SOCIOLOGY 105: RESEARCH DESIGN AND SOCIOLOGICAL METHODS  
Fall 2017

INSTRUCTOR:  
Jill Bakehorn, PhD (Pronouns: she/her or they/them)  
E-mail: jabakehorn@berkeley.edu  
Office: 479 Barrows Hall

Sign-up Office Hours: Mondays 3:00-4:00pm  
Sign-up: http://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/xjanb  
Drop-in Office Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:05-10:50am

CLASS MEETING:  
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 9:00-10:00am  
104 Barrows

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is meant to be an introduction to methods and research design; it is specifically geared toward guiding students in the development of a sociological research project. We will be addressing some of the major concerns and issues related to sociological research including: the goals of sociological research, methodologies, developing a research topic and question, theoretical traditions, literature reviews, ethics, and reporting on research findings.

In this seminar you will begin the transition from being a consumer of sociological research, synthesizing others’ work, to a producer of sociological knowledge. This can seem like a particularly intimidating process, so we will break down the steps involved. The small size of the class means that we can spend class time discussing your questions and concerns about the research process. We will treat class time like a workshop for your individual projects. While lecture will be a component of class time, your active participation in the course is required.

You will produce an original research proposal that can be the starting place of your senior or honors thesis or a springboard for graduate school.

COURSE GOALS

By the end of the semester you should be able to:
✦ Explain the various goals and missions of sociological research
✦ Be conversant in the various methods and their attendant strengths and weaknesses
✦ Identify the major ethical issues involved in social research
✦ Use theory in research
✦ Conduct a literature review
✦ Compose a sociological research proposal

REQUIRED TEXTS

Course Reader: Available at Copy Central (2576 Bancroft Way) and on bCourses
ASSIGNMENTS

1) Research Topic/Statement of Interest (5% of final grade)
1 page paper about research topic and purpose of research.
DUE: Wednesday, 9/6

2) Research Question (5% of final grade)
2 page paper detailing your research question or questions.
DUE: Wednesday, 9/27

3) Ethical Issues (5% of final grade)
2 page paper addressing any ethical concerns you might encounter.
DUE: Wednesday, 10/4

4) Theoretical Frame (10% of final grade)
2 page paper discussing possible theories that may offer insight into your project.
DUE: Wednesday, 10/11

5) Literature Review (15% of final grade)
4-6 page paper discussing relevant literature.
DUE: Wednesday, 10/25

6) Methods (15% of final grade)
3-5 page paper detailing what method(s) and research site or case.
DUE: Wednesday, 11/8

7) Final Research Proposal (30% of final grade)
15-20 page research proposal
DUE: Monday, 12/11 at 10pm

COURSE FORMAT AND POLICIES

Readings: Readings should be completed prior to class. You must keep up with the readings to participate in class discussions and complete assignments. Bring your reading materials to every class; you will likely need to refer to them in class discussions. All of your assigned readings are available on bCourses and as a reader from Copy Central on Bancroft.

Participation: This class will incorporate the use of lecture and group discussions. I expect you to be an active participant in the course. I expect you to come to each class meeting having completed the assigned readings for the day, outlined any questions or concerns you have, and ready to discuss. Participation will constitute 15% of your final grade. Attendance and participation are required.
If you have a question about the readings, lecture, etc., please post your question to the chatroom or discussion board on bCourses where both your questions and my answers will be visible to other students, rather than e-mailing me. Feel free to answer each other’s questions as well.

**Missing Class:** If you miss a class, do not ask me if you missed anything. Of course you did!—but don’t expect me to fill you in. I suggest sharing contact information with a classmate early on in the semester and getting the notes you missed.

**Course Slides:** I use course slides which often incorporate media. I will post course slides after lecture, not before, but they will only contain the text. Keep in mind that these slides are meant to be a guide during lecture and are therefore not exhaustive or a substitute for attending class.

**Course Etiquette:** All phones must be silenced and put away during class.

You may not agree with everything we read and discuss, but I expect you to have an open mind and demonstrate your knowledge of the sociological perspective. Debates are expected and welcome in this class, however, I will not tolerate personal attacks.

**Laptop Policy:** I encourage you to consider taking notes without a computer if you are able.

**Email:** Clearly indicate to which class you are referring in your emails to me. I endeavor to respond to emails within 24 hours, but this is not always possible; please be patient.

**GRADING POLICIES**

No late assignments will be accepted without prior approval.

**Turnitin:** All of your assignments will be checked by TurnItIn for plagiarism. Keep in mind, this program keeps a database of previously turned in papers as well.

For assignments turned in via bCourses, your feedback can be found there. Be sure to carefully consider the feedback; it is provided to help you improve.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

The University defines academic misconduct as “any action or attempted action that may result in creating an unfair academic advantage for oneself or an unfair academic advantage or disadvantage for any other member or members of the academic community” (UC Berkeley Code of Student Conduct).

Academic dishonesty includes cheating and plagiarism. Cheating is collaboration with other students on exams or using notes during exams. Plagiarism includes turning in any work that is not your own as well as improper or missing citations of others’ works.
As a student of the University of California, you are bound by the Code of Academic Conduct. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will result in a referral to The Center for Student Conduct and a zero for that assignment.

Plagiarism is most likely to occur because students are unaware of how to cite their sources or because they feel desperate. If you get to this point in your writing, contact me ASAP rather than doing something you’ll very likely regret.

OFFICE HOURS

I will be holding **Sign-up** office hours from 3:00pm-4:00pm on Mondays. Sign-up: [http://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/xjanb](http://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/xjanb)

I will be holding **Drop-in** office hours from 10:05am-10:50am on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays—no appointment necessary.

If you are having any difficulties with the material or assignments for the course or if you are having any personal problems that are affecting your ability to complete assignments on time, you should take advantage of office hours early in the semester. I will be much more amenable to granting extensions when I have been made aware of problems early on rather than at the last minute.

Remember that office hours are an important resource if for no other reason than getting to know your instructors could help you in the future when you may need letters of recommendation.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

**Disability Accommodations**
If you qualify for any disability accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so you can receive the accommodations to which you are entitled. [http://dsp.berkeley.edu](http://dsp.berkeley.edu)

**Student Learning Center**
Provides support for writing, various academic disciplines including social sciences, as well as help for transfer and international students. [http://slc.berkeley.edu](http://slc.berkeley.edu)

**Sexual Harassment and Violence Support Services**
To learn more about these issues, how to support survivors, or how to file a report and receive support services, start here: [http://survivorsupport.berkeley.edu](http://survivorsupport.berkeley.edu). Please note that I am **not** a confidential advocate. To speak to a confidential care advocate: [http://sa.berkeley.edu/dean/confidential-care-advocate/](http://sa.berkeley.edu/dean/confidential-care-advocate/)
**Course Outline**  Readings to be completed on day listed. Schedule subject to change.

**WEEK ONE: INTRODUCTIONS**

**Wednesday, 8/23**  Introductions

**Friday, 8/25**  The Goals and Mission of Sociology


**WEEK TWO: INTRODUCING SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH**

**Monday, 8/28**  Before Research: Sociology as a Profession


**Assignment:** Peruse latests program for the American Sociological Association here: [https://convention2.allacademic.com/one/asa/asa17/](https://convention2.allacademic.com/one/asa/asa17/)

What research projects piqued your interest and why?

**Wednesday, 8/30**  Basics of Sociological Research: What is Social Research?


**Friday, 9/1**  Basics of Sociological Research: What are the Goals?


**Suggested reading (Available on bCourses)**

WEEKS THREE-FOUR: SOCIOLOGICAL METHODS

Monday, 9/4  NO CLASS: LABOR DAY

Wednesday, 9/6  Survey Research
**Research Topic Due**


**Suggested reading for those interested in Surveys (Available on bCourses):**

Friday, 9/8  Existing Data and Content Analysis


**Suggested reading for those interested in Available Data or Content Analysis (Available on bCourses):**

Monday, 9/11  Qualitative Interviews


Suggested reading for those interested in qualitative interviewing (Available on bCourses):

Wednesday, 9/13  Fieldwork


Suggested reading for those interested in fieldwork (Available on bCourses):

Friday, 9/15  Fieldwork (Cont)/Catch-Up

WEEK FIVE: RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Monday, 9/18  Asking a Research Question


Wednesday, 9/20  Matching Questions and Methods

Friday, 9/22  Case Selection/Sampling


WEEK SIX: RESEARCH ETHICS

Monday, 9/25  Ethics and Social Research


Wednesday, 9/27  What is Permissible in the Name of Knowledge?

**Research Question(s) Due**


If unfamiliar with Humpherys's research (Available on bCourses):

Friday, 9/29  Who Gets to Speak for Whom?


If unfamiliar with Goffman's research (Available on bCourses):

WEEK SEVEN: THEORETICAL TRADITIONS

Monday, 10/2  Connecting Theory and Research


Wednesday, 10/4  Researching Within a Theoretical Tradition

**Ethical Issues Paper Due**

Friday, 10/6  Researching Within a Theoretical Tradition


**WEEK EIGHT: LITERATURE REVIEW**

Monday, 10/9  Library Research
Meet at library

Wednesday, 10/11+  What is a Literature Review?
**Theory Paper Due**

Friday, 10/13


**WEEK NINE: DATA ANALYSIS**

Monday, 10/16  What Do I Do with this Data?


Wednesday, 10/18  Working with Concepts


Friday, 10/20  Analysis in Action

WEEK TEN: DATA AND THEORY

Monday, 10/23  Testing Theories with Data


Wednesday, 10/25  Advancing Theory with Data

**Literature Review Due**


Friday, 10/27  Catch-Up/Review

WEEK ELEVEN: REPORTING ON YOUR RESEARCH/WRITING

Monday, 10/30  Academic Persona and Authority


Wednesday, 11/1  Academic Writing


Friday, 11/3  When the Press Report on Social Science Research (and get it wrong)

https://theintercept.com/2017/08/01/scholars-say-mother-jones-distorted-their-research-for-anti-homeless-article/
WEEK TWELVE: REFLEXIVITY AND POSITIONALITY

Monday, 11/6  The Politics of Representation


Wednesday, 11/8  When Our Subjects Read What We Write

**Methods/Case Paper Due**


Friday, 11/10  NO CLASS: VETERANS DAY

WEEKS THIRTEEN-FIFTEEN: INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS

You must sign up to meet with me one-on-one to discuss your research proposal during class time.

Monday, 11/13-Monday, 11/19

Wednesday, 11/22-Friday, 11/24  THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Monday, 11/27-Friday, 12/1

WEEK SIXTEEN: READING, REVIEW, RECITATION WEEK

Monday, 12/4- Friday, 12/8

FINAL PAPER DUE: Monday, 12/11 at 10pm