

SOCI 4340.01: RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIOLOGY
Spring, 2018
3 Credit Hours

Class Meeting Times: M/W 2:00pm – 3:20pm

Location of Class Meeting: CHSS 206

Professor: Dr. Jin Young Choi

Office: CHSS, Room 270V

Office Hours: M/W 11:00am to 12:30pm or by appointment

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The best way to reach me is via email. I will try to respond you within 24 hours after I receive your email except weekend and holidays. In the subject line in your email, please indicate your name and the course.

Required Text

Earl Babbie. 2017. The Basics of Social Research, 7th Edition: Cengage Learning

Course Description

This research methods class is designed to provide students with an introduction to social research. Students will be exposed to the logic and character of scientific social inquiry, examination of the functions of observation, concept formation, and testing of theory as components of the scientific process in Sociology. The main goal of this class is to develop students' insights and abilities to critically read and produce both qualitative and quantitative social research. Prerequisite courses are: SOCI 1301 or instructor permission.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Acquire factual knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and techniques of social research.
2. Develop skills and competencies of social research.
3. Apply their newly learned skills to practical social research.

Throughout the semester students will experience the full process of social research including the basic components of social research, structuring social inquiry, various research designs, data collection methods, and data analysis. In addition to lectures, students will exercise what they learn in the lectures through various class activities and the completion of a series of assignments.

Course Requirements

Final grades will be calculated by adding all points earned from three exams and four assignments, plus any extra credit points earned during the semester.

Exams

There will be **Three exams**. The exams will cover the assigned chapters in the textbook and the material discussed in class (i.e. readings, lectures, and all in-class materials). Students are expected to read the textbook. Although much of the class lectures will refer to the text, new material will also be introduced. **Each exam will be equally weighted (100 points) for a total of 300 points.** All exams must be taken in-class at the scheduled time. Once the first student leaves, no new exams may be started. Students are

expected to **bring their scantron for exams**. There will be no cell phones or headphones allowed during the exam.

Make-up exams will only be given if arranged with the professor prior to the day of the scheduled exam to be missed and only if the reason for the absence is considered valid by the professor. To make up an exam, students are required to contact with the professor as soon as possible. Students who fail to contact the professor in a timely manner will receive a zero for the exam. Also **documentation for missing a scheduled exam must be provided for a make-up exam.** The make-up exams might be different (i.e. essay questions) from the regular scheduled exams.

Assignments

There will be **FOUR assignments**, each worth **25 points**. These four assignments will **total 100 points of the final grade**. Each assignment must be submitted to **the appropriate assignment section under “Assignments” in Blackboard before the beginning of class on the due date.** After the due date (by the class time), the assignment submission tab will be closed. Once the assignment tab is closed, you cannot submit the assignment through Blackboard.

Since some assignments are fundamental for the next ones, failing to understand and complete one assignment on time makes it quite difficult to keep up; thus “falling behind” is to be avoided at all means. **If you know you are going to miss a class, inform the professor and turn in the assignments early to the professor or the main office of the Sociology Department. Make sure to ask the secretary (or student worker) to stamp the date and time on your assignment. No late assignments will be accepted after the given date.**

Extra credit

Students will have several opportunities to earn extra credit points during the semester. Those opportunities will be announced in class. **Late submissions will NOT be accepted.** Furthermore, some extra credit opportunities will be provided as a part of class activities during the class. Students who miss those opportunities due to their absence will **not be given another opportunity to earn the points.** Extra credit opportunities will be discussed more as the semester progresses. Earning extra credit is recommended.

Grading

The final grade for the course is based on the course requirements presented above. **A total of 400 possible points** is available. Final grades will be assigned as follows:

400- 360 = A
359- 320 = B
319- 280 = C
279- 240 = D
239- 0 = F

Attendance Policy: SHSU policy is that attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to attend all classes and participate fully in class activities. Attending class means you are actively alert and you are in class for the duration of the entire class period. Tardiness will be not accepted. Students who are not present 10 minutes after the start of class will be counted absent. Students who attend all classes will receive **5 extra points** towards their total accumulated points. Students are expected to show an appropriate cause for both absences and tardiness and are also expected to initiate action to satisfy all missed class work. Documentation is required for an absence to be excused. Students are responsible for obtaining class materials for the classes that they miss (i.e. lecture, announcements, class/group discussions, and films shown during the class). Failure to do so will affect students' grades.

Academic Dishonesty: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic

experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students caught cheating will receive an F for that assignment with more severe sanctions as appropriate.

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/728eec25-f780-4dcf-932c-03d68cade002.pdf>

Americans with Disabilities Act: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities must register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center and then arrange a conference with the instructor in order that accommodations can be made to assure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/9edd8433-cad5-40d1-b4bf-6a91b08f90e4.pdf>
SSD Office Location: Lee Drain Annex (next to the Farrington Building); Ph. 936-294-3512; TDD: 936-294-3786; E-mail: disability@shsu.edu; Web Address: www.shsu.edu/disability

Religious Holidays: The Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. Religious Holy Day means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation. Students should contact the instructor as soon as possible regarding any missed classes or exams due to Religious Holy Days.

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/0953c7d0-7c04-4b29-a3fc-3bf0738e87d8.pdf>

University Code of Conduct: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students shall arrive to class on time and be respectful to their other students. If a student needs to arrive to class late or leave class early the student will make the professor aware of these needs prior to class time. All cell phones and beepers must be turned off and stowed away while in the classroom. If a cell phone is out during an exam, the student will receive an F for that exam. Students who disrupt the class will be contacted by the professor to adjust their behaviors. In extreme cases students who cannot comply with these requirements can be removed and resigned from the class.

<https://netreg.shsu.edu/mirror/codeofconduct.html>

Instructor Evaluations: Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Visitors to the Classroom: Unannounced visitors to the class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor is allowed to remain in the classroom.

COURSE SCHEDULE

	Monday	Wednesday
WEEK 1		January 17 Introduction
WEEK 2	January 22 CH1	January 24 CH1
WEEK 3	January 29 CH2	January 31 CH2
WEEK 4	February 5 Application 1 Assignment 1 Instruction	February 7 CH3
WEEK 5	February 12 CH15 *DUE Assignment 1	February 14 Review for Exam I
WEEK 6	February 19 **Exam I**	February 21 CH4
WEEK 7	February 26 CH4	February 28 CH5-CH6
WEEK 8	March 5 CH5-CH6 Assignment 2 Instruction	March 7 CH5-CH6 Application 2
Spring Break	March 12	March 14
WEEK 9	March 19 CH7 *DUE Assignment 2	March 21 CH7
WEEK 10	March 26 Review for Exam II	March 28 **Exam II**
WEEK 11	April 2 CH9 Assignment 3 Instruction	April 4 CH9 Application 3
WEEK 12	April 9 CH9	April 11 CH9
WEEK 13	April 16 CH8	April 18 CH8
WEEK 14	April 23 CH10 Assignment 4 Instruction *DUE Assignment 3	April 25 CH10 Application 4
WEEK 15	April 30 Review for Exam III	May 2 **Exam III** *DUE Assignment 4