

SOC 3000: Introduction to Sociological Research
Fall 2017
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 10:40AM-11:50AM
MI 2100
Updated 11/7/17

Instructor: Dr. Natalie Ingraham

Office: MI 4025

Office Hours: Wednesday 2p-3p, Monday by appointment

Email: natalie.ingraham@csueastbay.edu (this is the best way to reach me)

Course Description: This course is an introduction to social science research methods. In this course you will learn the difference between “everyday” thinking and social scientific thinking in order to think critically by applying basic methods to understand social issues. You will be exposed to the basic techniques of social science research through in-class and lab exercises. The following course goals are designed to help you avoid the pitfalls of “everyday” thinking and, thus, to become savvy consumers of information and research in the social sciences and beyond.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Learn to evaluate the adequacy of information presented in academic and non-academic (e.g., media) claims.
2. Gain an understanding of the difference between qualitative and quantitative research.
3. Learn to write research questions, construct hypothesis statements, and identify independent and dependent variables.
4. Able to construct valid survey questions (measurement; validity & reliability).
5. Recognize the difference between probability and non-probability sampling, and recognize different types of sampling methods.
6. Effectively communicate what you have learned about sociological research methods in both written and oral form.
7. Use your sociological education outside of the classroom and into your everyday life.

Links to Program Learning Outcomes and Institutional Learning Outcomes:

- SLO – Knowledge Integration and Synthesis – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- SLO – Professional Demeanor and Ethical Behavior – 4, 5
- ILO – Thinking and Reasoning – 2, 4

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Required Materials & Textbook:

6 month subscription to MindTap (via Cengage) – includes digital copy of the textbook (Babbie, Earl. 2016. The Practice of Social Research. 14th Edition. Cengage Learning. Boston, MA.)

American Sociological Association Publication Manual (I will place an abbreviated copy on BB. You can also download this on your own from the American Sociological Association (ASA) Web page.

Attendance and Participation: Students are responsible for all material covered in lecture, including announcements. You will be expected to integrate materials from lecture and readings on assignments. Please do not enroll in this class if you will not be able to attend the lectures regularly. If you must miss, please make arrangements with another student for notes.

Students with Disabilities: I am committed to providing assistance to help you be successful in this course. Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and may need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please visit Accessibility Services. All accommodations **MUST** be approved through Disability Services 510-885-3868 (Hayward Campus) or email us at as@csueastbay.edu. You can also request more information here: https://csueastbay-accommodate.symphlicity.com/public_accommodation/

Email Etiquette: The best way to contact me is through email: natalie.ingraham@csueastbay.edu. ***Make sure to write "Sociology 4111" in the subject line.*** Please do not email me to let me know that you will be absent, unless, of course there is some sort of emergency or illness. Email questions should be short and to the point. If you miss class, please contact a classmate for notes rather than e-mailing me directly.

Academic Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- cheating, which includes possessing unauthorized sources of information during examinations, copying the work of others, permitting others to copy your work, submitting work done by others, completing assignments for others, altering work after grading and subsequently submitting it for re-grading, submitting the same work for two or more classes without the permission of all instructors involved, or retaining materials that you have been instructed to return to your instructor;
- plagiarism, which includes taking the words, ideas, or substance of another and either copying or paraphrasing the work without giving credit to the source through appropriate use of footnotes, quotation marks, or reference citations;

Any plagiarized assignments or cheating will result in zero points (an "F"). You can read the full university policy [here](#).

Laptops: Laptops will be provisionally allowed; I prefer that you take written notes.

Phones: Please put away all phones and refrain from checking them during class. Participation points will be lost for continued cell phone use during class.

Readings: You are expected to read all assigned readings **before** class. This is critical as class is predominately based on activities and discussion **around the readings**. Not reading beforehand will lead to a failure to participate and an inability to understand the material. I also recommend preparing questions about the readings for class as a method to review the reading.

Policy on Late Assignments and Incompletes:

Assignments are to be turned in **at the beginning of the hour, in class (or on BB)** on the date that they are due. Late assignments will be penalized at least one point for each calendar day they are late. Papers received on the day they are due, but after class begins, will also be considered one day late. Note that I do not accept assignments turned in by e-mail attachment. Assignments submitted after the due date will be considered “turned in” on the day that I actually receive them.

If you experience an **emergency** that interferes with a deadline, speak to me directly before the assignment is due, and provide sufficient documentation of the reason for your absence. (Note that printer or computer problems do not constitute an emergency!)

Grading:

Keep track of your grade throughout the quarter. See me early in the quarter if you are having difficulty with the course material. I will do my best to answer your questions, clarify readings, and provide you with tips that could help you improve your study habits. If you have any difficulty with clear, concise writing then I suggest that you take advantage of the free tutoring on campus at the Student Center for Academic Achievement (<http://scaa.csueastbay.edu/>).

Assignments (270 points):

Assignment due dates are also listed in the course outline below.

1. Research Project Components (6 homework assignments = 70 points)

You will have completed two research reports by the end of the quarter as part of a research group (I will assign groups). You will complete a set of 6 assignments that are geared toward helping you develop different stages of your reports. This will allow me to give you feedback on each section of the final report and you will incorporate my feedback on your final draft. Detailed instructions for each assignment are at the end of the syllabus. You will have most Fridays during class time to work on these assignments and your research reports with your group.

- Homework Assignment 1 (10 points). Select a topic and write two research questions – one qualitative and one quantitative. Include a short paragraph that justifies your choice of topic. Your topic must be sociological.
- Homework Assignment 2 (20 points). Collect at least **six peer-reviewed journal articles** (studies conducted by academics and published in a referred journal) and write a literature review that incorporates these articles.
- Homework Assignment 3 (10 points). Develop your qualitative methods section. This should describe what qualitative method you’ve chosen, how you plan to analyze your data, and how you plan to recruit participants. This will be updated for your final report.
- Homework Assignment 4 (10 points). Create a draft of an informed consent document you will give to your participants. This should follow the guidelines reviewed in Babbie Ch. 3 and address the questions in the ethical considerations prompt provided on BB.
- Homework Assignment 5 (10 points). Draft an in-depth, semi-structured interview guide with 5-10 main questions, plus follow up prompts. Include an introduction to yourself and rapport-building questions.

- Homework Assignment 6 (10 points). Develop your quantitative methods section. This will include quantitative analysis method using the GSS data set.

2. Research Reports (3 reports = 120 points)

- Qualitative Report (30 points): This paper will describe your qualitative methods, your analysis process and your results, based on a topic your group selects. The paper is to be a minimum of 7 pages, double-spaced.
- Quantitative Report (30 points): This paper will describe your quantitative methods, your analysis process and your results based on a topic your group selects from the GSS data set.
- Final report (60 points): This paper combines your literature review, qualitative and quantitative papers, plus the addition of a conclusion section. The paper is to be a minimum of 15 pages, double-spaced.

3. Weekly Chapter Quizzes (9 quizzes at 10 points each, 1 dropped = 80 points)

This quizzes will review chapter content from the assigned readings each week. You will access and complete these quizzes using MindTap (required subscription). You will have 1-2 **quizzes due each Friday by midnight** – 1 quiz for each assigned chapter that week. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped.

4. Attendance and Participation (20 points)

Sign in sheets to track attendance and participation in class discussion will be considered for the participation grade.

TOTAL POINTS FOR THE COURSE:

Research project components (HW)	70
Research reports (quant, qual, final)	120
Weekly quizzes =	80
Participation=	20

290 Points

Final grades will be assigned on a percentile basis as follows:

A = 90-100% B = 80-89% C = 70-79% D = 60-69% F = 59% or less

Plusses and minuses will be assigned as follows: 0,1,2 = minus; 7,8,9 = plus

Homework Assignment Instructions

Note: All assignments should be typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins and 12-point font. These will be submitted via BB as a **Word document or PDF** so that I can leave feedback on BB. It will be very important to check this feedback after the assignments are graded and incorporate it for the next assignment.

Research Report Assignments:

Assignment #1: Research Questions

Select a topic and write two research questions about the topic – one qualitative (that your interview study will answer) and one quantitative (that the GSS data will answer). Write a one-paragraph justification (why did you select this topic) for the topic.

Assignment #2: Literature Review

Write a literature review of six peer reviewed journal articles. In short, a literature review tells the reader what other empirical research has found on the topic under study. The review is a summary that synthesizes key findings in existing research. Use examples of articles that we will read in class as a model for your literature review, and draw on the guidelines for writing literature reviews that I will include on a Power Point lecture. Don't forget to re-state your research goal and question in the last paragraph of the literature review (we will go over this in class).

Assignment #3: Qualitative Methods Sections

The methods section tells the reader exactly how you conducted the research. You will write a two-to-three-page (minimum), typed, double spaced paper that identifies and describes: 1.) the qualitative methods you will use; 2.) the sampling method you will use for the qualitative study; 3.) the number of participants and characteristics of participants you will include in the study; and 4.) potential limitations of the study.

Assignment #4 Ethical Considerations & Informed Consent

Create a draft of an informed consent document you will give to your participants. This should follow the guidelines reviewed in Babbie Ch. 3 and address the questions in the ethical considerations prompt provided on BB.

Assignment #5 Interview Guide Draft

Draft an in-depth, semi-structured interview guide with 5-10 main questions, plus follow up prompts. Include an introduction to yourself and rapport-building questions. Include a one-page cover sheet with your name, your targeted research questions, and 1-2 single-spaced paragraphs explaining why the topic areas you identified and questions that you ask will help answer your research question. Convince me that your questions will elicit data useful in answering your research questions

Assignment #6: Quantitative Methods Sections

The methods section tells the reader exactly how you conducted the research. You will write a two-to-three-page (minimum), typed, double spaced paper that identifies and describes: 1.) the quantitative research methods you will use; 2.) the sampling used by the GSS; 3.) the number of participants and characteristics of participants you will include in the study; and 4.) potential limitations of the study.

Course Schedule (tentative)

****Indicate class activities may be completed online or another time of each group's choosing.** Our classroom will be available for your use.

	Class Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments Due
<i>Unit 1: Introduction to Sociological Research</i>				
Wk 1	9/20 Wed	Intro to Class	Course Syllabus Review & Group Meetings	
	9/22 Fri	Intro to Research	Babbie Ch. 1 Human Inquiry & Science Optional: Ragin, Charles C. 1994. "The Seven Main Goals of Research" Excerpt from Ragin, Charles C. 1994. <i>Constructing social research: the unity and diversity of method</i> . Thousand Oaks, Calif: Pine Forge Press. Intro to GSS data set	Ch. 1 Quiz Due (by Sunday 9/24)
Wk 2	9/25 Mon	Structure of Inquiry	Babbie Ch. 2 Paradigms, Theory & Social Research (pp. 44-59 only) • Optional: May, Tim. 2001. "Perspectives on Social Scientific Research." Pp. 7-45 in <i>Social Research: Issues, methods and process</i> . Philadelphia: Open University Press. Watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BFSI7rrIOHE (3.5 minutes)	
	9/27 Wed	Literature Reviews	Babbie Ch. 17 Reading & Writing Social Research • Optional: Lester, James and James Lester Jr. 2006. "Writing the Literature Review." In <i>Writing Research Papers in the Social Sciences</i> . New York: Pearson.	
	9/29 Fri	Group Project Formation	Meet with your group to draft your research questions(s).	Ch. 2 & 17 Quizzes Due
Wk 3	10/2 Mon	Research Ethics	Babbie Ch. 3 Ethics & Politics of Social Research	Homework #1 Due (Research Question)
	10/4 Wed	Research Design	Babbie Ch. 4 Research Design (pp. 89-92, 97-117) Devers, Kelly J. and Richard M. Frankel. 2000. "Study Design in Qualitative Research--2: Sampling and Data Collection Strategies." <i>Education for Health</i> 13(2):263-71.	
	10/6** Fri	Group Project Work	Finalize literature review and start methods section outline.	Ch. 3 & 4 Quizzes Due Homework #2 Due (Lit Review)
<i>Unit 2: Qualitative Research Design</i>				
Wk 4	10/9 Mon	Qual Methods	Babbie Ch. 10 Qualitative Field Research • Read methods of Pfeffer, Carla A. 2010. "'Women's Work'?: Women Partners of Transgender Men Doing Housework and Emotion Work." <i>Journal of Marriage and Family</i> 72(1):165-83.	
	10/11 Wed	Qualitative Sampling	• Babbie Ch. 7 Logic of Sampling (pp. 182-189)	
	10/13** Fri	Qual Methods Homework	Work in your groups to solidify your methods draft.	Ch. 7 & 10 Quizzes Due Homework #3 Due (Qual Methods Section)
Wk 5	10/16 Mon	Qualitative Interviews	Review interview strategies PDF (on BB). Kvale (1996). <i>Interviews: An Introduction to Qualitative Research Interviewing</i> . Chapter 7, 1-10.	Homework #4 Due (Ethics)
	10/18 Wed	Qualitative	Work in your groups to outline your final qualitative report. We will practice qualitative analysis in	Homework #5 Due

	Mon			
	10/25 Wed	Intro to Quant	No assigned reading	
	10/27** Fri	Qualitative Analysis	Analyze interviews completed so far based on group member's notes & themes. Work on quantitative methods section homework.	
Wk 7	10/30 Mon	Reliability & Validity	Babbie Ch. 5 Conceptualization, Operationalization & Measurement (pp. 145-154)	
	11/1 Wed	Sampling	Babbie Ch. 7 Logic of Sampling (190-218)	
	11/3** Fri	Group Check-In	Make plan for lab time next week. Finalize qualitative report.	Ch. 5 & 7 Quizzes Due Homework #6 Due (Quant Methods)
Wk 8	11/6 Mon	LAB DAY - Sampling	SPSS Intro & Sampling Practice w/ GSS • Review SPSS Ch.1 & 2 Guides on BB	
	11/8 Wed	Quant Analysis	Ch. 14 Quantitative Data Analysis (no quiz on this chapter)	Qualitative Report Due + CATME Survey
	11/10** Fri	Quant Analysis	Check in with group on to do list for lab time next week and/or what analysis will be done at home or at the library. Outline quantitative report.	
Wk 9	11/13 Mon	LAB DAY	Run tests for quantitative report.	
	11/15 Wed	Survey Research	Babbie Ch. 6 Indexes, Scales & Typologies (pp. 156-159, 174-175 on Likert scaling & 178-180 on Typologies) Babbie Ch. 9 Survey Research • Smith, Felicia D., Meghan Woo, and S. Bryn Austin. 2010. "I Didn't Feel Like Any of Those Things Were Me': Results of a Qualitative Pilot Study of Race/ethnicity Survey Items with Minority Ethnic Adolescents in the USA." <i>Ethnicity & Health</i> 15(6):621-38.	
	11/17** Fri	Quantitative Report	Work on quantitative report.	Ch. 9 Quiz Due (Friday)
<i>Unit 4: Data Collection Preparation & Proposal Finalization</i>				
Wk 10	11/20 Mon	Preparing Research Reports	Review of final research report guidelines.	Quantitative Report Due +CATME Survey
	11/2 & 11/24	No In-Class Sessions	No assigned reading • Work on final report.	
Wk 11	11/27 Mon	Finalizing Reports	Work with your group to incorporate professor feedback on previous drafts. Work on drafting conclusion section.	
	11/29 Wed	Wrap Up	No assigned reading	
	12/1** Fri	No class	Work on final research reports as a group.	
Finals Week	12/4-12/10	Final Paper Due No Later than Wednesday 12/16 by midnight. Dr. Ingraham will be available Monday during class time for group consultation (10:40-11:50).		