

SOCIOLOGY 4313: Research Methods
MWF 10:00-10:50, SH 121
Spring, 2005

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Edwards

Office: 336 Seminary Hall

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Office Hours: MWF: 11:00-12:00 and 1:00-2:00; T TH: 11:30-12:30

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Course Description:

An introduction to the rationale and use of social research methods. This course covers the techniques of problem formation, data collection and data analysis in survey, experimental, evaluation, and qualitative research. Pre-requisite or concurrent enrollment of SOC 3323.

Course Objective:

This course will provide you with the skills necessary to design and carry out empirical research.

Required Text:

The Practice of Social Research, Earl Babbie.

Course Requirements:

3 exams (multiple choice and essay) = 75 points each (225 points possible)

12 in-class assignments = 10 points each (100 points possible - the two lowest scores will be dropped)

Research Design with presentation = 125 points

5 research design assignments = 10 points each (50 points possible)

Total points possible = 500

There will be 2 extra credit opportunities worth 5 points each. They will not be pre-announced.

Course Grading:

450-500 = A

400-449 = B

350-399 = C

300-349 = D

Below 300 = F

Class Attendance:

Class attendance is expected. You are also expected to arrive to class on time and not leave early (unless an emergency occurs). Attendance will be taken at the time of in-class assignments.

Students will only be penalized for course work they miss (i.e., in-class assignments, exams, papers, etc). Students will be penalized 5 points per day for late research design assignments and 10 points per day for late research designs.

Make-Up Exams and Assignments:

Make-up exams are permitted. No reason is necessary. However, make-up exams will be essay

and there is no exception. There will be no make-ups permitted for missed in-class assignments.

Academic Misconduct:

Students who commit academic misconduct will be given a grade of zero on the assignment or exam. If a second offense is committed, the student will be given a grade of “F” in the course and the Dean of Students will be notified. Plagiarism will be treated in the same manner. If a student engages in disruptive behavior in class, he/she will be asked to stop the behavior. If the behavior continues, the student will be asked to leave class and will not receive in-class assignment points for that day. If the behavior persists in subsequent class sessions, the student will be asked to leave class and will not be permitted to return until he/she receives a letter from the Dean of Students stating that the student has met with the Dean. Behaviors that are prohibited in class include, but are not limited to:

- talking on a cell phone
- reading the newspaper, magazines, etc
- text messaging (while this is silent, it is very disruptive to me as I conduct class)
- excessive talking during class
- being rude to fellow students

ADA Compliance:

If a student feels he/she has a disability requiring special accommodations, he/she should inform the instructor so the university’s Office of Student Affairs can be contacted. The instructor will work with students to ensure that they have equal opportunity to complete the course.

Course Schedule (may change at instructor’s discretion):

Week 1

Introduction and Chapter 1

Week 2

Finish Chapter 1 and Chapter 2

Week 3

Chapter 3

Week 4

Chapter 4

Week 5

finish Chapter 4

EXAM 1: Friday, February 11

Week 6

Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 (pages 167-175)

Week 7

Chapter 7

Week 8

Chapter 8 (pages 221-224) and Chapter 9 (243-249 and 256-275)

Week 9

finish Chapter 9

EXAM 2: Friday, March 11

Week 10

Spring Break: March 14-20

Week 11

Chapter 10

Week 12

Chapter 11 (pages 313-324) and Chapter 12 (pages 343-347)

Week 13

Chapter 13 and Chapter 14 (pages 396-406)

Week 14

Chapter 17

Week 15

finish Chapter 17 and begin presentations

Week 16

finish presentations and review for final

RESEARCH DESIGNS DUE: Friday April 29th by 5:00

FINAL EXAM

Wednesday, May 4: 9:00-10:50