizes your areas of interest in medical sociology, (3) several testable research questions that address gaps in the literature, (4) a description of data sources and methods that used in your study, (5) a results section that analyzes your major findings, (6) a discussion section that points out the significance and implications of your findings, and (7) a reference list in ASA/APA citation style. The ultimate goals of writing a complete research paper would be to present your findings at a conference and/or submit the paper to a journal. In this case, the model for a complete research paper is a published journal article.
- Final research proposal/paper grading is based on the following criteria:
 - Is the research topic innovative and significant?
 - Are the research questions clearly addressed and manageable?
 - Is the literature review comprehensive, well-organized, and well-written?
 - Are the arguments clear and follow a fluent logic flow?
 - Are the gaps in the literature clearly identified?
 - Are there clear connections between research questions, methods, and data?
 - Are the implications of study reasonable and meaningful?

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Date	Session	Topic	Readings
08/23	1	Introduction to the class and distribution of materials	Part 1, Bryman text
08/30	2	Ethics in research (Guest Speaker: Kristin Bacon, IRB coordinator from Human Studies Program at Office of Research Compliance)	Part 1, Bryman text
09/06	3	Theory construction and formulating research questions The process of conducting research (with examples)	
09/13	4	Library resources (Hamilton Library, Room 156 Starting from 2:30pm) (Guest speaker: Dave Brier, Liaison Librarian for Sociology)	
09/20	5	Quantitative methods I (Introduction)	Part 2, Bryman text
09/27	6	Quantitative methods II (Presentations) (Guest speaker: Dr. Krysia Mossakowski)	Part 2, Bryman text
10/04	7	Quantitative methods III (Presentations)	Part 2, Bryman text
10/11	8	Quantitative methods IV (Presentations) (Guest speaker: Sizhe Liu)	Part 3, Bryman text
10/18	9	Qualitative methods I: Interview, field work, and comparative/historical methods (Guest speaker: Dr. Le Lin)	Part 3, Bryman text
10/25	10	Qualitative methods II (presentations) (Guest speaker: Dr. Katherine Irwin)	Part 3, Bryman text
11/01	11	Qualitative methods III (presentations)	Part 4, Bryman text
11/08	12	Mixed Methods (Guest speaker: Dr. Jennifer Darrah)	Part 4, Bryman text
11/15	13	Qualitative methods and mixed methods summary	
11/22		Project preparation, critical reviews, and problem solving	
11/29		Peer-Review Session	
12/06		Peer-Review Session	

IMPORTANT DUE DATES

- 1 08/30 Assignment of individual presentation topics on methods and dates
- 2 09/06 Assignment #1 on research topic and research questions
- 3 09/13 Agreement on topic for your final research proposal/paper
- 4 10/11 Assignment #2 on literature review
- 5 10/25 Assignment #3 on research methods
- 6 11/08 Assignment #4 on IRB application if applicable
- 7 11/15 Submission of final paper for peer review panels
- 8 12/15 Final revised proposal/paper submitted for grading

COURSE GRADING

	Points
<i>Writing assignments</i>	
#1 Research topic and research questions	10 points
#2 Literature review	10 points
#3 Research methods	10 points
#4 IRB application	--
Written evaluation as a primary reviewer	5 points
Written evaluation as a secondary reviewer	5 points
<i>Seminar presentation and leading discussion</i>	
Method presentation	10 points
Leading discussion	5 points
<i>Final proposal/paper presentation</i>	10 points
<i>Final revised proposal/paper</i>	25 points
<i>Participation</i>	10 points
Total possible points	100 points

97.50—100.00	A+
92.50—97.49	A
90.00—92.49	A-
87.50—89.99	B+
82.50—87.49	B
80.00—82.49	B-
77.50—79.99	C+
70.00—77.49	C
65.00—69.99	C-
60.00—64.49	D+
50.00—59.99	D
<50.00	F

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability is invited to contact me privately. I would be happy to work with you, and the KOKUA Program (Office for Students with Disabilities) to ensure reasonable accommodations in my course. KOKUA can be reached at (808)956-7511 or (808) 9567612 (voice/text) in room 013 of the Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services.

PLAGIARISM

Acts of dishonesty, including but not limited to the following: a. Cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty. b. Furnishing false information to any UH official, faculty member, or office. c. Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any UH document, record, or form of identification. The term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: (1) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (2) use of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; (3) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the UH faculty, staff or student (4) engaging in any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus

or class discussion. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials. [E7.208 UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEMWIDE STUDENT CONDUCT CODE, July 2009]

eCAFE

The Department of Sociology is committed to a continual improvement of the quality of its course offerings. To allow for this to occur, your help, as the consumers of these courses is needed. You are there and only you can tell us about your educational experience in your classes. Towards the end of the semester you will be informed that the eCAFE system is available to you to complete your course evaluation. We encourage you to login to <http://www.hawaii.edu/ecafe> to submit your evaluations.