COURSE OUTLINE : SOC 200
D Credit – Degree Applicable
COURSE ID 010501
Created: November 2019

COURSE DISCIPLINE : SOC

COURSE NUMBER : 200

COURSE TITLE (FULL) : Research Methods for Sociology

COURSE TITLE (SHORT) : Research Methods for Sociology

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

SOC 200 is a lecture and laboratory course focusing on the nature of theory and the principles of descriptive and inferential research. Topics covered in the course include: an analysis of the scientific method, research design, ethical principles, internal and external validity, and scientific writing. The course is built around the application of these topics in a laboratory environment.

CATALOG NOTES

This course may not be taken for credit by students who have successfully completed PSYCH 200.

Total Lecture Units: 3.00

Total Laboratory Units: 0.50

Total Course Units: 3.50

Total Lecture Hours: 54.00

Total Laboratory Hours: 27.00

Total Laboratory Hours To Be Arranged: 0.00

Total Contact Hours: 81.00

Total Out-of-Class Hours: 108.00

Prerequisite: SOC 101 and MATH 136**.**

ENTRY STANDARDS

	Subject	Number	Title	Description	Include
1	SOC	101	Introduction To Sociology	Apply the sociological imagination to a variety of contemporary social phenomena;	Yes
2	SOC	101	Introduction To Sociology	describe the historical development of sociology as a separate discipline;	Yes
3	SOC	101	Introduction To Sociology	distinguish between the use of various research methods;	Yes
4	SOC	101	Introduction To Sociology	identify, compare and apply the primary sociological perspectives;	Yes
5	SOC	101	Introduction To Sociology	explain and apply key sociological concepts;	Yes
6	SOC	101	Introduction To Sociology	describe and explain the basic dimensions of social inequality and social change in historical and contemporary society;	Yes
7	SOC	101	Introduction To Sociology	assess what social forces and organizational structures are most prominent in shaping, guiding, and influencing individual and group behavior in contemporary society;	Yes
8	MATH	136	Statistics	describe and analyze realistic data sets both large and small from disciplines including business, social science, psychology, life science, health science and education using graphs and statistics;	Yes
9	MATH	136	Statistics	analyze real world results, interpret the output of a technology-based statistical analysis and identify flaws in statistical reasoning;	Yes
10	MATH	136	Statistics	identify the standard methods of obtaining data and identify advantages and disadvantages of each;	Yes
11	MATH	136	Statistics	calculate probability using the normal distribution, the t distribution and the basic laws of probability;	Yes
12	MATH	136	Statistics	describe sampling distributions, distinguish them from population distributions and analyze the role played by the Central Limit Theorem;	Yes
13	MATH	136	Statistics	compute confidence intervals of population means, proportions and standard deviations;	Yes
14	MATH	136	Statistics	identify the basic concept of hypothesis testing including Type I and II errors, finding and interpreting levels of significance including p-values, selecting the appropriate techniques for testing a hypothesis from one and two populations and interp	Yes

15	MATH	136	Statistics	perform chi-square tests using chi-square tables and statistical software or calculator;	Yes
16	MATH	136	Statistics	use linear regression and ANOVA analysis for estimation and inference, and interpret the statistics;	Yes
17	MATH	136	Statistics	calculate and present results using sound statistical reasoning, accurate statistical terminology and technology such as spreadsheets, graphing calculators or StatCrunch;	Yes

EXIT STANDARDS

1 Explain the basic principles of the scientific method;
2 describe the relationship between social theory and research;
3 critically evaluate research findings in terms of quality, credibility, and applicability;
4 conceptualize and operationalize social variables in formulating testable hypotheses;
5 examine various research designs, the role of quantitative techniques, and data reduction in sociological analyses;
6 identify and review qualitative approaches in current use;
7 describe how social research can be used to make informed decisions;
8 demonstrate familiarity with a social science statistical software for conducting research.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1 Use scientific reasoning to interpret social and behavioral phenomena;
2 apply problem solving in the context of research;
3 critique experimental designs within the existing literature.

COURSE CONTENT WITH INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS

	Description	Lecture	Lab	Total Hours
1	Scientific Inquiry in the Social Sciences • Brief history of science (and the scientific method) • Goals of science • Understanding a research article • Basic and applied research	7	0	7

2	Ethics and Politics of Social Research • American Sociological Association's Ethical Standards • Review of the antecedents of contemporary standards • Use of human and animal subjects • Cost and benefit analysis • Role of the Institutional Review Board	4	0	4
3	Research Design • Research concepts ◦ Theories, hypotheses, and variables ◦ Theoretical and operational definitions ◦ Types of variables (e.g., independent, dependent, and confounding) ◦ Samples and group assignment ◦ Causal and correlational relationships • Descriptive methods ◦ Types of descriptive studies (e.g., survey, observation, case study, and correlation) ◦ Observational techniques ◦ Reactivity, demand characteristics, observer bias, expectancy effects, and other biases ◦ Strengths and weaknesses of descriptive methods • Experimental methods ◦ Independent Group Designs ◦ Repeated Measures Designs ◦ Strengths and weaknesses of experimental methods ◦ Counterbalancing and practice effects ◦ Main effects and interaction effects ◦ Unobtrusive Measures of Behavior (physical trace methods, archival research methods, and content analysis) • Other research designs ◦ Single-Case Research Design ◦ Quasi-Experimental Design	14	0	14
4	Measurement • Psychometric concepts: Reliability, validity, and standardization • Reactivity of measures • Qualitative versus quantitative data	7	0	7

5	Research Development • The research proposal • Pilot study	7	9	16
6	Beginning Research • Literature review strategies, tools, and resources • Peer review of research questions, theories, and hypotheses	9	0	9
7	Conducting Research • Mock Institutional Review Board presentation • Data collection	0	9	9
8	Data Analysis • Descriptive versus inferential statistics • Null and research hypotheses • Distributions • Graphing data effectively • Statistical tests (e.g., correlation, chi-square, t-tests, and ANOVA) • Statistical significance • Type I and Type II errors	0	9	9
9	Presenting Findings • Scientific writing • American Sociological Association style • Presentation strategies	6	0	6
				81

OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

1 research (e.g., gather, analyze, and interpret experimental data on the impact of hypermedia on attention, and present in poster format);
2 research paper (e.g., paper that evaluates existing scientific findings regarding the impact of hypermedia on attention, and proposes an experiment related to this topic).

METHODS OF EVALUATION

1 class participation in individual and group exercises to practice course exit standards (e.g., develop a written criteria for mock Institutional Review Board evaluation);
2 two in-class tests and one final examination requiring demonstration of course exit standards.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

☑ Lecture
☑ Laboratory

- [ ] Studio
- [x] Discussion
- [x] Multimedia
- [ ] Tutorial
- [ ] Independent Study
- [x] Collaboratory Learning
- [x] Demonstration
- [ ] Field Activities (Trips)
- [x] Guest Speakers
- [x] Presentations

TEXTBOOKS

Title	Type	Publisher	Edition	Medium	Author	IBSN	Date
The Practice of Social Research	Required	Engage Learning	14	Print	Babbie, Earl R.	9780357048399	2019
The Art and Science of Social Research	Required	W.W. Norton	1	Print	Carr Deborah et al.	9780393911589	2018
Making Sense of the Social World: Methods of Investigation	Required	Sage	6	Print	Chambliss, Daniel F.	9781544324098	2019
The Research Act: A Theoretical Introduction to Sociological Methods	Required	Routledge	1	Print	Denzin, Norman K.	9780202362489	2017
Introduction to Research Methods: A Hands-On Approach	Required	Sage	1	Print	Pajo, Bora	9781483386959	2018
Investigating the Social World: The Process and Practice of Research	Required	Sage	9	Print	Schutt, Russel K.	9781506361192	2019