

**SOCI 4340 (section 2): RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIOLOGY**  
**Spring 2018; 3 credit hours**

**Class time/location:** T/TR 11:00-12:20/CHSS 206  
**Instructor:** Dr. Gene L. Theodori  
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**Office hours:**

Tuesday/Thursday: 8:30-9:30; Friday 9:00-10:00  
Monday/Wednesday: by appointment.

**Purpose of Course**

This course is designed to introduce students to the logic and character of scientific and alternative means of social inquiry. Topics such as the foundations of research, sampling, measurement, design, and analysis are explored in detail.

**Course Objectives**

Upon completion of SOCI 4340, students will have developed the specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by social scientists who conduct applied research.

In addition, students will have increased their understanding of the numerous qualitative and quantitative research methods used in the social sciences.

**General Education Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, students will have:

- developed specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in Sociology; and,
- learned to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions).

**General Course Structure**

Although some material will be presented in traditional lecture format, the course will be primarily conducted as a seminar. As such, the focus of the semester's work will be on reading, assimilating, writing about, presenting, and discussing material on issues related to social scientific research. Therefore, you must come to class prepared to participate. Class participation is an essential and expected component of the class.

**Required Books and Assigned Readings**

You are expected to purchase the following book:

Frankfort-Nachmias, Chava, David Nachmias, and Jack DeWaard. 2015. *Research Methods in the Social Sciences*. New York: Worth.

*NOTE: I may assign and supply additional readings throughout the course.*

## **Requirements and Grading**

Part of the tradition of higher education is the need to evaluate performance. Your final course grade will be based upon your performance on each of the assigned tasks.

### ***Class Participation (expected)***

Active participation is an essential and expected component of this course. Although some material will be presented in traditional lecture format, the course will be primarily conducted as a seminar. The focus of the semester's work will be on reading, assimilating, writing about, presenting, and discussing materials on issues related to research methods in Sociology. Therefore, regular and punctual attendance is expected of each student in this class. In fact, regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student at SHSU (see [http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/documents/800401\\_001.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/800401_001.pdf)). Student attendance will be recorded at the beginning of each class meeting. Students **must** come to class and participate. Students are expected to read all required assignments and actively discuss the readings during the class meetings for which they are assigned.

### ***Three Exams (3 @ 50 points each)***

There will be three in-class exams. Each exam will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions (and possibly fill-in-the-blank and/or short essay questions). Additional information on the exams will be provided during the first class meeting.

### ***Eight In-Class Group Research/Writing Exercises (8 @ 10 points each)***

Eight in-class group research/writing exercises will be administered throughout the semester. Students must be present during the class period to receive credit for the group research/writing exercise. Details on the in-class group research/writing exercises (including grading) will be provided during the first class meeting.

### ***Group Project (20 points)***

One group project will be assigned during the semester. The project will require students to come together and act as a unit. Details on the group assignment (including grading) will be provided during the first class meeting (and again, prior to the due-date).

*NOTE: Students must participate in the group project to earn any points on this assignment, as well as a final grade for the course. Failure to participate will result in a course grade of zero (0). Additional grading criteria will be announced in class.*

## **Grades**

Grades will be based on a total of 250 points.

225.00 – 250.00 = A

200.00 – 224.99 = B

175.00 – 199.99 = C

150.00 – 174.99 = D

0 – 149.99 = F

## **Academic Dishonesty**

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain 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. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

[Dean of Student's Office](#)

The SHSU Academic Policy Statement 810213 – Procedures in Cases of Academic Dishonesty – will be enforced (see <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/728eec25-f780-4dcf-932c-03d68cade002.pdf>). **Plagiarized work will not be accepted or tolerated. Students who violate the policy and/or submit plagiarized work will earn a course grade of 'F' and be reported to the Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Dean of Students.**

## **Students with Disabilities Policy:**

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 that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail [disability@shsu.edu](mailto:disability@shsu.edu)). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

## **Religious Holy Days**

Section 51.911(b) of 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. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20...” 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.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

[/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf](#)

**Visitors in the Classroom**

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

**Instructor Evaluations**

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

**Classroom Rules of Conduct**

A classroom serves as a backdrop for interaction between instructor and student and between/among students. Facts and opinions rooted in knowledge are exchanged in a classroom; opinions rooted in ignorance should not be shared. Students are expected to act professionally at all times in the classroom.

The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link:

<http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/StudentGuidelines2010-2012.pdf#page=29>

*NOTE:* This syllabus does not constitute a contract between student and instructor. It may be necessary to change the sequence of topics and/or due dates. Any changes will be repeatedly announced in class.