

SOCIOLOGY 004
SECTION NUMBER: 3305
FALL, 2012

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INTRODUCTION

Course Description

In this course, students are introduced to the basic concepts and techniques that are used in social science research. The course is divided into three sections, which cover social scientific inquiry and research design, quantitative data gathering and analysis, and qualitative data gathering and analysis, respectively. As a result of taking the course, students should be able to: (a) demonstrate their understanding of the basic principles and procedures of research methodology; and (b) critically evaluate both quantitative and qualitative research studies.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The student will also be able to:

- ❖ Distinguish between specific social research methods and identify their strengths and weaknesses in relation to validity and reliability.
- ❖ Construct a qualitative or quantitative research project and explain the scientific logic of using one methodological focus over the other;
- ❖ Analyze current sociological research and any ethical concerns of using human subjects.

Objectives:

1. Identify the primary features, as well as strengths and weaknesses, of qualitative and quantitative research, including participant observation, content analysis, survey research, and experimental research methodologies, while determining when to use each.
2. Develop a research design which conceptualizes and operationalizes a sociological concept.
3. Construct a qualitative and a quantitative research project and defend the choice of one methodological focus over another.
4. Differentiate validity and reliability as they apply to the research process.
5. Collect data using either qualitative and quantitative methodology.
6. Formulate a working hypothesis and appropriately identify the independent and dependent variables.
7. Identify and evaluate arguments concerning ethical concerns when using human subjects.
8. Distinguish between correlation and causation.
9. Become familiar with SPSS and its applications to research.

Los Angeles Mission College Catalogue Description- Sociological Analysis

Prerequisite: None | Lecture: 3 hours. UC:CSU 3 UNITS

This course considers the logic of the scientific analysis various methodological tools utilized in social science research and emphasizes clarification of the basic social science issues. Students will analyze collected data. Acceptable for credit: CSUN: Sociology 202.

READING MATERIALS

Required Textbook

- ❖ Neuman, W. L. (2012) *Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches* (7th ed.). Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

Supplemental Texts¹

- ❖ Babbie, E. (2001) *The practice of social research* (10th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.
- ❖ Berger, P. (1963) *Invitation to Sociology*. New York, NY: Doubleday.
- ❖ Bernard, H. R. (2000) *Social research methods: Qualitative and quantitative approaches*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- ❖ Huff, D. (1954) *How to lie with statistics*. New York, NY: Norton & Company.
- ❖ Miller, D. (1991) *Handbook of research design and social measurement* (6th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- ❖ Mills, C. W. (1959) *The sociological imagination*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
- ❖ Vogt, W. P. (2005) *Dictionary of statistics and methodology: A nontechnical guide for the social sciences* (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

COURSEWORK & EXAMS

Research Projects/Proposals

Students will be required to complete six writing assignments/ projects/proposals throughout the semester. More specific details are provided in the assignment description and corresponding grading rubrics located under weeks 4 (Writing Assignment 1: Research Participation), 6 (Writing Assignment 2: Developing Hypotheses), 9 (Writing Assignment 3: Designing an Experiment), 10 (Writing Assignment 4: Designing an Online Survey), 12 (Writing Assignment 5: Content Analysis), 14 (Writing Assignment 6: In-Depth Interview).

Weekly Discussion Questions

Students will be required to complete nine discussion questions throughout the semester. The discussion questions are located on the eCollege system under the weekly headings. Each discussion question will be worth 36 points. Responses will be evaluated according to the discussion question grading rubric.

Examinations

Throughout the course of the semester, fifteen exams will be administered through eCollege. The exams will be worth a total of 1125 points (75 points per exam or 5 points per question) and consist of 15 multiple-choice/true-false, matching and/or short-answer questions. The exams will be timed, allowing 25 minutes to complete. (Please note that exams can only be taken once.) **Exams will be made available throughout the entire week; however, students must complete the corresponding weekly assessment no later than 11:59pm the Sunday of that same week.** For example, week 1 assessment will be available **ONLY** during Week 1 of the semester (from 12:01am, August 27, 2012 until 11:59pm, September 2, 2012). If you encounter an error while taking the exam, please email me immediately. The due dates for the exams are as follows:

1. Examination 1 – September 2, 2012 *(Exam will cover chapter 1 only)*
2. Examination 2 – September 9, 2012 *(Exam will cover chapter 2 only)*
3. Examination 3 – September 16, 2012 *(Exam will cover chapter 3 only)*
4. Examination 4 – September 23, 2012 *(Exam will cover chapter 4 only)*
5. Examination 5 – September 30, 2012 *(Exam will cover chapter 5 only)*

¹ Not required reading. Additional lecture materials will be generated using the supplemental texts.

6. Examination 6 – October 7, 2012 (Exam will cover chapter 6 only)
7. Examination 7 – October 14, 2012 (Exam will cover chapter 7 only)
8. Examination 8 – October 21, 2012 (Exam will cover chapter 8 only)
9. Examination 9 – October 28, 2012 (Exam will cover chapter 9 only)
10. Examination 10 – November 4, 2012 (Exam will cover chapter 10 only)
11. Examination 11 – November 11, 2012 (Exam will cover chapter 11 only)
12. Examination 12 – November 18, 2012 (Exam will cover chapter 12 only)
13. Examination 13 – November 25, 2012 (Exam will cover chapter 13 only)
14. Examination 14 – December 2, 2012 (Exam will cover chapter 14 only)
15. Examination 15 – December 9, 2012 (Exam will cover chapter 15 only)

Completion of Exams by the Specified Time is Required.

There are a few very specific exceptions to this rule, and if you are requesting one of these exceptions you must email the course instructor. The exceptions, stated below, are health emergencies, deaths in the immediate family, the observance of nationally recognized religious holidays, LAMC business that takes you away from campus, and documented disabilities. There are no other exceptions. For example, there are no exceptions for job interviews or beginning jobs or internships before the end of the term, or for other non-educational purposes. Since the exceptions are narrow and clear cut, your email asking for an exception should be short and to the point.

- a. Death of an immediate family member at a time when attending services requires you to travel away from campus. Immediate family members are your parents, siblings, spouse, and children.
- b. Health emergencies where you are unavoidably in the hospital or clinic during the time of the exam. Students who have health emergencies must obtain proof when and where they received medical attention. That (or similar, if you are in hospital) documentation should follow your email.
- c. Absence from campus on LAMC business, for example, for athletic competition.
- d. Students are responsible for making sure, at the beginning of the term, that they can attend the exams. Registering for a course means that you certify that you will be present for the exam (unless one of the explicitly stated exceptions above arises.)

**DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES REGULATING CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR
AND STUDENT ACCOMMODATIONS**

Cheating:

Unauthorized material used during an examination (including electronic devices), changing answers after work has been graded, taking an exam for another student, forging or altering attendance sheets or other documents in the course, looking at another student's paper/scantron/essay/computer or exam with or without their approval is considered cheating. Any student caught cheating will receive a zero for the assignment/exam and referred to the Department chair and/or Student Services for further disciplinary action.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is defined as the act of using ideas, words, or work of another person or persons as if they were one's own, without giving proper credit to the original sources. This includes definitions found online on Wikipedia, materials from blogs, twitter, or other similar electronic resources. The following examples are intended to be representative, but not all inclusive:

1. Failing to give credit by proper citations for others ideas and concepts, data and information, statements and phrases, and/or interpretations and conclusions.
Failing to use quotation marks when quoting directly from another, **whether it be a paragraph, a sentence, or a part thereof**.
2. Paraphrasing the expressions or thought by others without appropriate quotation marks or attribution
3. Representing another's artistic/scholarly works such as essays, computer programs, photographs, paintings, drawings, sculptures or similar works as one's own.

First offense, you will receive a zero for the assignment in question. Any further offenses may result in expulsion from the class, as determined by the disciplinary action from the Office of Student Services.

Recording Devices:

In the classroom- Section 78907 of the California Education Code prohibits the use of any electronic audio or video recording devices, without prior consent of the instructor. (including cell phones, laptops, MP3 players, and more)

Reasonable Accommodations:

If you are a student with a disability and require accommodations, please send me a private email. The sooner I am aware of your eligibility for accommodations, the quicker I will be able to assist the DSP&S Office in providing them. For students requiring accommodations, the DSP&S Office at Mission College provides special assistance in areas like: registering for courses, specialized tutoring, note-taking, mobility assistance, special instruction, testing assistance, special equipment, special materials, instructor liaisons, community referrals and job placement. If you have not done so already, you may also wish to contact the DSP&S Office in Instructional Building 1018 (phone 818/364-7732 TTD 818/364-7861) and bring a letter stating the accommodations that are needed.

GRADING

Due dates are strict; late papers and/or assignments will NOT be accepted.

Lecture Grade

Discussion Questions	324
Examinations	1125
Research Projects/Proposals	<u>600</u>
Total Points	2049

Final Grades will be determined using the following scale:

Final Grade

A	1844 or more	(90%-100%)
B	1639-1843	(80%-89%)
C	1434-1638	(70%-79%)
D	1229-1433	(60%-69%)
F	1228 - and below	(0%-59%)

COURSE READING AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Lecture Topic (Chapter)

Date²Week 1

Readings: Chapter 1

08-27-2012 – 09-2-2012

Tasks: Week 1 Discussion Question, Chapter 1 – Why Do Research?

Week 2

Readings: Chapter 2

09-03-2012 – 09-09-2012

Tasks: Week 2 Discussion Question, Chapter 2 – What are the Major Types of Research?

Week 3

Readings: Chapter 3

09-10-2012 – 09-16-2012

Tasks: Week 3 Discussion Question, Chapter 3 – Theory and Research

Week 4

Readings: Chapter 4

09-17-2012 – 09-23-2012

Tasks: Writing Assignment 1: Research Participation

Week 5

Readings: Chapter 5

09-24-2012 – 09-30-2012

Tasks: Week 5 Discussion Question, Chapter 5 – How to Review the Literature and Conduct Ethical Studies

Week 6

Readings: Chapters 6

10-01-2012 – 10-07-2012

Tasks: Writing Assignment 2: Developing Hypotheses

Week 7

Readings: Chapters 7

10-08-2012 – 10-14-2012

Tasks: Week 7 Discussion Question, Chapter 7 – Qualitative and Quantitative Measurement

Week 8

Readings: Chapter 8

10-15-2012 – 10-21-2012

Tasks: Week 8 Discussion Question, Chapter 8 – Qualitative and Quantitative Sampling

² Readings should be completed on or before the date listed.

Week 9

Readings: Chapter 9

10-22-2012 – 10-28-2012

Tasks: Writing Assignment 3: Designing an Experiment

Week 10

Readings: Chapters 10

10-29-2012 – 11-04-2012

Tasks: Writing Assignment 4: Designing an Online Survey

Week 11

Readings: Chapters 11

11-5-2012 – 11-11-2012

Tasks: Week 11 Discussion Question, Chapter 11 – Nonreactive Research and Secondary Analysis

Week 12

Readings: Chapter 12

11-12-2012 – 11-18-2012

Tasks: Writing Assignment 5: Content Analysis

Week 13

Readings: Chapters 13

11-19-2012 – 11-25-2012

Tasks: Week 13 Discussion Question, Chapter 13 – Field Research and Focus Group Research

Week 14

Readings: Chapter 14

11-26-2012 – 12-02-2012

Tasks: Writing Assignment 6: In-Depth Interview

Week 15

Readings: Chapter 15

12-03-2012 – 12-09-2012

Tasks: Week 15 Discussion Question, Chapter 15 – Analysis of Qualitative Data