

SOC 390: Research Methods
Fall 2018
Monday/Wednesday 12:00p-1:40p
LOCATION: MI 2008
LAB: AE-0393 (see schedule for lab dates)

Instructor: Dr. Natalie Ingraham

Office: MI 4025

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

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Course Description: This course will introduce you to basic social research skills. This course is designed to help further your ability to critically evaluate the adequacy of information presented in academic (e.g., journal articles, books) and non-academic (e.g., media) venues. To this end, we will focus on acquiring skills needed to: (a) identify and evaluate research designs; (b) identify and evaluate sampling designs; (c) distinguish between quantitative and qualitative research and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of each approach; (d) develop hypotheses & research questions; (e) develop valid and reliable measures of variables. We will review survey research, measurement, and hypotheses construction. We will then learn which statistical method(s) are appropriate to use based on the level of measurement of variables. Assignments will include the use of the GSS data set to describe variables and to test hypotheses.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Evaluate adequacy of sociological analyses by identifying and assessing their methodological components (study design, sampling, data collection, and analysis) and key findings using current professional standards. (ILO/PLO 1)
2. Identify and utilize appropriate qualitative and quantitative analysis methods and appropriate software programs using current professional standards. (ILO/PLO 1)
3. Effectively communicate, orally and in writing, to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of sociological research methods (quantitative and qualitative) and sociological claims that explore issues of privilege and power across social categories. (ILO/PLO 2, 3)
4. Work collaboratively in diverse groups to critically interpret and synthesize sociological methods using qualitative and quantitative methods. (ILO/PLO 4, 6)
5. Critically read, interpret, and synthesize abstract sociological theories to develop qualitative and quantitative research questions and analyze quantitative and qualitative data. (ILO/PLO 6)

Course outcomes/SLOs	Relevant activities	Relevant assignments
1. Evaluate sociological analyses using current professional standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing to learn and evaluate • In-class activities that focus on scholarly source analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annotated Bibliography • Literature Review

<p>2. Identify and utilize appropriate qualitative and quantitative analysis methods and appropriate software programs using current professional standards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-class activities on qualitative methods • Lab work with statistical software • Practice team-based learning skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quizzes • Quantitative Homework Assignments
<p>3. Effectively communicate orally and in writing to demonstrate knowledge of sociological methods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-class worksheet activities • Practice team-based learning skills for group in-class activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Proposal Homework Assignments
<p>4. Work collaboratively to critically interpret and synthesize sociological arguments and theories.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice team-based learning skills for group in-class activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
<p>5. Critically read, interpret, and synthesize abstract sociological theories to develop qualitative and quantitative research questions and analyze quantitative and qualitative data</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-class brainstorming activities • Lab work with statistical software 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Question HW • Methods HW • Quantitative Homework Assignments

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Required Text:

Babbie, Earl. 2016. *The Practice of Social Research*. 14th Edition. Cengage Learning. Boston, MA.

Optional Materials:

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. I also have a copy in my office for borrowing.

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 390” 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 on the exams. 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 **by midnight** on the date that they are due. Late assignments will be penalized one points per day they are 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 physically 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!)

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.

Grading (400 points):

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

1. Research Project Proposal (6 homework assignments = 100 points, Final proposal = 60 points)

You will have completed a research proposal by the end of the quarter. This set of assignments is geared toward helping you develop different stages of your proposal. This will allow me to give you feedback on each section of the proposal and you will incorporate my feedback on your final draft. Detailed instructions for each assignment are at the end of the syllabus.

- Proposal HW 1 (10 points). Select a topic and write a research question. Include a short paragraph that justifies your choice of topic. Your topic must be sociological.
- Proposal HW 2 (10 points). Collect at least **six peer-reviewed journal articles** and create an annotated bibliography.
- Proposal HW 3 (20 points). Draft your annotated bibliography into a complete literature review. It must still contain **a total of 10 citations minimum, with at least six of those being peer-reviewed sources.**
- Proposal HW 4 (15 points). Develop your methods section. You can choose to conduct a qualitative or quantitative study.
- Proposal HW 5 (15 points). Develop your data collection instruments. Qualitative: 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. Quantitative: Draft a survey of at least 15 items.
- Proposal HW 6 (10 points). Create a draft of an informed consent document you will give to your participants using CSUEB templates provided & complete CITI social science training.
- Proposal HW 7 (20 points). Complete a CSUEB IRB protocol application using the provided templates. This will include a revised consent form from HW 6 and feedback from any other previous homework assignment.

2. Weekly Chapter Quizzes (15 quizzes varying points = 100 points)

These quizzes will review chapter content from the assigned readings each week. You will access and complete these quizzes using BB. You will have **a quiz due each Monday by 8am for the readings assigned that week (except Ch. 1)**. Late quizzes will not be accepted.

3. Quantitative Methods Homework (70 points)

These assignments will help you develop skills around quantitative data analysis. The first two focus on creating new hypotheses and survey items and the final two utilize the GSS data set to practice statistical analysis.

- Quant HW 1 (10 points): Write two hypotheses related to student success and identify the independent and dependent variable in each hypothesis.
- Quant HW 2 (10 points): Develop 4-6 survey questions that measure the IV & DV in each hypothesis.
- Quant HW 3: (20 points): Descriptive statistics
- Quant HW 4 (30 points): Hypotheses testing

4. In-Class Activities (50 points – 10 @ 5 points each)

These in-class activities are designed to give you hands-on experience with the research design and analysis process throughout the semester.

5. Attendance and Participation (20 points)

Attendance and participation in class discussion will be considered for the participation grade. Participation must involve more than doing the readings and showing up to class. Participation can and must include active participation in class discussion and group work, engagement with the material, and asking for clarification (either in class or during office hours).

TOTAL POINTS FOR THE COURSE:

Proposal Homework assignments =	100
Quizzes =	100
Quant HW assignments =	70
Final Research Proposal =	60
In-Class Activities =	50
Participation =	<u>20</u>
	400 Points

Homework Assignments 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** (.doc, .docx, 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 Proposal Assignments:

Proposal Assignment #1: Research Questions

Select a topic and write a research question about the topic. Write a one-paragraph justification for the topic which outlines why you selected this topic.

Proposal Assignment #2: Annotated Bibliography

An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to books, articles, and documents. Each citation is followed by a brief (usually about 150 words) descriptive *and* evaluative paragraph, the annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited (from <http://guides.library.cornell.edu/annotatedbibliography>). For the purpose of this project, the annotated bibliography gets you started on your literature review and helps you situate the literature in relationship to your research project.

Proposal Assignment #3: Literature Review

Write a literature review of at least **10 references –6 of those 10 should be peer reviewed journal articles** described in your annotated bibliography. 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 and identify a gap in the literature (we will go over this in class).

Proposal Assignment #4: Methods Section

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 research method you will use; 2) the sampling method you will use; 3) the number of participants and characteristics of participants you will include in the study; and 4) limitations of the study based on your study design.

Proposal Assignment #5: Data Collection Instruments: Interview Guide or Survey Draft

Qualitative Projects: 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.

Quantitative Projects: Draft a survey with at least 15 items that measure your variables of interest. Include a one-page cover sheet with your name, your research question(s), and 1-2 single spaced paragraphs explaining how your survey items will help you answer your research questions.

Proposal Assignment #6: Ethical Considerations, Informed Consent & CITI training

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. You must also complete the CITI social science training by this due date (<https://www.csueastbay.edu/orsp/forms-policies-procedures/irb/training.html>). CITI training should have a completed confirmation email & you will upload a PDF of that into BB.

Proposal Assignment #7: IRB Protocol

Complete a CSUEB IRB protocol application using the provided templates. This will include a revised consent form from HW 6 and feedback from any other previous homework assignment. You will need to describe your study, condense your literature review, and consider fully risks and benefits to your participants.

Quantitative HW Assignments:

Quant HW #1: Hypothesis Statements

Write two hypotheses on student success; that is, think of factors that contribute to academic success and write two different hypotheses that capture a causal relationship. Identify the IV & DV in each hypothesis.

Quant HW #2: Survey Questions

Develop 4-6 valid survey questions that measures the IV & DV in each of the two hypotheses developed in Assignment #1. Use guidelines for writing good survey questions discussed in class and in your course readings.

Quant HW #3: Descriptive Statistics (Lab Day)

Selecting, running, and reporting the appropriate descriptive statistics for variables measured at different levels of measurement. Use the homework sheet provided on BB and complete by running the appropriate descriptive statistics in SPSS and pasting tables into the Word document.

Quant HW #4: Hypotheses testing (Lab Day)

Instructions:

1. Write 2 research and null hypotheses that can be tested using variables available in the GSS data set (GSS14a.sav file in BB).
2. Identify the IV & DV in each Hr (research hypothesis).
3. Identify which variables in the GSS data set measure your IV & DV in each Hr using the GSS variable name.
4. Identify the levels of measurement for each IV & DV (nominal, ordinal, interval, ratio AND discrete/continuous).
5. Select the appropriate statistical test to test each HR. You must perform **one** chi-square and **one** t-test, correlation, or ANOVA.
6. Write up a short paragraph describing your findings and telling the reader if each Hr was significant and identify the level of significance.
7. State how often you would make a Type I error if you rejected your null hypothesis.

Course Schedule (tentative)

Assigned readings should be read in advance of the class date next to which they are listed. Other readings may be added on BB.

	Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments Due
<i>Unit 1: Introduction to Sociological Research</i>				
Week 1	8/20	Intro to Class	Course Syllabus Review	
	8/22	Intro to Research	Babbie Ch. 1 Human Inquiry & Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Ch. 1 Quiz due Friday 8/24 by midnight
Week 2	8/27	Structure of Inquiry	Babbie Ch. 2 Paradigms, Theory & Social Research (pp. 44-59 only) Optional: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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=BFS17rr10HE (3.5 minutes) 	ICA 1: Research Project Brainstorm Ch. 2 & 3 Quiz Due (8am)
	8/29	Research Ethics	Babbie Ch. 3 Ethics & Politics of Social Research	Proposal HW #1 Due Friday August 31st
Week 3	9/3	Labor Day	NO CLASS	
	9/5	Literature Reviews (Library Day)	Babbie Ch. 17 Reading & Writing Social Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read from intro to methods on Pfeffer, Carla A. 2010. 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. 	ICA 2: Literature Review Worksheet Ch. 17 Quiz Due (8am)
<i>Unit 2: Research Design (Qualitative & Quantitative)</i>				
Week 4	9/10	Research Design Overview	Babbie Ch. 4 Research Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Devers, Kelly J. and Richard M. Frankel. 2000. 	Ch. 4 Quiz Due (8am)
	9/12	Qual Methods	Babbie Ch. 10 Qualitative Field Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read methods section of Pfeffer (2010). Guest Lecture – Dr. Ariana Thompson-Lastad 	Ch. 10 Quiz Due (8am) Proposal HW #2 Due (Annotated Bib)
Week 5	9/17	Research Design: Measurement	Babbie Ch. 5 Conceptualization, Operationalization & Measurement (pp. 123-144)	Ch. 5 Quiz Due (8am) ICA 3: IV/DV practice
	9/19	Reliability & Validity	Babbie Ch. 5 Conceptualization, Operationalization & Measurement (pp. 145-154)	ICA 4: R&V & Measurement
Week 6	9/24	Sampling	Babbie Ch. 7 Logic of Sampling (190-218)	Ch. 7 Quiz Due (8am)
	9/26	Qual Sampling	Babbie Ch. 7 Logic of Sampling (pp. 182-189)	Proposal HW #3 Due (Lit Review)
Week 7	10/1	Study Design Review	Review Babbie Ch. 4 & 5 & Hypothesis Statement review	Quant HW #1 Due (Hypothesis)
	10/3	Survey Research & Challenges in Survey Research	Babbie Ch. 9 Survey Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smith, Felicia D., Meghan Woo, and S. Bryn Austin. 2010. 	Ch. 9 Quiz Due (8am)

Week 8	10/8	Indexes & Scales & Unobtrusive Methods	Babbie Ch. 6 Indexes, Scales & Typologies (pp. 156-159, 174-175 on Likert scaling & 178-180 on Typologies) Babbie Ch. 11 Unobtrusive Methods	Ch. 6 & 11 Quizzes Due (8am) ICA 5: Methods HW Memoing
	10/10	Experiments & Eval Research	Babbie Ch. 8 Experiments (pp. 225-229 & 243-245) Babbie Ch. 12 Evaluation Research	Ch. 8 & 12 Quizzes Due (8am)
<i>Unit 3: Qualitative & Quantitative Data Analysis</i>				
Week 9	10/15	Midterm Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal Check-In & Research Design Review 	Proposal HW #4 Due (Methods Section)
	10/17	Qual Analysis	Babbie Ch. 13	Ch. 13 Quiz Due (8am) ICA 6: Coding Practice
Week 10	10/22	Quant Analysis	Babbie Ch. 14	Ch. 14 Quiz Due (8am) ICA 7: Quant Review
	10/24	Descriptive Stats	Babbie Ch. 16 pp. 450-468 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review GSS data set and variables in class 	Ch. 16 Quiz Due (8am) Quant HW #2 Due
Week 11	10/29	Lab Day AE-0393	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review SPSS Guide Ch. 1 & 2. Explore GSS data set and run frequencies. 	ICA 8: Lab Day Memo
	10/31	Quant Analysis & Type I/II errors	Babbie Ch. 16 (review pp. 468-469) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Ch. 5 of the SPSS Guide on BB (Cross-tabs & Chi-square) Read Ch. 6 of SPSS Guide on BB (Means testing – t-tests, ANOVA) 	
Week 12	11/5	Lab Day AE-0393	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on HW #3 or #4. 	ICA 9: Lab Day Memo
	11/7	Data Collection Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review requirements for Proposal HW #5 on your data collection Materials. Review Babbie Ch. 9 Survey Research & Interview Guide PDF 	Quant HW #3 Due (Descriptives)
Week 13	11/12	Veteran's Day	NO CLASS	
	11/14	IRB Protocol Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review IRB Protocols and work in pairs to complete HW #7, PSA Abstracts Due (extra credit) Nov. 15th 	Proposal HW #5 Due
Week 14	11/19	Thanksgiving	NO CLASS	Proposal HW #6 Due
	11/21	Thanksgiving	NO CLASS	IC & CITI Training (Wed)
Week 15	11/26	Correlation & regression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Ch. 9 of SPSS Guide on BB for chart type information Read Ch. 7 of SPSS Guide on BB (Correlation & Regression) 	Proposal HW #7 Due (IRB Protocol)
	11/28	Lab Day AE-0393	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final lab day to finish Quant HW #4 	Trade Drafts for Review
Week 16	12/3	Proposal Peer Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with your peer review partner during class time to edit your papers. Be sure to check my comments on HW 1-5 to incorporate those edits. 	ICA 10: Peer review worksheet
	12/5	Wrap Up		Quant HW #4 Due (Hypothesis Testing)
Finals Week	Dec 10-16		No final exam.	Final Research Proposal Due