



"I love our lunches out here, but I always get the feeling that we're being watched."

Introduction to Social Research Methods

Sociology 280.006
Fall 2009

Tuesday/ Thursday 12:30pm- 1:45pm
Dane Smith Hall #233

*"Research is to see what everybody else
has seen, and to think what nobody else
has thought."*

Albert Szent-Gyorgyi

Instructor

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505.277.8315 (email is better)

Office Hours: Mondays, 12:30pm to 1:30pm and by appt.

Course Objective and Description

My primary goal in this course is to equip you with knowledge necessary to be critical consumers of social science and research. Through lectures, course readings, class activities, and assignments, we will study the process and design of research, evaluate methodology and assess findings found by members of this class and other social scientists.

Course Materials

1) Babbie, Earl (2005) *The Basics of Social Research*; Fourth Ed. Thompson Wadsworth Publishing. Belmont, CA.

2) Supplementary course readings consist of articles and book chapters that are available on WebCT. It is your responsibility to obtain the readings and be prepared for class. **Please contact me as soon as possible if you have any issues in obtaining the course materials.**

3) You must have a UNM-issued email or configure your UNM email to be forwarded to another address. I use the UNM email address to send course related information. It is your responsibility to make sure you receive the emails.

Course Requirements

1) Assignments:

You will have three homework assignments to complete in this class. Usually, the assignments are just that – assignments; in which you must do or “create” something and tie it to the course material. A heads up: The assignments will be combined at the end of the semester into a research portfolio, so excellence on the assignments will make the proposal easier. Assignments must be submitted in-class, as they are sometimes part of a course activity. **No email assignments, please.**

2) In-Class Exams:

There will be three in-class exams this semester. The exams will vary in format and may include essay, multiple choice, true-false and short answer questions. Exams will cover material presented in class and the readings. Depending on our time, we may conduct review sessions in class. Exam grades are not curved.

3) Research Proposal:

In lieu of an in-class final exam, you will create a research proposal based on revised homework assignments. Details on the portfolio will come later in the semester. The portfolio is due Wednesday, December 16, 2009 by 12 noon.

Grades:

1) Assignments (3 @ 30)	90
2) In Class Exams (3 @ 30 pt)	90
4) Research Portfolio	50
5) Attendance/ Participation	10

You can always check your grades on WebCT. It is a good idea to monitor your grade as the class progresses in order to catch any errors on my part and prevent last –week-of-semester-anxiety-attacks on your part. To protect your student information, I do not email grades, nor do I discuss grades over email. Please see me during office hours if you have any questions or concerns regarding your grade.

Final grades are based on the following scale:			
Grade	% of 240 pts	Grade	% of 240 pts
A+	100-97.0	C	76.9-73.0
A	96.9-93.0	C-	72.9-70.0
A-	92.9-90.0	D+	69.9-67.0
B+	89.9-87.0	D	66.9-63.0
B	86.9-83.0	D-	62.9-60.0
B-	82.9-80.0	F	Below 60
C+	79.9-77.0		

Course Policies:

1. Hush the Cellies. All pagers and cell phones need to be silenced before class begins. The first offense will be forgiven. All subsequent violators (myself included) must bring snacks for the entire class at the next meeting. I prefer homemade chocolate chip cookies.

2. Ask for support. Any student who, because of a disability, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact me as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. It is the responsibility of the student to request accommodation for individual learning needs. UNM will make every attempt to accommodate all qualified students with disabilities. For further information, contact the Accessibility Resource Center at (505) 277-3506.

3. No cheating. Please. I follow University policy for academic misconduct. University policy states that each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments as well as claiming credit for work not done or done by others.

4. Come to class. Be on time. Attending class is mandatory. However, I will not take attendance every day, but randomly throughout the semester. If you are absent on a day when I take attendance, without an excuse (documented), you do not receive the participation points for that day. If you miss a class meeting, ask a fellow student for a copy of their class notes. I do not lend out my notes. If you come late or miss a class, it is your responsibility to make sure to ask other students or myself after class if I made any announcements or distributed handouts. I strongly encourage students to get phone numbers or email addresses of a classmate or two so that you can get copies of their notes if needed.

5. In general, don't be a jerk. Please don't do sudoku puzzles, go to sleep or send texts during class. It is distracting and incredibly rude. Also, as a courtesy to your classmates and me, please do not pack up your belongings until class is over.

Course Schedule

Please read following assignments as we progress through the course. We may or may not discuss them in class, but you are still responsible for the material. I reserve the right to make any modifications to this syllabus at any time and all changes will be discussed in class.

Week Beginning (Monday)	Topic	Reading/ Activity
08/24	Human Inquiry	<p>Tuesday: <input type="checkbox"/> Course Intro</p> <p>Thursday: <input type="checkbox"/> What is a Social Fact? <input type="checkbox"/> Babbie [33-42]</p>
08/31	Social Theory, Ideology and Research	<p>Tuesday: <input type="checkbox"/> What Went Wrong in New Orleans?</p> <p>Thursday: <input type="checkbox"/> Immigrants and Urban Politics</p>
09/7	The Research Process (<i>Inductive & Deductive</i>)	<p>Tuesday: <input type="checkbox"/> Babbie: [45-59; 117-125]</p> <p>Thursday: <input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian Motherhood</p>
09/14	Elements of Research Design (<i>Qual/ Quant, Units of Analysis, Time Dimensions; Causality, Logical Fallacies</i>)	<p>Tuesday: <input type="checkbox"/> Babbie: [96-117] <input type="checkbox"/> Effect of Country Music on Suicide</p> <p>Thursday: <input type="checkbox"/> The Persistence of Political Attitudes</p>

09/21	Elements of Research Design	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Reassessing Link Between CM & Suicide <input type="checkbox"/> Comments on Stack and Gundlach's... <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> EXAM 1 (09/24)
09/28	Conceptualization & Measurement <i>(Conceptualization, Operationalization and Indicators)</i>	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Babbie: [131-156] <input type="checkbox"/> Myth of Social Class <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Measuring Marital Instability
10/05	Conceptualization & Measurement <i>(Validity and Reliability; Indexes, Scales and Typologies)</i>	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Babbie [156-163; 169-195 skim] <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment 1 Due (10/08)
10/12	Sampling	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Babbie: [199-203; 207-239] <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Fall Break; No Class
10/19	Sampling	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Empirical Study of Sampling in Marital Research <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Babbie: [203-206]

10/26	Survey Methods	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Babbie: [269-308] <input type="checkbox"/> Circuit Boy Survey <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sense and Nonsense about Surveys
11/02	Survey Methods	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment 2 Due (11/3) <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The Sex Survey
11/09	Quantitative Methods	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Exam 2 (11/12)
11/16	Other Quant. Methods (Experiments, Content Analysis, & Existing Stats)	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Babbie:[245-265; 350-362] <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Camps to Glass Ceilings <input type="checkbox"/> No Sissy Boys; <input type="checkbox"/> Audio: "Ruining it for Everyone" (in class)
11/23	Qualitative Methods (Field Research, Historical Research)	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Babbie [314-345; 369-378] <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Thanksgiving Holiday; No Class 11/26

<p>11/30</p>	<p>Ethics in the Social Sciences</p>	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Why Marcia! <input type="checkbox"/> Pitfalls of the Field <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment 3 Due 12/3 <input type="checkbox"/> Laud Humphreys on Tea Room Trade <input type="checkbox"/> Responses to Critics on TRT
<p>12/07</p>	<p>Issues in Social Research</p>	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> When Right Answers are Wrong <input type="checkbox"/> An Ounce of Precaution <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Exam 3 (12/10)
<p style="text-align: center;">RESEARCH PROPOSALS December 16th, BY 12PM</p>		