Course Objectives: This course is an intermediate undergraduate social science research methods course. Whereas Sociology 5 provides an overview of multiple research methodologies, this course instead will emphasize training in two sociological methods: qualitative interviewing and quantitative survey research. In this course, students will hone their understanding of research design and social science methodologies through applied exercises and projects.

We will consider: selecting and framing a research question; sampling methods for quantitative and qualitative data; interview and survey question design; interview coding and analysis; quantitative data analysis; visual presentation of data; and writing up and presenting results for professional audiences. While this course will cover both qualitative interviewing and statistical methodologies, the course will focus more on quantitative methodologies. Beginning in week 8, students will be provided with an introduction to the Stata statistical software program.

Prerequisites: Sociology 5, or Permission of Instructor

Required Texts:


* Note this is NOT the most recent edition. Used copies are available through Amazon.com and abebooks.com

Recommended Resources:


**Grading:**

Assignments: 25% (5 assignments x 5% each = 25%)
Final Project: 15% (5% as in-class Presentation; 10% as Write-Up)
Class/Lab Participation: 10%
Mid-term Exam: 15%
Final Exam: 35%

**There are no make-up exams. You must be present for the exams.**

**Attendance and Participation:**

I expect you to attend both lecture and lab. Material in lecture will extend beyond the readings, and will also help you work through the assignments. You are responsible for all material covered in lecture, as well as all announcements made in class and through the course website. Consistent lecture attendance greatly enhances your chances of earning a good grade in this course.

Participation includes attendance, contribution to class discussion, and asking questions. Remember, quality of contribution is valued over quantity.

**Special Accommodations:**

Those requiring special accommodations for lecture, section, and/or exams should speak to the instructor or GSI early in the semester. A letter from DSP must accompany requests for exam accommodations: http://dsp.berkeley.edu.

**Academic Integrity:**

Students who are detected cheating will receive a failing grade, and be referred to Student Judicial Affairs. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, using notes (written or electronic) during an exam; copying another person’s exam or assignment; allowing someone to copy your exam or assignment; having someone take an exam for you; or plagiarizing an assignment. Plagiarism includes copying other students’ work on an assignment/exam or using electronic/internet resources without proper citation. Please refer to university guidelines on proper citations: http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Citations.html.

**Website:**

There is a website for Sociology 105 on bCourses:
All registered students should be automatically added to this site. Electronic copies of the readings will be posted here, and I will post supplementary readings here as well (study guides, lecture notes, etc.).

Course Outline

Week One: Course Introduction

Monday, January 20: No Class

Wednesday, January 22: Introduction to the Course


Week Two: Key Concepts & Research Design

This week will cover variables and measurement. We will also focus on the earliest steps involved in sociological research: framing a research question and writing a literature review.

Monday, January 20: Key Concepts: Variables, Measurement


Wednesday, January 22: Fundamentals of Research Design


**Week Three: Inductive & Deductive Approaches to Research; Interviewing Basics**

Monday, February 3: Inductive & Deductive Approaches to Research


Wednesday, February 5: Interviewing: Covering the Basics


***** Assignment One Due Wednesday 2/5 *****

**Week Four: Interviewing: Asking Questions and Sampling Considerations**

Monday, February 10: Question & Questionnaire Design


Wednesday, February 12: Sampling


**Week Five: Coding Interview Data; Research Ethics**

Monday, February 17: Coding and Analyzing Interview Data


Wednesday, February 19: More on Interviewing: Techniques & Pitfalls


***** Assignment Two Due Wednesday 2/19 *****

**Week Six: Research Ethics & Midterm Review**

Monday, February 24: Research Ethics


Wednesday, February 26: Midterm Review

**Week Seven: Midterm & Quantitative Data Analysis I**

Monday, March 3: In-Class Midterm Examination

Wednesday, March 5: Descriptive Statistics


**Week Eight: Quantitative Data Analysis II**

Monday, March 10: LAB 1: Introduction to the Stata Statistical Package

Wednesday, March 12: Introduction to Probability; Sampling

***** Assignment Three Due Wednesday 3/12 *****

Week Nine: Quantitative Data Analysis III

Monday, March 17: Lab 2: Lab Exercises using Stata

Wednesday, March 19: Sampling (cont’d); Point Estimators; Interval Estimation


~~~~~~~~~~ SPRING BREAK ~~~~~~~~~~~

Week Ten: Quantitative Data Analysis IV

This week will provide an introduction to the logic of hypothesis testing.

Monday, March 31: Lab 3: Lab Exercises Using Stata

Wednesday, April 2: The Logic of Hypothesis Testing


***** Assignment Four Due Wed 4/2 *****

Week Eleven: Quantitative Data Analysis V

This week will focus on bivariate relationships between variables, and extend our analysis to three or more (multivariate relationships), including Analysis of Variance (ANOVA).

Monday, April 7: LAB 4: Lab Exercises Using Stata

Wednesday, April 9: Analysis of Variance, Chi-Square Test


Week Twelve: Quantitative Data Analysis VI

This week will examine correlations between two quantitative variables, and provide an introduction to regression analysis.
Monday, April 14: LAB 5: Lab Exercises Using Stata

Wednesday, April 16: Correlations, Introduction to Regression Analysis


***** Assignment Five Due Wednesday 4/16 *****

**Week Thirteen: Quantitative Data Analysis VII**

This week will continue our study of regression analysis. We will focus on developing presentation skills, including the graphical presentation of data.

Monday, April 21: LAB 6: Lab Exercises Using Stata

Wednesday, April 23: More on Regression Analysis


**Week Fourteen: Final Presentations**

Monday, April 28: Final Presentations

Wednesday, April 30: Final Presentations

***** Final Project Due Wednesday 5/7 *****

**Final Exam: Tuesday, May 13th, 11:30am – 2:30pm**

(Location TBA)