

University of North Texas at Dallas
Fall 2011
SYLLABUS

SOCI 3220D.091: Quantitative Data Collection 3Hrs			
Department of	Sociology	Division of	Liberal Arts and Life Sciences
Instructor Name:	Dr. Steven L. Arxer		
Office Location:	Founder's Hall 321		
Office Phone:	972-338-1592		
Email Address:	Steven.Arxer@unt.edu		
Office Hours:	Wed 9am-12pm/1pm-2pm; T/TH 2:30pm-5pm, or by appointment		
Classroom Location :	Dal 2-101		
Class Meeting Days & Times:	Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00am-11:20am		
Course Catalog Description:			
	Principles and procedures, sources of data, techniques of collection and analysis of quantitative data. Focus on survey research, secondary data analysis and other quantitative methods.		
Prerequisites:			
Co-requisites:	SOC1 1510 and advanced (junior or senior standing)		
Required Text:			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babbie, Earl. 2010. <i>The Practice of Social Research</i> 13th edition. Wadsworth. 		
Recommended Text and References:			
Access to Learning Resources:			
	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: 1012mgr@fhg.follett.com		
Course Goals or Overview:			
	This course introduces students to basic research methods commonly employed to answer questions about social life. Students will be exposed to the theoretical principles of scientific research and subsequently examine how these principles are reflected in various methods or techniques of conducting quantitative social research. However, the overriding focus in this course will be to develop students' critical thinking and analysis skills.		
Learning Objectives/Outcomes: At the end of this course, the student will			
1			
2	identify assumptions underlying particular research methodologies.		
3	identify limitations of particular research methodologies.		
4	explain how empirical evidence contributes to sociological knowledge.		

5	formulate empirical research questions.
6	identify materials, research, and data relevant to research questions
7	identify major methodological approaches and describe the general role of methods in building sociological knowledge.
8	critically assess empirical research of others.
9	Be able to use technology and computational skills to use SPSS or Excel to evaluate basic research and data relevant to a social issue.
10	identify the critical ethical issues in research such as confidentiality, informed consent, and minimization of risk to subjects.
11	Be aware of various professional codes of research such as the code of ethics from the American Sociological Association.

Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class and posted on Blackboard.

TOPICS (Readings)	TIMELINE
Introduction (No assignment)	Jan 17
Questions, sources, and cyberspace (Chapter 1, pp.118-119)	Jan19/24
Ethics and politics in social research (Chapter 3)	Jan 26/31
ETS Proficiency Profile Testing	Feb 2/7
Research design (Chapter 4)	Feb 9/14
Conceptualization and operationalization (Chapter 5)	Feb 16/21
Reliability and validity (Chapter 5) Exam 1 – February 28	Feb 23
Indexes and Scales (Chapter 6)	Mar 1
Sampling part I (Chapter 7, pp. 188-200)	Mar 6/8
Sampling part II (Chapter 7 pp. 200-225)	Mar 13/15
Experimental design (Chapter 8)	Mar 27/29
Exam 2 – April 1	
Survey Research: part I – November 3 (Chapter 9)	Apr 5/10
Survey research: Part II (Chapter 9)	Apr 12/17
Quantitative data analysis – Part I (Chapter 14) Survey due April 24	Apr 19/24
Quantitative data analysis – Part II	Apr 26
The elaboration model (Chapter 15) Data entry due May 1 Research proposal due May 3	May 1/3

Final exam: Thursday, May 10, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	May 10
Note: This syllabus may be subject to changes and/or revisions.	

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

Exams: There will be a total of three exams worth 50 points each. Exams cover material from the texts, assigned readings, lectures, and class discussions and will typically consist of multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay questions.

Survey construction: Students will be required to construct and turn in a written.

Data Entry: Students will be required to do data entry, software use and report writing project. Instruction sheet will be handed out when appropriate.

Research Proposal: In addition to the exams, students will be required to complete a research proposal project separated. Some class time will be allocated for the project; however, this assignment will require work outside of class. Instructions for this project will be provided in class.

Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
Exams	3 exams at 50 points each	150
Survey	1 at 40 points	40
Data Entry	1 at 30 points	30
Research Proposal	1 at 80 points	80
Total		300

Grade Determination:

Course grades will be based on points alone and are as follows:

A = 270 – 300 pts; i.e. 90% or better

B = 240 - 269 pts; i.e. 80 – 89 %

C = 210 - 239 pts; i.e. 70 – 79 %

D = 180 - 209 pts; i.e. 60 – 69 %

F = 179 pts or below; i.e. less than 60%

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students' with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed as accommodations are not retroactive. For more information, you may visit the Student Life Office, Suite 200, Building 2 or call Laura Smith at 972-780-3632.

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Assignment Policy:

Any style guide may be used for research papers so long as the style is used consistently throughout the paper.

Note: No extensions are given on any assignment, unless a legitimate excuse is received well before the due date. For illness or injury a doctor's note is required. An unexcused late assignment will result in an automatic 10 point deduction and an additional 5 point deduction for each day after that.

Exam Policy:

Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook).

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity at http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/policies/Chapter%2007%20Student%20Affairs.%20Education.%20and%20Funding/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf for complete provisions of this code.

In addition, all academic work submitted for this class, including exams, papers, and written assignments should include the following statement:

On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance that violates the UNTD Academic Integrity Policy.

Bad Weather Policy:

On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website www.unt.edu/dallas. Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.

Attendance and Participation Policy:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in class. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or to receive credit for missed classes. Attendance and participation in all class meetings is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they are missing class and for what reason. Students are also responsible to make up any work covered in class. It is recommended that each student coordinate with a student colleague to obtain a copy of the class notes, if they are absent.

To get the most out of this class your attendance is required.

- An attendance sign in sheet will be circulated at the beginning of each class. Sign your name in the sheet to document your attendance. Failure to sign the sheet will be considered an absence.
- Students are expected to attend all scheduled meetings of this class. Students

are also expected to be on time for all scheduled class meetings. Students who come to class late will be counted as absent. **After 3 absences, 5 overall points will be deducted for every class period missed.**

- If you have a documented excuse for your absence let me know as soon as possible and bring it to class. A valid documented excuse consists of a doctor's note documenting your illness or death in the family.

Classroom Policies

1. Since discussion is an essential part of this course please come to class prepared and on time.
2. Please turn off your cell phones and pagers.
3. Do not come into class late or leave early.
4. You are responsible for tracking your own grade progress (see course requirements and grading scheme to help you keep track of available points). If you have questions about your grade come to office hours, make an appointment, or contact me via email. Do not make specific inquiries about your grade in class.
5. No late work will be accepted unless you have a valid documented excuse (documented illness or death in the family). **If you miss an assignment and you have a valid documented excuse notify me as soon as possible via phone or email so we can arrange a reasonable time for you to make up the missed assignment.**
6. All work must be turned in during class. I will not accept emailed work unless you have a valid documented excuse.
7. Blackboard: *Copies of the syllabus, assignments and scores on exams, quizzes and the research project will be posted on Blackboard. Students may also access copies of the instructor's Powerpoint presentations. These presentations will usually be available to students one day prior to the date noted on the syllabus schedule.*

Classroom conduct: Tardiness and leaving early are very disruptive to the instructor and other students. Class will start on time, so please make sure you are present by 8:30 am. Please let an instructor know prior to the beginning of class if you absolutely must leave early and make sure your exit distracts others as little as possible. Please make every effort to respect others. Disagreements are allowed and expected, but the focus should be on ideas rather than on the individual who expresses them. Signs of disrespect that will not be tolerated include but are not limited to, having background conversations when others are talking, packing up early when others are still talking or asking questions, and working on material for other classes. Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT-Dallas.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Life as the instructor deems appropriate.

Optional Policies:

- *Use of WebCT/Blackboard*
- *Use of Cell Phones & other Electronic Gadgets in the Classroom*
- *Food & Drink in the Classroom*
- *Use of Laptops*
- *Grade of Incomplete, "I"*