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Course description  
This course provides an overview of methods typically used in sociology. The course will familiarize students with different techniques of data gathering such as interviewing and ethnography. How to analyze the data that you have gathered will also be discussed. In addition to techniques of data gathering, students will gain understanding of different epistemologies and methodologies that underpin diverse research traditions, such as positivist and feminist epistemologies. The course will also cover issues related to ethics in social research.

Student learning objectives  
- to understand what makes a good research question and how to put that question into conversation with the existing literature  
- to gain a sense of a range of methods used by sociologists and to be able to discern the fit between a research question and a method  
- to gain deep understanding of epistemological debates on social science methods

Readings:  

Additional readings will be posted on Laulima in pdf format. Look under “resouces.”

Do I need to come to class? Yes!  
- Students are expected to attend all class sessions and participate in discussions and other activities.  
- Each student is entitled to 4 absences throughout the semester. Each absence beyond this will result in lowering your overall grade significantly.

Other rules  
- Each student should check his or her email frequently for messages about the class. I will assume you check your email at least once a day. It is strongly recommended that you use your UH email address—I do not take responsibility for email messages that fail to arrive if you are using a non-UH email address  
- Make-up exam will not be given unless under extreme circumstances.  
- If you have a physical/mental disability and you have disability access concerns, please contact the KOKUA Program.  
- Please refer to the UHM website on academic dishonesty and related issues. http://www.manoa.hawaii.edu/students/conduct/impermissible_behavior.html.  
- Plagiarism and any kind of cheating will result in F.  
- Please turn off your cell phone in class.
Grade will be based on the following
1. Participation (5%)
2. Midterm exam (25%)
3. Final exam (30%)
4. Assignments (40%)
   a. Reflection on a method in an academic sociological article
   b. Field note of an observation for at least one hour of a public space
   c. Informed consent form
   d. Interview guide
   e. Interview transcript
   f. Literature search log
   g. Content analysis of interview transcript

Schedules and Required Readings

Jan 7 Introduction to class
No assigned reading

Jan 9 Research ethics
Readings
- Check out UH Manoa’s website on human subject protection http://www.hawaii/edu/irb/index.htm
- Hesse-Biber, Sharlene N. “Chapter 3: The Ethics of Social Research”

Jan 13 Research ethics

Jan 16 Basic concepts in sociological research
Reading:
- Text chapter 1 introduction: the practice of research
Assignment (a) due in class

Jan 23 Basic concepts in sociological research

Jan 28 Survey research
Reading:
- Text chapter 2 survey research,

Jan 30 Survey research/analyzing social network
- Text chapter 3 survey research/ analyzing social network

Feb 4 Ethnography
Reading:
- Text Chapter 4 Field observation and ethnography
Feb 11 Ethnography
Reading:
Assignment (b) due in class

Feb 13 Interview
Reading:
  - Text chapter 5 Field interviewing
Assignment (c) due in class

Feb 20 Interview
Reading:

Feb 25 Analyzing interview transcript
Reading:
Assignment (d) due in class

Feb 27 Focus group interview
Reading:

March 4 Focus group interview
Reading:
Assignment (e) due in class

March 6 Review for midterm exam

March 11 Midterm exam

March 13 Literature review

March 25 Literature review

Assignment (f) due in class

March 27 Content analysis
Reading:
• Text chapter 8 content analysis
• Lichtman, Marilyn. (2014) *Qualitative Research for the Social Sciences.* Chapter 12 Drawing meaning from data.

April 1 Content analysis
• Richards, Lyn. (2017) *Handling Qualitative Data: A Practical Guide.* Chapter 5 "Coding" and Chapter 7 "What are you aiming for?"

April 3 Practicing content analysis
Assignment (g) due in class

April 8 Media analysis
• Kyle Green and Madison Van Oort, "“We Wear No Pants”: Selling the Crisis of Masculinity in the 2010 Super Bowl Commercials," Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society 38, no. 3 (Spring 2013): 695-719

April 10 Media analysis

April 15 Participatory research
Reading:

April 17 Participatory research
Reading:
April 22 and April 24 and 29 Epistemologies and Methodologies

- Sprague, Joey. 2005. Feminist methodologies for critical researchers: bridging differences. Chapter 1 and 2

May 1 Review for the final exam