Sociology 398: Sociology Research Project
Spring 2019
Class Time: MW 11:30-12:35
*Hybrid course: Friday we do not meet as a class. It is a group-work day.
Location: Cramer Hall 258

Instructor: Emily Shafer
Email: emily.shafer@pdx.edu  DO NOT EMAIL ME THROUGH D2L
Office: Cramer Hall 217F
Office Hours: M|W 12:45-1:45 & by appointment

TA: Elizabeth Hulen
Email: ehulen@pdx.edu
Office: Cramer Hall 263
Office Hours: Wednesday 12:45pm-3:45pm & by appointment

Course Description
This course is intended to provide applied research experience following successful completion of Social Research Methods (SOC 397). It is a required course for undergraduate sociology majors. The main purpose is to apply skills and knowledge from SOC 397 to an original research project.

Course Goals
✓ Strengthen understanding of major concepts and methodologies in sociology
✓ Enhance data analysis skills using SPSS
✓ Write a research paper
✓ Critically evaluate quantitative sociological research

Prerequisites
Students must have taken and passed SOC 397 with a C or better (Social Research Methods).

Required Textbook
None – You will be using materials from 397.

Course Structure
This is a “hybrid” course, meaning that instruction is made up of both weekly face-to-face classroom time and online/research activities. Classes will meet in person Mon & Wed; students will have time to meet in groups for research on Fridays. To access d2l, go to the http://www.d2l.pdx.edu. To login, enter your odin ID and your odin password. If you are not sure what your odin ID or password is, go to https://www.account.pdx.edu/ or contact the Information Technology Help Desk at help@pdx.edu or 725-HELP.
Requirements for the Class

*Class Attendance* (5% of grade): Class attendance on Mondays and during the last two weeks of the term for the paper presentations is mandatory. Discussion sections (Wednesdays) are highly recommended.

*Initial Research Proposal* (5% of grade): During the first week groups should choose a research topic that they will work on throughout the term. The initial research proposal should include a (tentative) title, the motivation of the study (one or two paragraphs), and the specific aims of the paper (one or two paragraphs). The initial research proposal should be 1-3 pages in length with double-spacing, 12-point font, and 1-inch margins.

*Literature Review with Identification of a Research Gap and Research Plan* (20% of grade): Using the ‘Social Science Citation Index,’ search for previous studies that are closely related to your topic, summarize them and find a research gap. The literature review should be built upon your initial research proposal, which includes the research title, the motivation of the study (one or two paragraphs), and the specific aims of the paper (one or two paragraphs).

The research plan should describe the focus of the project in detail. Building on the literature review, the research plan should also include the research questions and hypotheses (1-3 paragraphs) and research design. This should be no more than 10 pages with 4-6 pages dedicated to the literature review (double-spacing, 12-point font, and 1-inch margins). WHILE NOTHING IS DUE THIS WEEK RE: DATA, I URGE THOSE OF YOU IN CHARGE OF THE DATA TO BE ATTEMPTING TO OPEN YOUR DATASET IN SPSS AND COMING UP WITH A PLAN FOR RECODING.

*Data Description* (20% of grade): For groups conducting a survey – a questionnaire to be used to collect data should be included in this assignment. For all groups, the data description should describe what your target population is, how your sample was recruited, what method(s) was used to collect your data, and the sample size. It should also include the variables used in the analysis and explanations about how they are coded (or recoded). The data description should be about 2-5 pages, with double-spacing, 12-point font, and 1-inch margins.

*Data Analysis* (20% of grade): Analyses should be conducted after cleaning the data and recoding variables as desired. In the data analysis, groups should present summary sample characteristics by providing central tendencies, dispersions, and distributions of the relevant variables, as well as a bivariate table (or figure) of the two main variables (i.e. IV and DV). In addition, groups should include the results of analyses conducted to answer research questions/confirm or reject hypotheses (with OLS or logit). It should include some use of hypothesis tests and formal interpretations of results with significance values.
*Paper Presentation* (10% of grade): Toward the end of the term, each group will have an opportunity to present their research project to the class. The paper presentation will give students a chance to share their research interests, to provide/receive comments and feedback, and to refine the ideas and analysis prior to submitting a final draft of the term paper. The paper presentation should be no longer than 15 minutes and constructed using PowerPoint.

*Term Paper* (10% of grade): The term paper should be at least 15 pages but should not exceed 30 pages in length with double-spacing, 12-point font, and 1-inch margins. Follow ASA or APA style guidelines. Due June 11th by 10pm.

*Evaluations* (10% of grade): Students are expected to turn in evaluations at the end of the term. Because research projects are team projects, evaluations will be very important for me to know what specific contributions you and your team members have made, as well as what you have learned while working on the activities.

**Grading Scale**

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94 – 100%</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 93%</td>
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**Attendance Policy**

Class attendance on Mon and during the last 2 weeks of the term during paper presentations is required. Discussion sections and labs are highly recommended. All students are expected to actively participate in both in-class and D2L discussions.
| Week 1 | April 1 | Introduction and Overview of Course  
Form groups & decide on research topic  
Narrow down research topic  
*Initial Research Proposal due by midnight |
|--------|---------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| April 3 |        | **Method**  
Decide on Research Method/Begin Lit Review  
Work on Lit Review |
| April 5 |        | **Questionnaire/Data**  
Create questionnaire/Identify Data Set & List of Variables  
Create questionnaire/Identify Variables  
*Literature Review with a Research Gap and Research plan due by midnight* |
| Week 2 | April 8 | **Survey/Finalize Variables**  
Finalize questionnaire or Extended Lit Review & List of Variables  
Conduct a survey & Data Entry or Prepare Data for Analysis/Coding |
| April 10 | April 12 | | |
| April 15 | April 17 | April 19 | **Data Analysis #1**  
Descriptive data analysis  
Descriptive data analysis |
| Week 3 | April 22 | **Data Analysis #2**  
Advanced data analysis  
Advanced data analysis  
*Data analysis due by midnight* |
| April 24 | April 26 | | |
| April 29 | May 1 | May 3 | **Results**  
Finalized Data Analysis and refine tables and figures  
Finalized Data Analysis and refine tables and figures |
| Week 4 | May 6 | **Presentations**  
**NO CLASS MEMORIAL DAY**  
Paper presentations *All students must attend  
Paper presentations *All students must attend |
| May 8 | May 10 | | |
| May 13 | May 15 | May 17 | **Presentations**  
Paper presentations *All students must attend  
Paper presentations *All students must attend  
Paper presentations *All students must attend |
Late Assignments
Assignments are due by specified deadlines and should be turned in via Dropbox folders in D2L. Any work turned in after the stated deadline is considered late and will receive a 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 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.