

**Sociology 300: Principles of Sociological Inquiry**  
Tentative Course Syllabus

Meeting time: Lecture: TTH 12:00-12:50pm  
Lab: TBA

Meeting place: HIG 110

Instructor: Wei Zhang  
Email: [weizhang@hawaii.edu](mailto:weizhang@hawaii.edu)  
Office hours: TBA

Office: Saunders 204  
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Teaching assistant (s): TBA

**Course Description:**

This course provides a general introduction to the process of social research. We will first cover a number of basic issues that are central to most social research methods. The remainder of the course will be devoted to an examination of specific methods used in research. Although methods such as unobtrusive observation, experimentation, and in-depth interviewing will be covered, a large part of the course will focus on surveys and the methods used to employ and analyze them.

**Required Readings**

Babbie, Earl. 2007. *The Practice of Social Research*. 11<sup>th</sup> edition. Wadsworth Publication  
Outline of Course Requirements and Due Dates

	Total points	Due dates
Lab assignments	15	TBA
Class assignments	30	TBA
Quizzes	10	TBA
Final Exam	20	TBA
Research paper	25	TBA
Total	100	TBA

**Lab Assignment:**

Throughout the semester, students will be required to complete five short assignments that will be distributed and collected in lab. The assignments are designed to help students make progress on the research paper and teach the skills that will be needed to analyze data for the research paper. Assignments will be checked for accuracy but will not be graded. Completion of each assignment is worth 3 points of the total grade. Guidelines for submitting lab assignments will be distributed later in the semester.

**Class Assignments:**

In addition to the lab assignments, students will be required to complete a set of six assignments (worth 5 points each) assigned throughout the semester. The goal of these assignments is to teach students skills that are regularly used by sociological researchers. Some of the assignments overlap directly with lecture topics while others provide a primer on more basic research skills. Unlike the lab assignments, the class assignments will be graded for accuracy. Guidelines for submitting lab assignments will be distributed later in the semester.

**Quizzes:**

Five quizzes will be administered throughout the semester. The quizzes will focus on the reading materials assigned for the week. Each quiz will have 5 questions with each correct answer scoring .5 points, to a total possible score of 2 for a single quiz. In other words, students can miss one question on the quiz and still receive the maximum grade for that quiz. Quizzes will be given during the first 10 minutes of class. NOTE: students coming to class after the quiz will not be allowed to take it, nor will any make-ups be given for quiz.

**Research Paper:**

All students will be required to write a 9-10 page research paper on a topic of their own choosing. For the paper, students will select a topic, review the research literature in the area, devise hypotheses based on the extant literature, and test those hypotheses using General Social Survey data. Guidelines for the research paper will be distributed later in the semester.

**Final exam:**

The final exam will cover all the materials presented in the readings, lectures, and labs. A review sheet will be distributed to help students for the exam.

**Departmental Statements****Kokua Program**

*If you feel you need reasonable accommodations based on the impact of a disability, please contact the KOKUA Program, located in room 013 of the QLCSS or telephone 956-7511 or 956-7612; 2) speak with me privately to discuss your specific needs. I will be happy to work with you and the KOKUA Program to meet your access needs.*

**Plagiarism**

The following definition of plagiarism comes from the UH-Manoa Student Conduct Code: *Plagiarism includes but is not limited to submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any work that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another's idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student's language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral or artistic material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; or "drylabbing," which includes obtaining and using experimental data and*

*laboratory write-ups from other sections of a course or from previous terms.*(**University of Hawai`i at Manoa Student Conduct Code (1992), p. 6**)

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" is not considered a valid excuse when it comes to plagiarism.

**Course outline and reading schedule will be ready soon.**