

SOCI331

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

Course Summary

Course : SOCI331 **Title :** Research Methods for Sociology

Length of Course : 8

Prerequisites : N/A **Credit Hours :** 3

Description

Course Description: This course introduces students to the purpose and techniques in social research: problem definition, research design, sampling and data collection methods including observation, interviewing, questionnaire construction and the use of documents and other unobtrusive data sources. The basic goal of all social research is to gather evidence in order to answer questions about the nature of relationships between individuals, groups, institutions, and societies. This course is designed to give the student a broad overview of the logic of social research, of the process of research design, and of the major types of data collection techniques and methods of data analysis.

Course Scope:

The course is a core requirement in the BA Sociology degree path. It is designed to provide students with an entry-level understanding of social research methodologies, their use, and implications. Students will learn all steps in research design from question construction to conducting research, to basic data analysis. The course will cover both quantitative and qualitative research methods with a focus on the research designs involved in surveys, field research, experiments, unobtrusive measures and evaluation research. To this end, the format of this class will involve the engagement of active applied reasoning and analyses, and applied exercises for each of the topic areas.

Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

CO1: Illustrate basic knowledge of research methods and theory construction to systematically study the social world

CO2: Examine the basics of quantitative and qualitative research design

CO3: Compare and contrast the different types and methods of data collection

CO4: Apply knowledge of basic methodological and ethical issues current in the social sciences

CO5: Describe patterns in quantitative data

CO6: Build and/or test theories.

CO7: Develop a research project from conceptualizing a research problem to developing a number of complementary design, measurement, and data collection approaches to bring evidence to bear on the problem.

CO8: Evaluate the quality of research design and evidence in published social research.

Outline

Week 1: Introduction; Research Process and Considerations

Course Objective(s)

1, 4, 7, 8

Required Readings

Ruane, Chapter 1

Mikulak article

"Basic components" article

Week 1 Lesson

Assignments

Introduction Forum

Week 1 Forum

Week 2: Research Design and Measurement

Course Objective(s)

1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8

Required Readings

Ruane, Chapter 2

Week 2 Lesson

Assignments

Week 2 Forum

Week 3: Measurement cont. and Sampling

Course Objective(s)

1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8

Required Readings

Ruane, Chapters 6 & 11

Al-Omari article

Week 3 Lesson

Assignments

Week 3 Forum

Assignment 1: Conceptualizing and operationalizing variables

Week 4: Experiments and Survey Research

Course Objective(s)

1, 2, 3, 6, 7

Required Readings

Ruane, Chapters 7 & 8

Week 4 Lesson

Assignments

Week 4 Forum

Week 5: Field Research

Course Objective(s)

1, 2, 3, 4

Required Readings

"Research methods" article

Week 5 Lesson

Assignments

Week 5 Forum

Assignment 2: Field Observation

Week 6: Unobtrusive Measures and Evaluation Research

Course Objective(s)

3, 4, 6, 7, 8

Required Readings

Ruane, Chapter 5

"Example case" article

Week 6 Lesson

Assignments

Week 6 Forum

Week 7: Qualitative Research Analysis

Course Objective(s)

2, 3

Required Readings

"Coding qualitative data" article

Shank article

"Qualitative data analysis" article

Week 7 Lesson

Assignments

Week 7 Forum

Assignment 3: Questionnaire

Week 8: Quantitative Research Analysis

Course Objective(s)

2

Required Readings

"Quantitative research" presentation

Assignments

Week 8 Forum

Evaluation

Forums:

Participation in classroom dialogue on threaded Forums is required. Forums are scheduled weekly and found in the Forums tab in the classroom. Specific instructions and the grading rubric are located on each Forum.

Assignments

This course includes three Assignments. Instructions and specific grading rubrics are found under the Assignments tab in our classroom.

Grading:

Name	Grade %
Forums	55.00 %
Introduction Forum	6.11 %
Forum 1	6.11 %
Forum 2	6.11 %
Forum 3	6.11 %
Forum 4	6.11 %
Forum 5	6.11 %
Forum 6	6.11 %
Forum 7	6.11 %
Forum 8	6.11 %
Conceptualizing and Operationalizing Variables	15.00 %
Assignment 1: Conceptualizing and Operationalizing Variables	15.00 %
Observation Assignment	15.00 %
Assignment 2: Field Observation	15.00 %
Questionnaire/Survey	15.00 %
Assignment 3: Questionnaire	15.00 %

Materials

Book Title: The Basics of Social Research, 5th Ed - The VitalSource e-book is provided via the APUS Bookstore

Author: Babbie, Earl

Publication Info: Cengage

ISBN: 9780495812241

Book Title: You must validate your cart to get access to your VitalSource e-book(s). If needed, instructions are available here - <http://apus.libguides.com/bookstore/undergraduate>

Author: N/A

Publication Info: N/A

ISBN: N/A

Please visit <http://apus.libguides.com/bookstore> for more information.

The **electronic textbook** required for this course is available through **Vital Source Bookshelf**. If you have not yet registered for Vital Source Bookshelf, you will need to register. View the [tutorials on our Library page](#) for assistance. Once inside the Vital Source Bookshelf site, your books will be in a shopping cart. You must accept your books in order for them to be placed on your virtual Bookshelf so that they are accessible for reading. If you do not accept your books, you will not be able to read your books.

Note: It is your responsibility to obtain access to the course book during the first week of class. Course requirements during the first week of class do use the textbook.

Course Guidelines

Citation and Reference Style

- Students will follow APA format as the sole citation and reference style used in written assignments submitted.
- Please note that no formal citation style is graded on Forums in the School of Arts & Humanities.

Tutoring

- [Tutor.com](#) offers online homework help and learning resources by connecting students to certified tutors for one-on-one help. AMU and APU students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutors are available 24/7 unless otherwise noted. Tutor.com also has a SkillCenter Resource Library offering educational resources, worksheets, videos, websites and career help. Accessing these resources does not count against tutoring hours and is also available 24/7. Please visit the APUS Library and search for 'Tutor' to create an account.

Late Assignments

School of Arts & Humanities Late Policy

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution.

Work posted or submitted after the assignment due date will be reduced by 10% of the potential total score possible for each day late up to a total of five days, including forum posts/replies, quizzes, and assignments. ***Beginning on the sixth day late through the end of the course, late work, including forum posts/replies, quizzes, and assignments, will be accepted with a grade reduction of 50% of the potential total score earned.***

Turn It In

Assignments are automatically submitted to Turnitin.com within the course. Turnitin.com will analyze an assignment submission and report a similarity score. Your assignment submission is automatically processed through the assignments area of the course when you submit your work.

Academic Dishonesty

- Academic Dishonesty incorporates more than plagiarism, which is using the work of others without citation. Academic dishonesty includes any use of content purchased or retrieved from web services such as CourseHero.com or Scribd. Additionally, allowing your work to be placed on such web services is academic dishonesty, as it is enabling the dishonesty of others. The copy and pasting of content from any web page, without citation as a direct quote, is academic dishonesty. When in doubt, do not copy/paste, and always cite.

University Policies

[Student Handbook](#)

- [Drop/Withdrawal policy](#)
- [Extension Requests](#)

- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Appeals](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

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