Sociology 397: Social Research Methods
Winter 2015
Class Time: MW 12:45-1:50pm | Lab M or W 11:30am-12:35pm
Location: Lecture: Cramer Hall 158 | Lab: Neuberger Hall 450

Instructor: Emily Shafer
Email: emily.shafer@pdx.edu  DO NOT EMAIL ME THROUGH D2L
Office: Cramer Hall 217F
Office Hours: MW 2:00-3:00pm | & by appointment

TA: Rina James
Email: klj@pdx.edu
Office: Cramer Hall 217Z
Office Hours: MW 10:00-11:00am | & by appointment

**Course Description**
This course is designed to promote understanding and knowledge of research methods in the social sciences. It is required for undergraduate sociology majors. These methods include both quantitative and qualitative skills, and students will be introduced to a wide range of statistical techniques for analyzing social science data. This course will cover key concepts including: concepts, indicators, causality, reliability, validity, and research methods (survey research, content analysis, and field research, among others). Students will also learn how, when and why statistics are used and why it is necessary to understand them. Upon completion of this course, students will be prepared to conduct an original research project next quarter (SOC 398).

**Course Goals**
1. To understand the major concepts and methodologies in social science,
2. To learn how to conduct sociological research,
3. To learn how to analyze data using a statistical computer program called SPSS.
4. To evaluate sociological research critically.

**Prerequisites**
You must have taken and passed the following courses: SOC 200 (Introduction to Sociology) and STAT 105, 243 (Introduction to Probability and Statistics I), or SOC 399

**Required Textbook**

**Course Structure**
Classes will meet for lecture two times a week, students will meet an additional day for lab, and because this is a hybrid class, there will be weekly hybrid assignments in addition to course assignments. A number of classroom exercises will be included in
the course including hands-on analysis using statistical software and/or demonstrations using SPSS. Students are expected to be prepared for class and to have completed the necessary reading assignments ahead of time (see schedule for relevant information). Students should also plan to log into D2L at least once per week to download necessary materials and check for updates.

Criteria for Grading

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<td>Participation/Attendance</td>
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<td>Research Assignments</td>
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<td>Lab Assignments</td>
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<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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Grading Scale

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Attendance Policy

Although attendance is not mandatory it is important to your grade in this course. In class exercises will be frequent and missed classes will have a significant impact on final grades. In cases of borderline grades, attendance will be factored in. Additionally, excessive tardiness will not be tolerated. It is disruptive to the instructor and other students.

Late Assignments/Missed Examinations

Assignments are due by the START of class and in person (hard copy) on the day that they are due. Any work turned in after class has started is considered late and will receive a standard deduction of 10 points. Late assignments will be accepted up to 1 week after the due date with the understanding that each class day the assignment is not turned in results in a 10 point deduction. After one week the assignment will not be accepted.

Students who do not have a university excused absence will not be allowed to make up a missed examination or assignment. You must have written documentation for the absence and have notified the instructor within 24 hours of the absence in order to be able to schedule a make-up exam. No exceptions will be made.

Students with Disabilities

Students with special needs should first register with the Disability Resource Center, 116 Smith Memorial Student Union, 503-725-4150 or drc@pdx.edu so that appropriate accommodations may be made. DRC coordinates support services, accommodations, and equipment for students with disabilities. DRC works to ensure
equal access to all University programs, services, and activities for students with disabilities. DRC certifies eligibility for services, determines reasonable accommodations, and develops plans for the implementation of accommodations.

**Plagiarism/Academic Dishonesty**
It is expected that the students will maintain the highest level of academic integrity while participating in this class. As per university guidelines, students will be subject to disciplinary action for academic misconduct (includes but not limited to: cheating, fraud, plagiarism, etc) or violations of the code of conduct (includes but not limited to: disruption of teaching, harm or threat of harm, etc). Any of the above mentioned violations will result in the appropriate disciplinary penalties including an "F" in the class, suspension, and/or expulsion. Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further information at http://www.pdx.edu/dos/psu-student-code-conduct

If a student is asked to leave the classroom because of uncivil behavior, the student may not return to that class until he or she arranges a conference with the instructor: it is the student's responsibility to arrange for this conference.

**Schedule**

**Week 1**
**NO LABS THIS WEEK**

Monday, January 9: Introduction

Wednesday, January 11: Introduction
Reading due by the start of class: Chapters 1 & 2

Sunday, January 15: HYBRID ASSIGNMENT #1 Due by 5pm

**Week 2**
**NO LABS THIS WEEK BECAUSE OF MLK DAY**

Monday, January 16: No Class for MLK Jr. Day

Wednesday, January 18: Conceptualization/Operationalization and Validity/Reliability
Reading due by the start of class: Chapter 5

Sunday, January 22: HYBRID ASSIGNMENT #2 Due by 5pm

**Week 3**
**LAB 1 Due at 5pm on the day of your lab**

Monday, January 23: No Class for MLK Jr. Day
Wednesday, January 25: Research design and causation
Reading due by the start of class: Chapter 4

Sunday, January 29: HYBRID ASSIGNMENT #3 Due by 5pm

Week 4
LAB 2 Due at 5pm on the day of your lab

Monday, January 30: Sampling and Experiments
Reading due by the start of class: Chapters 6 & 7

Wednesday, February 1: Sampling and Experiments con’t
Assignment 1 DUE by 11am

Sunday, February 3: HYBRID ASSIGNMENT #3 Due by 5pm

Week 5
LAB 3 Due at 5pm on the day of your lab

Monday, February 6: Content Analysis
Reading due by the start of class: Chapter 10 & Reading on D2L

Wednesday, February 8: Content Analysis con’t

Sunday, February 12: HYBRID ASSIGNMENT #3 Due by 5pm

Week 6
LAB 4 Due at 5pm on the day of your lab

Monday, February 13: MIDTERM

Wednesday, February 15: Qualitative Research
Reading due by the start of class: Chapter 9

Sunday, February 19: HYBRID ASSIGNMENT #3 Due by 5pm

Week 7
LAB 5 Due at 5pm on the day of your lab

Monday, February 20: Field Research
Reading due by the start of class: Chapters 11 & 13
Assignment 2 due by 10am

Wednesday, February 22: Field Research con’t

Sunday, February 26: HYBRID ASSIGNMENT #3 Due by 5pm
**Week 8**
**LAB 6 Due at 5pm on the day of your lab**

**Monday, February 26:** Quantitative Data Analysis & Survey Research  
Reading due by the start of class: Chapter 8

**Wednesday, March 1:** Quantitative Data Analysis & Survey Research con’t

**Sunday, March 5:** HYBRID ASSIGNMENT #3 Due by 5pm

**Week 9**
**LAB 7 Due at 5pm on the day of your lab**

**Monday, March 6:** Data Analysis & Regression  
Reading due by the start of class: Chapter 12

**Wednesday, March 8:** Data Analysis & Regression con’t
**Assignment 3 due by 10am**

**Sunday, March 12:** HYBRID ASSIGNMENT #3 Due by 5pm

**Week 10**
**LAB 8 Due at 5pm on the day of your lab**

**Monday, March 13:** Research Ethics  
Readings due by the start of class: Chapters 3 & 14

**Wednesday, March 15**  
Research Ethics and wrap-up  
**Assignment 4 due by 10am**

**Sunday, March 19:** HYBRID ASSIGNMENT #3 Due by 5pm

**Finals Week**

**Monday, March 20:** Final exam 12:30-2:20pm