

SOCIOLOGY 004  
SECTION NUMBER: 3451  
SPRING, 2014

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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. (2011) *Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

*Supplemental Texts<sup>1</sup>*

- ❖ Babbie, E. (2001) *The practice of social research* (10<sup>th</sup> 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* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

**COURSEWORK & EXAMS**

*Research Projects/Proposals*

Students will be required to complete four research projects/exercises. Each project/exercise will be worth 100 points. Assignments will be graded according to their respective grading rubric.

*Examinations*

Throughout the course of the semester, five exams will be administered. Exams will be worth 100 points and consist of 45 multiple-choice/true-false, matching and/or short-answer questions (15 per chapter). The exams will be timed, allowing 68 minutes to complete (1.5 minutes per exam question). Exam starting times are always at 6:55pm. Students who are absent during the exam time will be assigned a zero for the exam. Also, following the exam, there will be class lecture until the designated ending time of class per the college course schedule.

The dates for the exams are as follows:

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Examination 1 – March 13, 2014 from 6:55pm-8:03pm | (Exam will cover chapters 1-3)       |
| 2. Examination 2 – April 17, 2014 from 6:55pm-8:03pm | (Exam will cover chapters 5-7)       |
| 3. Examination 3 – May 15, 2014 from 6:55pm-8:03pm   | (Exam will cover chapters 8-10)      |
| 4. Examination 5 – June 5, 2014 from 8:00pm-10:00pm  | (Exam will cover chapters 11, 13-14) |

Exam Attendance at the Specified Time and Date 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.

<sup>1</sup> Not required reading. Additional lecture materials will be generated using the supplemental texts.

- 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 exams (unless one of the explicitly stated exceptions above arises.)

On Time Exam Attendance:

Students who arrive late to the exam will have less time to finish. Students who, through bad luck or bad planning, appear late for an exam will need to finish at the same time as other students.

**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.
2. Failing to use quotation marks when quoting directly from another, **whether it be a paragraph, a sentence, or a part thereof.**
3. Paraphrasing the expressions or thought by others without appropriate quotation marks or attribution
4. 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 without proof of a valid excuse.

***Lecture Grade***

Examinations	100
Mini-Projects/Exercises	<u>100</u>
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>200</b>

Final Grades will be determined using the following scale:

***Final Grade***

A	180 or more	(90%-100%)
B	160 - 179	(80%-89%)
C	140 – 159	(70%-79%)
D	120 - 139	(60%-69%)
F	100 - and below	(0%-59%)