COURSE DESCRIPTION
Sociology 5 provides a general overview of the ways in which sociologists collect information about social phenomena, and it provides an elementary introduction to both quantitative and qualitative analyses of such data. I have several goals for this course: (1) To spark your interest in sociology and to encourage you to see sociology as a research enterprise, as a process of learning about our social world. (2) To introduce you to the elements of research design and to the basic principles of data analysis so that you will have a good foundation for future learning. (3) To teach you how to read a research report with a critical eye, so that you can know how to tell how trustworthy its information is. (4) To have you learn first hand about the problems of research by trying out several data collection methods on a small scale. (5) To show you that research is a personal, human activity involving both your brain and your emotions, combining brilliant insights with spectacular failures, and invoking both dramatic visions and inescapable practical limitations.

COURSE MATERIALS
I have ordered the following two books for this course. They are going to be our core texts. From time to time, I will supplement these with additional articles, videos, and movie fragments. On average, you will be asked to read about 100 pages per week. The core textbooks are available for purchase at the Cal Student Store. All other supplementary materials will be available to you online at our bSpace class website.


COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The way to learn a research method is to read real research reports and to get your hands dirty doing real (although small) data collection exercises. These activities take time and effort, but there are no shortcuts. The exercises in this class are not “real” research. As you will learn, real research is much too time-consuming (and much too expensive) to fit into a semester-length course. You will be doing scaled-down projects that teach you important lessons about research without taking so much time. Your grade in this course will be based on the quality of your three data collection exercises, weekly homework assignments, daily reactions, and a final in-class exam.

Data Analysis Projects: You will be asked to complete three major exercises in collecting and analyzing data. The largest share of your grade will be based on these projects (each of these will be worth 15% of your total grade). The exercises will involve developing structured questionnaire items, a field experiment, and a field observation. Details and due dates will be explained in class.

Homework Assignments: Together these will be worth 20% of your grade. Homework assignments will be short (one paragraph to one page) essay-type answers to questions about the assigned readings. There will be four such assignments and they are due at the beginning of class on the following Thursdays: June 21st, June 28th, July 12th, and July 26th. These assignments will be counted but not graded. You will get 5 points for each assignment that you hand in, 0 otherwise. Homework must be submitted on time in order to receive full credit.

Daily Reactions: Beginning with the second lecture, you will need to bring a 3x5 ruled index card with you each time we meet. You will use these index cards to submit at least one sentence of reaction to that day’s class, indicating what you learned, or something you liked or did not like, found interesting or controversial, found clear or too simplistic, or found confusing and in need of further (or better) explanation; you may also submit comments on the course in general. Please note that you can submit a “reaction” only if you were actually in class. As with the homework assignment, we will count but not grade these daily reactions. You will get 1 point for each daily reaction submitted, 0 otherwise. Your daily reactions will contribute to 20% of your overall grade in the class (there will be 20 such reactions throughout the semester).

Final Exam: You will be asked to complete an objective final exam on the last day of class (Thursday, August 9th). This will be cumulative (multiple choice, true/false) exam and it will focus on basic methodological concepts and ideas. This exam will be work 15% of your final grade. I will provide you with study questions throughout the semester to help you get prepared for this exam. In addition, I will give you a more targeted study guide on the Tuesday right before the exam.
**FINAL GRADES**

In assigning final grades, we do not “curve” the class. It is, therefore, entirely possible for everyone to get an A. Needless to say, it is also possible (although quite unlikely) for everyone to fail. In assigning final grades, we will use the following basic scheme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95 – 99.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 94.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 – 89.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 – 86.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 – 82.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 – 79.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73 – 76.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 – 72.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67 – 69.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63 – 66.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60 – 62.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>00 – 59.99%</td>
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In this grade-inflated world of ours we are not opposed to the idea of awarding students an A+ for exceptional work. However, in order to earn such a grade, you will have to earn 100 points in this class.

**CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM**

Academic dishonesty is not tolerated at Berkeley. If you are found to be cheating on assignments or to be engaging in scholarly misconduct, you will receive no credit for that task. “Helpfully” signing in a friend for class participation will result in both of you failing the class participation of your total grade.

**CLASS WEBSITE**

I have set up a bSpace website for the class. You can find here a copy of the syllabus, an electronic version of our class schedule, PDF files for some of the assigned readings (under “Resources”), handouts and lecture notes (also under “Resources”). This is also where you will find announcements from me and see your grades. It is essential that you gain access to our class website as soon as possible because (1) many of our required readings reside here and (2) your homework assignments will be posted here.

How do you log in to bSpace? Log in to http://bspace.berkeley.edu with your CalNet ID and Passphrase. If you are enrolled through Telebears, you should see a tab at the top of the screen for your course when you log in. If you are enrolled in more than one course using bSpace you will, of course, see a tab for each course. If you are a concurrent enrollment student you cannot be assigned bSpace access until the status of your application is “Approval Completed.” It is your responsibility to make sure that your application is reviewed and approved in a timely fashion. If you have questions about this, please email concurrent@unex.berkeley.edu.
**Course Timeline**

This is a writing intensive course with a heavy workload. Every Thursday you will be handing in work. On most Thursdays, this will be your homework assignment; other times, you will be sharing with us the results of your research. You will be devoting about two to four hours of work per week to this class and you may also need to set aside an hour or so on the weekends to complete your research projects. If you become ill or some other crisis arises during the semester, please communicate with us as soon as possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Focus</th>
<th>Deadlines &amp; Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, June 19</strong></td>
<td>Getting Started with Social Research</td>
<td>Hand out HW #1</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, June 20th</strong></td>
<td>Social Research as Science</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, June 21st</strong></td>
<td>Observation Exercise</td>
<td>Collect HW #1</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Hand out Observation Ex.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, June 26th</strong></td>
<td>Research Ethics</td>
<td>Hand out HM #2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, June 27th</strong></td>
<td>The Process of Social Research</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, June 28th</strong></td>
<td>Research Design</td>
<td>Collect HW #2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, July 3rd</strong></td>
<td>No Class - HOLIDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, July 4th</strong></td>
<td>No Class - HOLIDAY</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday, July 5th</strong></td>
<td>Field Experiment</td>
<td>Hand out Experiment Ex.</td>
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<td>Collect Observation Ex.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, July 10th</strong></td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Hand out HM #3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, July 11th</strong></td>
<td>Indexes, Scales, and Typologies</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, July 12th</strong></td>
<td>Sampling</td>
<td>Collect HW #3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, July 17th</strong></td>
<td>Experiments</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday, July 18th</strong></td>
<td>Survey Research</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, July 19th</strong></td>
<td>Survey Research Exercise</td>
<td>Hand out Survey Ex.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Collect Experiment Ex.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, July 24th</strong></td>
<td>Field Research</td>
<td>Hand out HW #4</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, July 25th</strong></td>
<td>Research Using Available Data</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday, July 26th</strong></td>
<td>Multiple Methods</td>
<td>Collect HW #4</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, July 31st</strong></td>
<td>Evaluation Research</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday, August 1st</strong></td>
<td>Public Sociology</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday, August 2nd</strong></td>
<td>Reading &amp; Writing Social Research</td>
<td>Collect Survey Ex.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, August 7th</strong></td>
<td>The Promise of Social Research</td>
<td>Hand out Study Guide</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, August 8th</strong></td>
<td>Review for Final Exam</td>
<td>Go over Study Guide</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, August 9th</strong></td>
<td>Final In-Class Exam</td>
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MANAGING YOUR SUMMER WORKLOAD

Our task this summer is to cover an entire semester’s worth of material in eight weeks. This is completely feasible, but it will require a lot of work and organization on all of our parts. Each class period is worth more than one session in a normal term. On many days, the class will be divided into two sections on two different topics. We will take a short break about half way through each class, so you can breathe and stretch your legs. I have given a great deal of thought to how to reorganize this course so it can be done in eight weeks, allowing you enough time to write your papers and me enough time to grade them. The trick is to move quickly and be willing to work simultaneously on different projects at the same time. We will have time in the last week to return to the concepts with which we began the course, as part of preparing for the final exam.

For each of the three exercises, you have control over how long the data collection takes by your choice of sample and method. It is possible to collect the data for each exercise in two hours or less, if you make the right choices. One key is to plan thoroughly before collecting the data, and another is not to spend too much time changing your mind about what to do. I am prepared to help advise you to keep on the path of the possible rather than the impossible so you can get this work done and still sleep each night.

For the reading, you do not need to study it intensively before class, just read through it once so you can be ready to learn from class. Homework focuses on identifying variables and measures in articles. Do your best on this, but do not waste a lot of time struggling with it – just make a guess if you really do not know. Homework is counted for effort but not graded for correctness. Textbook reading gives you more depth on methodological concepts and information relevant to doing your exercises. Exam will focus on methodological concepts and will emphasize material discussed in class, not minor trivia from the readings.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

In order to obtain the greatest benefit from our classroom discussions, we strongly recommend that you complete the assigned readings before our class meets.

Tuesday, June 19: Getting Started with Social Science Research

Wednesday, June 20: Social Research as Science

Thursday, June 21: Observation Exercise – Handed Out and Described

Tuesday, June 26: Research Ethics

Wednesday, June 27: The Process of Social Research

Thursday, June 28: Research Design

Tuesday, July 3: No Class

Wednesday, July 4: No Class - Holiday

Thursday, July 5: Field Experiment Exercise – Handed Out and Described
Tuesday, July 10: Measurement

Wednesday, July 11: Indexes, Scales, and Typologies

Thursday, July 12: Sampling

Tuesday, July 17: Experiments

Wednesday, July 18: Survey Research

Thursday, July 19: Survey Research Exercise – Handed Out and Described
Tuesday, July 24: Field Research

Wednesday, July 25: Research Using Available Data

Thursday, July 26: Multiple Methods

Tuesday, July 31: Evaluation Research

Wednesday, August 1: Public Sociology

Thursday, August 2: Reading and Writing Social Research
Tuesday, August 7: The Promise of Social Research


Wednesday, August 8: Review for Final Exam

Thursday, August 9: Final In-Class Exam