SOC 397/397L: Social Research Methods and Research Methods Lab (5 credits)
Hybrid Class, Winter 2023
Meeting Time: Class: Tuesdays, 2:00-3:50pm | Labs: Wednesdays or Thursdays, 2:00-3:05pm
Location: Class: CH 258 | Labs: FMH B155

INSTRUCTOR
Melissa Thompson, Ph.D.
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Office Location: 217N Cramer Hall
Office Hours: 4:00pm-5:00pm on Tuesdays. I'll be available in my PSU office, or via Zoom (https://pdx.zoom.us/j/87047695410), phone, or email.

TEACHING ASSISTANT
Hannah Sean Ellefritz, M.S.
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Office hours: Via Zoom (https://pdx.zoom.us/my/hannahsean): Wednesdays from 12:00-1:00pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is designed to provide an introduction to research methods in social science. It is required for undergraduate sociology majors. This course will cover key relevant concepts, including reliability and validity, variables, and major research methods, such as field research, content analysis, survey research, and secondary data analysis.

You will use the analytic skills and knowledge learned this quarter to conduct an original research project next quarter (Spring 2023) in Sociology Research Project (SOC 398). I strongly encourage you to keep all your lecture notes, lab assignments, readings, and SPSS syntax and output files from this course for SOC 398. To take SOC 398, you must earn a grade of **C or higher** in this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
1. To understand the major concepts and methodologies in social science,
2. To learn how to search for existing sociological literature,
3. To learn how to conduct qualitative research,
4. To learn how to conduct quantitative research,
5. To learn how to analyze data using a statistical computer program called SPSS, and
6. To evaluate sociological research critically.

PREREQUISITES
You must have already taken and passed the following classes: SOC 200 (Introduction to Sociology), and STAT 243 (Introduction to Probability and Statistics I), or its equivalent, such as SOC 396 (Social Statistics).

TEXTBOOKS, READINGS, AND OTHER REQUIRED MATERIAL
(Copies of the Dixon et al. text and the Wagner text are on reserve at the library.)
- *The Process of Social Research*, 2023 (3rd edition) by Jeffrey C. Dixon, Royce A. Singleton, Jr., and Bruce C. Straits, Oxford University Press: New York.
- *Using IBM SPSS Statistics for Research Methods and Social Science Statistics*, 2020 (7th edition) by William E. Wagner, Sage Publications: Thousand Oaks, California.
- Other readings will be accessible via Canvas.
- You will need to be able to access IMB SPSS in the on-campus computer labs, via PSU's virtual computer lab (VLAB), or by purchasing a software license.

COURSE WEBSITE
Check Canvas (Canvas.pdx.edu) at least twice a week for important announcements and to access class material.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASS
This is a hybrid course (partially in-person; partially online), with weekly labs. The entire class will meet weekly on Tuesdays, and students will meet an additional day each week (either on Wednesday or Thursday) for the lab sessions with the class TA. Because this is a hybrid class, there will be required work online/on Canvas each week as well. To succeed, you must have reliable internet access which will allow you to navigate/search the web, use email, attach and upload documents, and download and save files. You will also be expected to attend the Tuesday class meeting, along with your lab meeting (either on Wednesday or Thursday).

All assignments must be turned in via Canvas by the associated due dates/times. The assignments for this class (both 397 and the associated lab, 397L) are comprised of the following:

- Two research assignments (**Experiment Research Assignment** and **Survey Research Assignment**).

- **In-Class Participation**, based on participation in the weekly (Tuesday) class sessions.

- There will be eight **lab assignments**. You should have sufficient time to complete these lab assignments in your weekly lab sessions with the course TA. If necessary, you can also work on your own to complete these assignments. To work on your own on these lab assignments, you will need access to SPSS. There are three options to access SPSS:

  1. Work in a computer lab on campus (completing lab assignments during the lab sessions will be the easiest way to access SPSS.)

2. Visit PSU's virtual computer lab (VLAB) at either:
   https://rdweb.wvd.microsoft.com/arm/webclient/index.html or vlab.pdx.edu.
   From there, follow the login instructions (ODIN required); or
3. If you would like to have SPSS installed on your personal computer, you can rent it. Currently, the program can be rented for six months (for $49) at https://www.hearne.software/spss-selection. You will want to get the "standard" version.

- There will be nine **weekly quizzes** during this class. The lowest score will be dropped and only the eight highest quiz scores will count toward your final grade.

- There will be a **final exam**, which will be cumulative and a combination of multiple choice and short-answer questions.

Final grades are determined by the above course requirements, and will break down in the following manner:

Research Assignments	18% (8% & 10%)
In-Class Participation (weekly class meetings)	18% (2%×9)
Lab Assignments	20% (2.5%×8)
Weekly Quizzes (only top 8 quizzes counted)	24% (3%×8)
Final Exam	20%
Total	**100%**

Grading Scale

A	92 – 100%	B+	88 – 89%	C+	78 – 79%	D+	68 – 69%	F	≤ 59%
A-	90 – 91%	B	82 – 87%	C	72 – 77%	D	62 – 67%		
		B-	80 – 81%	C-	70 – 71%	D-	60 – 61%		

COURSE POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Late Assignments: To avoid getting behind on learning that should be sequential (i.e., material from earlier weeks will be built on and applied in subsequent weeks, so getting behind will make learning more difficult), I encourage you to stay on top of assignments and deadlines. Because I know "real life" can interfere with your work, I aim to be as flexible as possible. Therefore, I will provide you with a 48-hour, no penalty, extension of any deadline. To access this extension, however, you must contact me (email preferred) *before* the relevant deadline to request the extension and to briefly explain why this extension is needed. Any work submitted after the deadline (or after the 48-hour extension if one is received) will lose **10% for every day late**.

Writing Tips: All assignments for this course should use double-spacing, 12-point font, and 1-inch margins. Please follow ASA style guidelines when you cite references in your assignments. I provide several resources that will help you with your written assignments below. These links are also available on Canvas.

- **Quick Tips for ASA Style**:
  https://www.asanet.org/sites/default/files/savvy/documents/teaching/pdfs/Quick_Tips_for_ASA_Style.pdf
- **Plagiarism Resources**: https://www.slideshare.net/peter1t/an-introduction-to-plagiarism
- **How to Avoid Plagiarism**: https://guides.library.pdx.edu/c.php?g=271259&p=2613696

Policy on Academic Dishonesty: Students who violate PSU rules on academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failing the course and/or dismissal from the university. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of PSU, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For more information on PSU policies and definitions of academic misconduct, see: https://www.pdx.edu/dean-student-life/academic-misconduct.

In the context of this course, the first incident of academic dishonesty (including unauthorized collaboration on course assignments) will result in a zero for the assignment. Any further incidents will result in an F for the course.

Access and Inclusion for Students with Disabilities: PSU values diversity and inclusion; My goal is to create a learning environment that is accessible, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. I am committed to fostering mutual respect and full participation for all students. If any aspects of instruction or course design result in barriers to your inclusion or learning, please notify me. Additionally, the Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides reasonable accommodations for students who encounter barriers in the learning environment. The DRC works with students who have physical, learning, cognitive, mental health, sensory, and other disabilities.

If you have, or think you may have, a disability that may affect your work in this class and feel you need accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center to schedule an appointment and initiate a conversation about reasonable accommodations.

If you already have accommodations, please contact me to make sure that I have received your faculty notification letter from the DRC so we can discuss your accommodations.

The DRC is located in 116 Smith Memorial Student Union, Suite 116. You can also contact the DRC at 503-725-4150 or, drc@pdx.edu. Visit the DRC online at https://www.pdx.edu/disability-resource-center.

Title IX Reporting Obligations: Portland State is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of prohibited discrimination and sexual harassment (sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and gender or sex-based harassment and stalking). If you have experienced any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or sexual harassment, know that help and support are available.

Information about PSU's support services on campus, including confidential services and reporting options, can be found on PSU's Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response website at: www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault/get-help or you may call a confidential interpersonal violence advocate at 503-725-5672 or schedule online at https://psuwrc.youcanbook.me.

You may report any incident of discrimination or discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment, to:
- PSU's Title IX Coordinator: Julie Caron by calling 503-725-4410, via email at titleixcoordinator@pdx.edu
- Deputy Title IX Coordinator: Yesenia Gutierrez by calling 503-725-4413, via email at yesenia.gutierrez.gdi@pdx.edu

Deputy Title IX Coordinator: Dana Walton-Macaulay by calling 503-725-5651, via email at dana26@pdx.edu.

Student Support Services: Services to help you thrive in this class and at PSU more generally, including information about the writing center, financial services, and technology support can be found here: https://www.pdx.edu/student-life/support-services.

Weekly Schedule (subject to change with reasonable notice)

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Readings & Tasks to Complete by Monday[1]	Research Assignment[1]
1	Tues: F2F	1/10	Introduction to the Class		
	Mon	1/16	Sociological Research Questions and Key Concepts	• Dixon et al. Chapters 1 & 2 • Watch week 1 videos • Quiz 1 (based on week 1 readings & videos)	
2	Tues: F2F	1/17	Sociological Research Questions and Key Concepts		
	Mon	1/23	Experiments	• Dixon et al. Chapter 7 and Salerno & Sanchez (2020) [on Canvas] • Watch week 2 videos • Quiz 2 (based on week 2 readings & videos)	
3	Tues: F2F	1/24	Experiments		
	Mon	1/30	Field Research and Ethics in Qualitative Research	• Dixon et al. Chapters 3 & 9 • Watch week 3 videos • Quiz 3 (based on week 3 readings & videos)	Experiment Research Assignment due 1/30
4	Tues: F2F	1/31	Field Research and Ethics in Qualitative Research		
	Mon	2/6	Levels of Measurement and Survey Research	• Dixon et al. Chapters 5 & 8 • Watch week 4 videos • Quiz 4 (based on week 4 readings & videos)	
5	Tues: F2F	2/7	Levels of Measurement and Survey Research		
	Mon	2/13	Survey Research (cont'd)	• Dixon et al. Chapter 8 • Watch week 5 videos • Quiz 5 (based on week 5 readings & videos)	
6	Tues: F2F	2/14	Survey Research (cont'd)		
	Mon	2/20	Data Analysis: Descriptive Statistics and Bivariate Analysis	• Dixon et al. Chapters 4 & 12 • Watch week 6 videos • Quiz 6 (based on week 6 readings & videos)	

[1] **Deadlines for quizzes and assignments are all 11:59pm on the designated due date.**

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Readings & Tasks to Complete by Monday[1]	Research Assignment[1]
7	Tues: F2F	2/21	Data Analysis: Descriptive Statistics and Bivariate Analysis		
	Mon	2/27	Data Analysis: Regression Analysis	• Dixon et al. Chapter 12 • Watch week 7 videos • Quiz 7 (based on week 7 readings & videos)	
8	Tues: F2F	2/28	Data Analysis: Regression Analysis		
	Mon	3/6	Content Analysis	• Dixon et al. Chapter 10 • Watch week 8 videos • Quiz 8 (based on week 8 readings & videos)	Survey Research Assignment due 3/6
9	Tues: F2F	3/7	Content Analysis		
	Mon	3/13	Reading and Writing in Social Research; Ethics in Quantitative Research	• Dixon et al. Chapters 3 & 14 • Watch week 9 videos • Quiz 9 (based on week 9 readings & videos)	
10	Tues: F2F	3/14	Reading and Writing in Social Research; Ethics in Quantitative Research		
Finals Week	Tues	3/21		Final Exam (opens at 8:00am)	
	Thurs	3/23		Final Exam (closes at 11:59pm)	

[1] **Deadlines for quizzes and assignments are all 11:59pm on the designated due date.**

Lab Schedule

Week	Lab Meeting Dates	Topic	Reading (to be completed before your lab session)	Lab Assignment[1]
1	W (1/11) or Th (1/12)	No lab meeting	• No lab reading assigned	No lab assignment due
2	W (1/18) or Th (1/19)	Intro to Lab & SPSS; Descriptive Statistics	• Wagner, Chapter 1 "Overview" (pp. 1-18) • Wagner, Chapter 4 "Organization & Presentation of Information" (pp. 51-55[2]).	Lab assignment #1 due Monday, January 23
3	W (1/25) or Th (1/26)	Univariate Analysis	• Wagner, Chapter 3 "Selecting and Sampling Cases" (pp. 43-50) • (review) Wagner, Chapter 4 (pp. 51-55[2]).	Lab assignment #2 due Monday, January 30
4	W (2/1) or Th (2/2)	Bivariate Analysis I	• Wagner, Chapter 7 "Cross-Tabulation and Measures of Association for Nominal and Ordinal Variables" (pp. 113-126).	Lab assignment #3 due Monday, February 6
5	W (2/8) or Th (2/9)	Bivariate Analysis II	• Wagner, Chapter 2 "Transforming Variables" (pp. 19-42) • (review) Wagner, Chapter 7 (pp. 113-126).	Lab assignment #4 due Monday, February 13
6	W (2/15) or Th (2/16)	Bivariate Analysis III	• Wagner, Chapter 8 "Correlation and Regression Analysis" ["Bivariate Regression" and "Correlation" sections] (pp. 127-132[2]).	Lab assignment #5 due Monday, February 20
7	W (2/22) or Th (2/23)	Multivariate Analysis I	• Wagner, Chapter 8 "Multiple Regression" section (pp. 132-137[2]).	Lab assignment #6 due Monday, February 27
8	W (3/1) or Th (3/2)	Multivariate Analysis II	• No new reading. Review Wagner, Chapters 2 & 8 as you work on Lab #7	Lab assignment #7 due Monday, March 6
9	W (3/8) or Th (3/9)	Multivariate Analysis III	• No new reading. Review Wagner, Chapters 2 & 8 as you work on Lab #8	Lab assignment #8 due Monday, March 13
10	W (3/15) or Th (3/16)	No lab meeting	• No lab reading assigned	No lab assignment due

[1] **Deadlines for lab assignments are 11:59pm on the designated due date.**
[2] **Note page numbers: the assigned reading for this week's lab requires only *some* of the chapter.**