Sociology 397: Social Research Methods
Winter 2020
Class Time: Tuesday 12:00-1:50pm | Labs Tuesdays or Wednesdays 10:15-11:20am
Location: Lecture: Cramer Hall 258 | Lab: DFMH B155

Instructor: Emily Shafer
Email: emily.shafer@pdx.edu  DO NOT EMAIL ME THROUGH D2L
Office: Cramer Hall 217F
Office Hours: Thursday 10:00am-12:00pm | & by appointment

TA: Erika Carpenter
Email: ec24@pdx.edu
Office: Cramer Hall 217W
Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:30am-1:30pm | & 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 once 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. 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
Assignments 50%
Hybrid Assignments 30%
Lab Assignments 20%

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94 - 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 - 93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>86 - 89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82 - 85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 - 81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>76 - 79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>72 - 75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 - 71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>66 - 69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>62 - 65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60 - 61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>≤ 59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Email
The instructor and TA regularly communicate with the class via PSU email so be sure that you are receiving our emails. It is your responsibility to check your email daily during the school week and respond in a timely manner. Especially since our course is meeting in the Winter when inclement weather may prevent our meeting in person for class.

In emails to the instructor and TA, please put the title of the course in the subject line and sign your emails using your first and last name. Use the email addresses on the first page of the syllabus. The instructor and TA will generally respond to email within 24 hours. Emails sent after 5:00pm on Friday will generally be answered by 5:00pm on Monday.

Late Assignments/Missed Examinations
Any work turned in after the due date and time 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.

Access and Inclusion for Students with Disabilities
PSU values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to fostering mutual respect and full participation for all students. My goal is to create a learning environment that is equitable, useable, inclusive, and welcoming. If any aspects of instruction or course design result in barriers to your inclusion or learning, please notify me. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides reasonable accommodations for students who encounter barriers in the learning environment.

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. The DRC is located in 116 Smith Memorial Student Union, 503-725-4150, drc@pdx.edu, https://www.pdx.edu/drc.

- If you already have accommodations, please contact me to make sure that I have received a faculty notification letter and discuss your accommodations.
- Students who need accommodations for tests and quizzes are expected to schedule their tests to overlap with the time the class is taking the test.
- Please be aware that the accessible tables or chairs in the room should remain available for students who find that standard classroom seating is not useable.
- For information about emergency preparedness, please go to the Fire and Life Safety webpage (https://www.pdx.edu/environmental-health-safety/fire-and-life-safety) for information.

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.

Title IX Reporting Obligations
As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment for my students and for the campus as a whole. Please be aware that federal, state, and PSU policies require faculty members to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual violence and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination. Similarly, PSU faculty are required to file a report if they have reasonable cause to believe that a child with whom they come into contact has suffered abuse, or that any person with whom they come into contact has abused a child. If you would rather share information about these experiences with an employee who does not have these reporting responsibilities and can keep the information confidential, please contact one of the following campus resources (or visit this link):

- Women’s Resource Center (503-725-5672)
- Queer Resource Center (503-725-9742)
- Center for Student Health and Counseling (SHAC): 1880 SW 6th Ave, (503) 725-2800
- Student Legal Services: 1825 SW Broadway, (SMSU) M343, (503) 725-4556
Schedule

**Week 1 - Introduction**
**NO LABS THIS WEEK**
Tuesday, January 7: Introduction – BRING YOUR BOOK
Sunday, January 13: HYBRID ASSIGNMENT #1 Due by 11:59pm (on Reading due: Chapters 1 & 2)

**Week 2- Research Design**
Tuesday, January 14: WE WILL MEET IN THE LIBRARY
Reading due: Chapter 4
Sunday, January 20: HYBRID ASSIGNMENT #2 & Lab 1 due by 11:59pm

**Week 3 - Measurement**
Tuesday, January 21: Reading due Chapter 5
Sunday, January 27: HYBRID ASSIGNMENT #3 & Lab 2 due by 11:59pm

**Week 4 – Sampling and Experiments**
Tuesday, January 28: Reading due: Chapter 6
Sunday, February 2: Assignment #1, HYBRID ASSIGNMENT #4, & Lab 3 due by 11:59pm

**Week 5- Content Analysis & Other Existing Data Analysis**
Tuesday, February 4: Reading due: Chapter 7 & Please bring one children’s picture book to class
Sunday, February 9: HYBRID ASSIGNMENT #5 & Lab #4 due by 11:59pm

**Week 6: Other Existing Data Analysis**
**NO LABS THIS WEEK DUE TO EXTRA HYBRID ASSIGNMENT**
Tuesday, February 11: Chapter 10
Sunday, February 16: Assignment 2 due & HYBRID ASSIGNMENT #6: due at 11:59pm
Extra hybrid assignment: Watch documentary on youtube and be prepared to discuss next class.

**Week 7 – Field Research**
Tuesday, February 18: Reading due: Chapter 9
Sunday, February 23: HYBRID ASSIGNMENT #7 & Lab Due by 11:59pm

**Week 8 – Surveys**
Tuesday, February 25: Reading due: Chapter 8
Sunday, March 1: HYBRID ASSIGNMENT #8 & Lab #6 Due by 11:59pm

**Week 9 - Data Analysis**
Tuesday, March 3: Reading due: Chapter 12
Sunday, March 8: Assignment 3 & HYBRID ASSIGNMENT #9 & Lab #7 Due by 11:59pm

**Week 10 - Ethics**

Monday, March 11: Reading due: Chapter 13
Friday, March 15: Assignment #4 & HYBRID ASSIGNMENT 310 & Lab #8 Due by 11:59pm