

University of North Texas at Dallas
Spring 2012
SYLLABUS

SOCI 3220D: Quantitative Data Collection 3Hrs			
Department of	Sociology	Division of	Arts and Sciences
Instructor Name:	Qi Sun (Phoenix)		
Office Location:	Dallas 2 302		
Office Phone:	972-338-1589		
Email Address:	qisun@pacs.unt.edu (preferred method)		
Office Hours:	Monday, 4:30-5:30 & 7-8 pm Wednesday 4:30-5:30 & 7-8pm Thursday 5-7pm & by appt		
Virtual Office Hours:			
Classroom Location:	Dallas 2 101		
Class Meeting Days & Times:	Monday & Wednesday: 5:30-6:50pm		
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		
Co-requisites:			
Required Text:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babbie, Earl. 2010. The Practice of Social Research 12th edition. Wadsworth. <p style="text-align: center;">Students may select to purchase the 11th editions instead.</p>		
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 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 by using methods you have learned in this class. 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.		
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	Be able to use technology and computational skills to use SPSS or Excel to evaluate basic research and data relevant to a social issue.
9	identify the critical ethical issues in research such as confidentiality, informed consent, and minimization of risk to subjects.
10	Be aware of various professional codes of research such as the code of ethics from the American Sociological Association.
11	Be able to identify studies that illustrate the critical ethical issues in research.

Course Outline

We will try to stick to this schedule. However, it is still tentative. I reserve the right to make changes. Students will be notified in advance – it is your responsibility to be in class to keep up with any changes.

TOPICS	TIMELINE
1. Human Inquiry and Science	Week of 1/16/2012
2. Paradigms, Theory, and Social Research	Week of 1/23/2012
3. The Ethics and Politics of Social Research	Week of 1/30/2012
4. Research Design	Week of 2/6/2012
Exam #1: 1-4	Week of 2/8/2012
5. Conceptualization and Measurement	Week of 2/13/2012
6. Indexes and Scales	Week of 2/20/2012
7. Sampling	Week of 2/27/2012
Exam #2: 5-7	Week of 2/29/2012
8. Experiments; 9. Survey	Week of 3/5/2012
12 Evaluation Research; Data Entry	Week of 3/12/2012
Spring break. No class.	Week of 3/19/2012.
Software Introduction (SPSS).	Week of 3/26/2012.
Exam #3: 8, 9, 12.	3/28/2012
14. Quantitative Data Analysis.	Week of 4/2/2012
16 Statistical Analyses	Week of 4/9/2012
16. Statistical Analyses.	Week of 4/16/2012
17. Writing Social research	Week of 4/23/2012
Project Due & leftover.	Week of 4/30/2012
Final: 14, 16 & 17.	5/7/2012 5:30 -6:50 pm

Course Evaluation Methods

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

Exams (4 exams, 400 points total): There will be 4 tests (including final) for this course. Each of them is worth 100 points. None of the tests are cumulative. Exams will be a mixture of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer. I highly recommend that you take these exams seriously. Exams are in class and closed book. Exams will last for 1 hour and 20 minutes. Because we only meet once a week, class will resume after the exam is taken.

Data Entry and Report Project (50 points total): Students will be required to do data entry, software use and report writing project. Instruction sheet will be handed out when appropriate.

Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (points)	Total
Research Project	50	50
Exam	100X4	400
Total:		450

Grade Determination:

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

A: 405 and above.

B: 360-404

C: 315-359

D: 270-314

F: 269 and below

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 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.

Exam Policy:

Exams should be taken as scheduled. If you suddenly become sick, injured, or have a personal tragedy (family death) and cannot attend class on a scheduled exam day you **must** contact me beforehand. I may request documentation. (*See Student Handbook*).

Academic Integrity:

No form of cheating 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 http://www.unt.edu/csrr/student_conduct/index.html 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.unt.edu/dallas. 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. Attendance is not mandatory; however, past statistics shows that there exist a strong correlation between class attendance and individual grade. Student fail to attend class will find it difficult to follow since this is the class we only meet once a week.

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 arrive to class on time. Also, please do not leave early (or pack up to leave early). Arriving late and leaving early is very disruptive. In addition, any talking while another member of the class is speaking (this includes me) will not be tolerated.

On the Use of Email: In-person communication is almost always better than email communication. I therefore ask that you do the following: 1) Before sending an email, consider if you can instead ask a question in class or in my office. 2) before sending an email, proof read carefully to fix grammar and tone issues. Emails should reflect well on your professionalism; 3) Do not expect a rapid response. A number of days may go by before I get a chance to answer your email.

On Cell Phones and Laptops: I keep track of students whose cell phones ring in class and those who text. This reduces a person's class participation score. I only allow the use of laptops in class with a documented accommodation request.