

Quantitative Research Methods Section 01

SOCI 104

Fall 2024 3 Unit(s) 08/21/2024 to 12/09/2024 Modified 08/14/2024

Contact Information

Course and Contact Information

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Office Hours:	MW 11-11:30 & T 11-11:30 and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	TTH 12-1:15
Classroom:	DMH 162
Prerequisites:	SOCI 101, SOCI 15 or SOCI 102, upper division standing

Course Description and Requisites

Quantitative research methods including survey research design, hypothesis formulation, questionnaire and interview design, scaling, sampling and data preparation and SPSS analysis. Completion of a class research project plus individual research reports. Required for majors.

Prerequisite: SOCI 1 or equivalent, SOCI 15 or SOCI 102 or approved Statistics course from another school; SOCI 100W, SOCI 101 and upper division standing.

Classroom Protocols

- Please be on time for class and stay for the full class period.
- Please note the dates of the exams for this class. I expect each student to take his/her exams at the time and date scheduled.
- I will hold and store all exams.
- Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. I do not expect to have a problem with cheating, however, should anyone be caught cheating on an exam or an assignment, I will pursue the appropriate disciplinary actions.
- All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Items submitted after the start of class are considered late.
- All assignments should be submitted in class. Any assignment that is late will be penalized at 10% of the total point value per weekday until it is worth zero points.
- I do not accept assignments via e-mail or fax or handwritten assignments.
- I reserve the right to amend the syllabus as necessary. Any such changes will be announced to the class.
- A note on emails and grades: I will not discuss grades in any way using email. This includes giving out grades or discussions on point totals or final grades. If you would like to talk about your grades please make an appointment to meet with me.
- Incompletes will only be given in exceptional cases.

Program Information

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to think sociologically about the relationship between social structure, interaction, identities, and inequalities.
2. Students will be able to identify and explain major sociological theories and apply them to everyday life.
3. Students will be proficient in qualitative and quantitative research design, data collection and data analysis.
4. Students will be proficient in oral and written communication skills appropriate to the discipline.
5. Students will be able to practice sociology as educated and civically engaged persons.

Course Goals

Course Goals and Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. CLO1 – Students will develop basic proficiency using SPSS. This includes learning to perform basic analysis and variable manipulation. Proficiency will be assessed through course assignments and the final research report.
2. CLO2 – Students will learn the language used in research methods during class lectures and assigned readings. Proficiency will be assessed in exams.
3. CLO 3 – Students will develop proficiency in the process of conceptualization and operationalization that involves the conversion of abstract concepts into measurable forms. Students will develop this skill through course lecture and small group work. Proficiency will be assessed in exams.
4. CLO4 – Students will develop proficiency in the creation of indexes. Students will learn this skill in lecture and develop it with small group work and homework. Proficiency will be assessed in exams, the research report, and the homework.
5. CLO5 – Students will develop proficiency in the creation of survey questions and the design of questionnaires. Material will be introduced in lecture and practiced in small group work. Assessment of this CLO will occur during exams.
6. CLO6 – Students will develop basic proficiency in performing basic data analysis and presentation of data. Material will be introduced in class lecture and reinforced in small group work and homework. Proficiency will be assessed in homework, exams, and the research report.

Course Materials

Textbook

Babbie, Earl. *The Basics of Social Research*. Belmont CA. Thomson Wadsworth. (Any edition will do and I encourage you to find an inexpensive copy online.)

Other technology requirements / equipment / material

1. The most recent version of SPSS available [here](#).
2. A calculator for the final exam and class exercises.
3. Computers can be checked out at [King library \(https://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services\)](https://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services)

Course Requirements and Assignments

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SPSS Assignments

One of the main goals of this course is to give students basic competence using the Statistical Packet for the Social Sciences (SPSS). As such students will be required to complete several assignments throughout the semester using this program. Each assignment is worth 10 points for a total of 70 points when all assignments are completed. Keep in mind that while the assignments are not worth very many points individually, they are still very important because future assignments (and ultimately the SPSS Research Report) depend on successfully completing even the smallest assignment. **You are very strongly encouraged to keep an archive of these assignments so that you can reference them in the future.**

Survey Exercises

Students will be assigned to complete two assignments to reinforce survey research skills. The goal of these assignments is to learn the main components of survey research namely, writing questions, survey construction, data collection, data entry, and database creation. More in-depth instructions will follow but these are the general steps for completing the assignment. These assignments are worth 30 points.

Students will be assigned to complete a research report that combines class lecture skills with SPSS skills. The goal of the assignment is to test your ability to use SPSS. This assignment is worth 75 points.

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Final Examination or Evaluation

3 50 point exams are scheduled for this course. The final exam is scheduled for the last day of the semester.

“Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment.”

✓ Grading Information

Grading Information

There are 325 points possible in this course. Points will be earned through the following activities:

- 3 exams worth 50 points each, 150 points total.
- 7 SPSS assignments worth 10 points each, 70 points total.
- 2 survey exercises worth 15 points each, 30 points total
- 1 research report worth 75 points

Note, unless otherwise specified, all late assignments will be penalized -10% of total point value per day late.

Determination of Grades

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>96 to 100%</i>

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>93 to 95%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>86 to 89 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>83 to 85%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>76 to 79%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>73 to 75%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>70 to 72%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>66 to 69%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>63 to 65%</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>60 to 62%</i>

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

Course Calendar

Date	Topic	Reading/Due Dates
Aug. 22	Course Introduction	
Aug. 27	Lecture 1 Introduction to Sociology SPSS EX1 Directions Discussed	No Reading
Aug. 29	Lecture 1 Continued	
Sept. 3	Lecture 2 Human Inquiry and Science	Chapter 1
Sept. 5	Lecture 2 Continued SPSS EX2 Directions Discussed	SPSS EX1 Due
Sept. 10	Lecture 3 Paradigms, Theory, and Research	Chapter 2
Sept. 12	Lecture 3 Continued SPSS EX3 Directions Discussed	SPSS EX2 Due
Sept. 17	Lecture 4 Causation	No Reading
Sept. 19	Exam 1 Review	
Sept. 24	EXAM 1	EXAM 1
Sept. 26	Lecture 5 Research Design	Chapter 4 SPSS EX3 Due
Oct. 1	Lecture 5 Continued SPSS EX4 Directions Distributed	
Oct. 3	Lecture 6 Conceptualization, Operationalization, and Measurement	Chapter 5

Oct. 8	Lecture 6 Continued SPSS EX5 Directions Discussed	SPSS EX4 Due
Oct. 10	Lecture 7 Indexes, Scales, and Typologies	Chapter 6
Oct. 15	Lecture 7 Continued Lecture 8 Survey Research	SPSS EX5 Due Chapter 9
Oct. 17	Lecture 8 Continued	
Oct. 22	SPSS EX6 Directions Discussed SE1 Directions Discussed	
Oct. 24	NO CLASS	
Oct. 29	Review for Exam 2	
Oct. 31	EXAM 2	EXAM 2
Nov. 5	Lecture 9 Quantitative Analysis SPSS EX7 Directions Discussed	Chapter 14 SPSS EX6 Due
Nov. 7	Lecture 9 Continued SE2 Directions Discussed	SE1 Due
Nov. 12	Lecture 10 Sampling	Chapter 7 SPSS EX7 Due
Nov. 14	Research Report Directions Discussed	
Nov. 19	Lecture 10 Continued	
Nov. 21	Lecture 11 Ethics and Politics of Research	Chapter 3 SE2 Due

Nov. 26	Lecture 12 Other Methods of Social Research	Chapter 8 and 12
Nov. 28	Thanksgiving	No Class
Dec. 3	SPSS in class lab	
Dec. 5	Review for Final Exam	SPSS Research Report Due
Dec. 17	FINAL EXAM 9:45 – 12:00	FINAL EXAM 9:45 – 12:00