

Sociology S352-01 Methods of Social Research

Fall, 2008: Call #11794
Classroom Medical Rm. #40
T/Th, 3:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.
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Prerequisite

Principles of Sociology (SOC S161); either Intermediate Expository Writing (ENG W233) or Analysis of Social Issues (SOC S260) or equivalent. If prerequisite courses are not completed, you will need the instructor's consent.

Required Text

Neuman, W. Lawrence. 2006. Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches, Sixth Edition. Needham Heights, MA: Allyn and Bacon. ISBN# 0-205-45793-2

Patten, Mildred L. 2001. Questionnaire Research: A Practical Guide, Second Edition. Los Angeles, CA: Pyrczak Publishing. ISBN# 1-884585-32-9

Course Description

This course is designed to provide you with a comprehensive introduction to the research methods used in sociology. Specifically, this course is designed to provide you with a good working knowledge of both qualitative and quantitative research methods, the nature of social scientific research, how to operationalize a research problem, the design of experiments, survey research techniques, field research techniques, research instrumentation, data collection, data analysis, the presentation of research results, and the ethical concerns of social research.

Course Exams/Assignments

The course will have a total of 600 points possible. This class is graded on a straight point system, which means that there will be no curve in the grading. If everyone in the class gets all 600 points, then everyone in the class will receive a grade of 'A' for the course. The point distribution will be as follows:

- Three exams, worth 100 points each. Each exam may consist of true/false, multiple choice, short answer, matching and/or essay components. Each of the three exams will only cover the material for that exam period. In other words, the three exams will not be cumulative. Each exam will have questions covering material from the textbooks, lecture notes, class discussions, class exercises, methodology assignments and guest speakers.
- Seven methodology assignments, worth a total of 250 points. More information on the methodology assignments will be made available later in the semester.
- A survey report, worth 50 points. More information on the survey report will be made available later in the semester.

You will not be allowed to turn in late methodology assignments or a late survey report under any circumstances. You will be able to make up missed exams within one week of the test date as long as certain conditions are met:

- You have a verifiable emergency. This can be an illness, the death of a relative, or any other unavoidable situation.
- You have a conflict with the scheduled test date. If this occurs, it will be necessary to notify me in advance so we can reschedule a date for you to take the exam.

Grade Distribution

The grade distribution for the course is as follows:

600-540 points = A 539-480 = B 479-420 = C 419-360 = D 359-0 = F

Office Hours

I will hold office hours on Tuesday and Thursday from 4:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. or by special appointment as necessary. My office is located in Classroom Medical, room #247.

Disclaimer

As the instructor, I reserve the right to alter, modify, amend, or otherwise change this syllabus; however, I will try my best not to do so. If changes must be made, you will be notified of the changes in advance if possible. If it is not possible to notify you in advance, you will not be penalized for any changes made.

Dates To Remember

August 25:	First day of classes
August 29:	Last day to drop or add a course
August 31:	Last day to receive a full refund
September 1:	Labor day- no class
September 22:	Last day to change grade option to either pass/no pass or audit to credit
October 13-14:	Fall Break- no class
October 31:	Last day to change grade option from credit to audit or withdraw from course
November 26-November 30:	Thanksgiving- no class
December 12:	Last day of classes
December 15-19:	Finals week
December 18 th , 10:30 a.m.:	Final in this class

Disability Services

Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) coordinates IPFW's programming for people with disabilities. The office provides free and appropriate academic aids and services including the use of accessible microcomputers and assistive equipment, reader and sign interpreter services, special test proctoring services, academic support and counseling assistance specific to disability issues, and more. SSD also serves the campus community as an advocate/consultant resource on all disability related issues.

Individuals living with physical, psychological and/or learning disabilities are encouraged to contact the office for consultation and assistance. Students with temporary difficulties may also contact the office for assistance. To receive more information or to apply for services, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities office at (260) 481-6657 or visit the SSD office in the Walb Student Union, room #113.

Cheating, Plagiarism and Falsification of Data

Cheating, plagiarism and the falsification of data will not be tolerated in this class. Any student caught cheating on an examination or methodology assignment, caught intentionally plagiarizing the work of another person, and/or caught falsifying data will receive a grade of 'F' in the course, immediate dismissal from the course, and possible dismissal from Indiana University - Purdue University Fort Wayne.

I have never had to fail any student for cheating, plagiarism or the falsification of data: **do not be the first.**

Tentative Schedule

<u>Week of:</u>	<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Readings:</u>
Aug. 25:	Introduction to the course Science and Research	Neuman Chapter 1
Sept. 1:	Dimensions of Research Theory and Research	Neuman Chapter 2 Neuman Chapter 3
Sept. 8:	The Ethics and Politics of Social Research A.S.A. Code of Ethics Catch up, prep for Exam #1	Neuman Chapter 5 (Pgs. 129-147) Neuman Chapter 16 (Pgs. 504-518) Neuman Appendix A
Sept. 15:	Exam #1 Review Exam #1 Qual. and Quant. Research Designs	Neuman Chapter 6
Sept. 22:	Qual. and Quant. Measurement Questionnaire Research	Neuman Chapter 7 Patten Chapters 1-7
Sept. 29:	In-Class Assignments	
Oct. 6:	Qual. and Quant. Sampling Questionnaire Research	Neuman Chapter 8 Patten Chapter 8
Oct. 13:	Catch up, prep for Exam #2	
Oct. 20:	Exam #2	
Oct. 27:	Review Exam #2 Survey Research	Neuman Chapter 10
Nov. 3:	Analysis of Quant. Data Questionnaire Research SPSS Data Management Demonstration	Neuman Chapter 12 Patten Chapters 9-11
Nov. 10:	Field Research Experimental Research	Neuman Chapter 13 Neuman Chapter 9
Nov. 17:	Reviewing the Literature and Writing a Report Questionnaire Research	Neuman Chapter 16 (Pgs. 490-504) Neuman Chapter 5 (Pgs. 110-129) Patten Chapter 13
Nov. 24:	In-Class Assignments	
Dec. 1:	In-Class Assignments	
Dec. 8:	Catch up, prep for Exam #3	
Dec. 15:	Exam #3	