# University of North Texas at Dallas
# Fall 2015
# SYLLABUS

## SOCI 3220.030 & .031: Quantitative Data Collection    3Hrs

| Department of | Sociology | Division of | Liberal Arts and Life Sciences |
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| **Instructor Name:** | Dr. Garrison A. Henderson |
| **Office Location:** | Founder's Hall 321 |
| **Office Phone:** | 682-251-0153 |
| **Email Address:** | Garrison.Henderson@untdallas.edu |

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| **Office Hours:** | **By appointment** |

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| **Classroom Location :** | I-NET |
| **Class Meeting Days & Times:** | Online Instruction |

**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:** SOCI 1510 and advanced (junior or senior standing)

**Required Text:**

- **Babbie, Earl. 2013. The Practice of Social Research 13<sup>th</sup> 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@fheg.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 |
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| 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. |
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## 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 Assignments for this week.** | Aug 24/Aug 31 |
| **Human Inquiry and Science (Chapter 1) Complete Module 1** | Sept. 1/Sept. 8 |
| **Paradigms, Theory, and Social Research (Chapter 2). Module 2** | Sept. 8/Sept. 15 |
| **The Ethics and Politics of Social Research (Chapter 3) Module 3** | Sept. 15/Sept. 21 |
| **Exam 1 (Chapters 1-3)** | Sept. 21/Sept. 28 |
| **Research Design (Chapter 4) Module 4** | Sept. 28/Oct. 5 |
| **Conceptualization, operationalization and Measurement (Chapter 5) Module 5** | Oct.5/Oct. 12 |
| **Indexes, Scales and Typologies (Chapter 6) Module 6** | Oct.12/Oct. 19 |
| **Sampling part I (Chapter 7, pp. 188-200) Module 7** | Oct.19/Oct. 26 |
| **Sampling part II (Chapter 7 pp. 200-225) Module 8** | Oct. 26/Nov. 2 |
| **Experiments (Chapter8) Module 9** | Nov.2/Nov. 9 |
| **Survey Research (Chapter 9) Module 10** <br> **Survey Assignment is due** | Nov. 9/Nov.16 |
| **Unobtrusive Research and Evaluation Research(Chapter 11-12) Module 11** | Nov. 16/Nov. 23 |
| **Exam 2 (Chapters 6-12)** | Nov. 23/Dec.1 |
| **Quantitative data analysis (Chapter 14), Chapter 15 (pp.447-453),Statistical Analyses-Chapter 16 (pp.460-478), Reading and Writing Social Research-Chapter 17 (pp. 498-504) Module 12** | Dec. 1/Dec.6 |
| **Final Exam** | Dec. 6/Dec.10 |

## 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 questionnaire.

**Module Lessons:** All students will be required to complete weekly module assignments, consisting of PowerPoint Lecture, video reviewing, discussion boards, and assessment (quiz).

**Final Exam:** All students will be required to complete the semester final exam. The final will be selectively comprehensive, meaning some previous chapters will appear on the final exam.

| Instrument | Number of Assignments | Percentage of overall Grade |
|---|---|---|
| Exams | 2 exams | 30% |
| Weekly Module Lessons | 12 Assignment Modules | 30% |
| Survey Instrument Project | I project | 20% |
| Final | 1 final exam | 20% |
| **Total Percentage** | | **100%** |

### Grading Matrix

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

A = 89.5% or Higher
B =79.5% - 89.4%
C = 69.5% - 79.4%
D = 59.5%-69.4%
F = 59.4% or Lower

## 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. I would strongly recommend that all students log-in to blackboard 1-3 times per day in an effort to keep current with all class announcements, assignments, and other updates.**

**Exam Policy:**
*Exams should be taken as scheduled. All exams, including the final, will be available during the specified time frame. You will be allotted 2 attempts to complete each exam. Each exam will be timed and the average of each attempt will count as your exam grade. 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](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](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. Although this course is online instruction, please make every effort to maintain your virtual attendance and class participation through all asynchronous learning activities and assignments. 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.
- Please log-in to blackboard to keep abreast to all class announcements, assignment requirements, and other updates.
- Students are expected to participate and complete all weekly assignments during the specified time frame. Students' participation level, including log-in activity, will be monitored throughout the course.

**Classroom Policies**

1. Since discussion board participation is an essential part of this course, please complete all discussion boards. All responses should be reflected in your knowledge, understanding, and comprehension of the assigned readings. Statements such as "I Agree with Him or Her" are not sufficient enough participation in the course.

2. 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, please address these issue during my blackboard office hours, make an appointment, or contact me via email.

3. 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.**

4. All work must be completed during the allotted time frame within blackboard. I will not accept emailed work unless you have a valid documented excuse.

5. 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:** Disagreements are allowed and expected, but the focus should be on ideas rather than on the individual who expresses them during discussion board interactions Signs of disrespect that will not be tolerated include but are not limited to, verbally degrading or attacking others, using inappropriate language, and other behaviors not conducive to a positive learning atmosphere. 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.*