

University of North Texas at Dallas
FALL 2014
SYLLABUS

SOCI 3220.030: Quantitative Data Collection 3Hrs				
Department of		Sociology	Division of	Liberal Arts and Life Sciences
Instructor Name:		Yolanda Columbus		
Office Location:		Founders Hall, room 123		
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Office Hours:		Online By Appt.		
Virtual Office Hours:				
Classroom Location:		Online		
Online Webinars Meeting Days & Times:		NONE		
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:		SOCI 1510 and advanced (junior or senior) standing		
Co-requisites:				
Required Text:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babbie, Earl. 2010. <i>The Practice of Social Research</i> 13th edition. Wadsworth. <p style="text-align: center;">Students may elect to purchase the 11th or 12th editions instead.</p>		
Access to Learning Resources:		UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 380- 1616; web: http://www.untDallas.com/library UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: 1012mgr@fhcg.follett.com		
Course Goals or Overview:				
<p>This class is designed to give the student a general understanding of sociological research methods. For this class, we will examine topics including, but not limited to, conducting surveys, interpreting data, evaluating published research, conducting quantitative research and the ethics of research. Further, you will conduct your own research project. Due to the nature of the subject matter, the readings come from various disciplines; however, we are primarily going to use pieces from the sociological literature.</p>				
Learning Objectives/Outcomes: At the end of this course, the student will				
1	Identify assumptions underlying particular research methodologies.			
2	Identify limitations of particular research methodologies.			

3	Explain how empirical evidence contributes to sociological knowledge.
4	Formulate empirical research questions.
5	Identify materials, research, and data relevant to research questions
6	Identify major methodological approaches and describe the general role of methods in building sociological knowledge.
7	Critically assess empirical research of others.
8	Identify the critical ethical issues in research such as confidentiality, informed consent, and minimization of risk to subjects.
9	Remember various professional codes of research such as the code of ethics from the American Sociological Association.
10	Identify studies that illustrate the critical ethical issues in research.

Course Outline

We will try to stick to this assignment and reading schedule. However, treat this as a compass rather than a map. I reserve the right to make changes. Students will be notified in advance – it is your participate online each week and to review announcements in Blackboard to hear about any changes.

WEEK*	TOPICS	Week Assigned
1.	Syllabus and Introduction	Aug 25 th – Sept 3 rd
2.	Introduction to Social Research	Sept 4 th – Sept 10 th
3.	Paradigms, Theory, and Social Research	Sept 11 th – Sept 17 th
4.	Module 1 Assessments (Due Sept 24th)	Sept 18th - Sept 24th
5.	Research Design	Sept 25 th – Oct 1 st
6.	Experiments	Oct 2 nd – Oct 8 th
7.	Ethics and Politics of Social Research	Oct 9 th – Oct 15 th
8.	Module 2 Assessments (Due Oct 23rd)	Oct 16th – Oct 22nd
9.	Sampling	Oct 23 rd – Oct 29 th
10.	Conceptualization, Operationalization, and Measurement	Oct 30 th - Nov 5 th
11.	Survey	Nov 5 th – Nov 11 th
12.	Analysis	Nov 12 th – Nov 18 th
13.	Module 3 Assessments (Due Nov 25th)	Nov 19th – Nov 25th
14.	Conclusion: Reflection	Nov 29 th – Dec 7 th
* The assignments and readings for each week are not released until you have completed specific activities. See course for details. Assignments are due on Fri, Tues, and Wednesday every week. Check the course for specific assignments and their due dates.		

Course Evaluation Methods

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

Post-Quizzes (50 pts. each): These activities will be completed at the ending of each week (excluding exam weeks). You have 4 attempts on each quiz. They will help you prepare for the exams during Week 4, 8, and 14.

Short Essays (50 pts. each): Each week (excluding exam weeks) you will find a Turnitin writing assignment. You must submit your assignment and review two of your peers. If you do not review two of your peers, you will lose 10 pts. for each review not done. Peers' assessments of your submission do not impact your grade on the assignment. Your submission will be evaluated by the instructor using the rubric. It is in the syllabus, in Course Information in BB Learn, and on each assignment.

Module Assessments (Short Answer: 250 pts.): There are 3 Module Assessments. They are assigned during Week 4, Week 8, and Week 14. I highly recommend that you take these exams seriously. Exams are online and closed book. Note: Be sure to read the online exam instructions. If the instructions are presented and you do something that is not allowed (i.e. hit the back button), I will not reset your exam.

Final Reflection Paper (50 pts.): The Final Reflection Paper is due the final week of class. In the Final Reflection Paper you should identify of the personally relevant themes in the readings and then integrate these themes with your online classroom experience, and finally describe how both may affect your future thinking and practice.

Extra Credit:

Sematic Maps Discussion Boards (10 pts. each): In Weeks 5 - 12 (excluding exam weeks) there is a Discussion Board, called 'Semantic Maps (DB)'. Each week you can earn 10 pts. by following the posting instructions.

No Credit: If at the end of the course you are on the border of two letter grades, these assignments will be used to determine if you have earned the higher grade.

Pre-Reading Discussion Questions: Each week there are pre-reading discussion questions.

Self-Assessments Quizzes: Each week there is a self-assessment quiz.

Grading Matrix:

Assignment	Pts. Per Assignment	# of assignments	Total Pts. Available	Grade Determination: Course grades will be determined as follows: A: 90%(+) ~ 1620 pts. B: 80- 89.9% ~ 1440 - 1620 C: 70- 79.9% ~ 1260 - 1440 D: 60-69.9% ~ 1080 - 1260 F: <60% ~ 1080
Turnitin Assignments	50	10	500	
Post-Quiz	50	10	500	
Module Written Exam	250	3	750	
Final Reflection	50	1	50	
TOTAL:			1800	
<u>Extra Credit (*will not be added to exams)</u>				
Semantic Maps (DB)	10	7	70	

Grading Rubrics

Short Essays and Final Reflection Paper Rubric

Criteria	Novice	Competent	Proficient	Excellent
Organization	0 to 5 points Information is not only disorganized but inaccurate	6 to 10 points The information appears to disorganized information is suspect to being correct and factual	11 to 15 points Information is organized but paragraphs are not well constructed and information is factual	16 to 20 points Information is organized with well-constructed paragraphs and information is factual and correct
Quality of Information	0 to 5 points Information has little to do with the main topic	6 to 10 points Information clearly relates to the main topic. No explanation of future impact is given	10 to 15 points Information clearly relates to the main topic. It provides 1 – 2 examples of future impact	
Grammar	0 to 2 points Many grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors	3 to 6 points A few grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors	7 to 10 points Almost no grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors	
Sources	0 to 2 points Sources include personal experience, textbook and videos and are accurately documented.	3 to 4 points Sources include two of the following: personal experience, textbook, videos, or discussion board.	4 to 5 points Sources include one of the following: personal experience, textbook, videos, or discussion board.	

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. For more information, you may visit the Office of Disability Accommodation/Student Development Office, Suite 115 or call 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:

All work due on a particular day should be submitted through Blackboard. Please familiarize yourself with blackboard ahead of due dates.

All written work should be a reasonable sized font (11 or 12 point) and double spaced. All work must be your own (i.e. no collaboration allowed). I will be happy to discuss any concerns or complaints about points awarded on written work or comments/editorial suggestions made on your papers.

Note: If you would like me to review your points on any paper, I ask that you put your questions or concerns **in writing** and send them in an email. You must explain why your work is deserving of more points. Simply stating that you “worked hard” on it or that you “did the assignment” is not a valid argument. Evaluation of all assignments focus on the quality of the end results not the quality or the quantity of effort. **Caution:** If you are arguing that your grade is not correct, after looking it over, I have the option to either raise or **lower** your grade where necessary (or keep it the same). This is not meant to deter valid arguments, just as a precaution measure to those who are merely wanting a higher grade but do not have a valid reason as to why they deserve one.

Module Assessments Policy:

The Module Assessments should be taken as scheduled. If you suddenly become sick, injured, or have a personal tragedy (family death) and cannot complete the assessment you **must** contact me beforehand. I may request documentation.

Academic Integrity:

No form of cheating and plagiarism will be tolerated in this class. Cheating includes copying another student's work. If you cheat on any assignment (or if you help others to cheat), you will receive an **“F” FOR THE COURSE**. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct at <https://www.untDallas.edu/office-student-life/student-policy-handbook> for complete provisions of this code. With that said, I encourage working together and sharing ideas, but when the writing begins, you must do it yourself.

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.untDallas.edu/. Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.

Attendance and Participation Policy:

This class meets only once a week, therefore only absences due to a documented illness or family death will be excused. One point will be subtracted from final grade (up to 10) for each unexcused absence.

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 Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities as the instructor deems appropriate.

Optional Policies:

Academic Etiquette: You are required to login to the class at least 3 times each week.

On the Use of Email: Please do not send an email to my UNT email address. Once class starts I will not respond to emails about the course set to my UNT email address. To ask questions about your grades or personal issues, use the 'Messages (Only Available in BB Learn)' link inside of Blackboard Learn course is the preferred method of communication. Post questions about course content in the course in the 'Q&A – Raising My Hand (DB)'. I will review and respond to Blackboard Learn Course emails Mon – Fri between 7 am and 9 am.