

**Research Methods
Sociology 110
Summer Session I 2016**

Class: **Tu/Th 4:00PM – 6:50PM**

Room: **SST 120**

Website: **<https://eee.uci.edu/16y/69050>**

Instructor: **Burrell Vann Jr**

Office Hours: **By Appointment**

Email: **bvann@uci.edu**

Office: **SST 615**

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to methods of sociological research. This course will help you critically evaluate research and conduct research of your own. The topics covered in this course include the ethics of research, the relationship between theory and research, variables and measurement, causality, types of research (qualitative fieldwork and interviews, historical methods, content analysis, and quantitative analysis), and the writing of research.

Course Objectives:

- To introduce students to logic of sociological research.
- To improve students' critical assessment of published research.
- To gain a familiarity with the major methods of developing and answering sociological questions.
- To help students design a research proposal to answer a burning research question.

Required Materials:

Textbook:

Earl Babbie (2005). *The Basics of Social Research*. Independence, KY: Wadsworth Publishing.

Recommended (Not Required) Reading:

Howard S. Becker (2007). *Writing for Social Scientists: How to Start and Finish Your Thesis, Book, or Article*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

Course Requirements:

Students are required to read the weekly readings, participate in discussions, and complete a midterm and final exam.

Attendance:

Attendance in any course is not mandatory, but part of your grade in this course (50 points) depends on it. Importantly, on-time attendance is critical for your overall success in the course. If you miss a class meeting, look on the course website for material you may have missed. Second, if you find it difficult to understand some of the material, get in contact with your one or more of your classmates via EEE. Third, if you still find it difficult, set aside time to meet with me in office hours. If my office hours don't work, email me so that we can schedule a time to meet. I reserve the right to re-do a lecture.

Readings:

Each weekly reading is geared toward helping you grasp of concepts about and the logic of sociological research. Each week, students will have to complete the readings from the text. In some cases, I may assign an article or two, which will be made available on the course website.

Exams:

There will be one midterm exam and one final exam during the quarter. The exams are multiple-choice, will consist of between 30 and 50 questions, and will be based on the topics/findings covered in the readings. If you will miss an exam, you must inform the instructor before the start of the exam.

Policy on Late Homework and Make-Up Exams:

Make up exams are not guaranteed and will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Students are not guaranteed make-up exams. Arrangements to take an exam early may be made. In extreme emergencies, written documentation will be required before a make-up exam is scheduled. In such cases, students will take a different and likely more difficult form of the exam.

Extra Credit:

Students will be given the opportunity to complete up to four (4) in-class quizzes for extra credit, worth a maximum of 20 points.

Grading Breakdown:

Final grades will be based on attendance and class participation (50 points) and two exams (50 points each) for a total of 150 points. A +/- grading system will not be used.

Attendance/Participation	50
Midterm Exam	50
Final Exam	50
Total	150 Points

Letter Grades:

- A = 90% and above
- B = 80% and above
- C = 70% and above
- D = 60% and above
- F = Below 60%

Academic Honesty:

The University of California, Irvine policy on academic integrity is posted at <http://www.editor.uci.edu/catalogue/appx/appx.2.htm>. All work you turn in, including homework assignments, lab exercises, exams, and quizzes must be your own.

Changes to Material:

I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus, including the course outline, at any time, based on the pace of the class.

Course Outline:

Week	Class	Topic	Book Chapters	Section
1	1	The Basics of Social Research	Ch. 1 & Ch. 2 (pp. 45-58)	Introduction
	2	The Ethics of Social Research	Ch. 3	Ethical and Design Concerns for Collecting Your Own Data
2	3	Research Design, Variables, and Causality	Ch. 4	
	4	Conceptualization and Operationalization	Ch. 5	
3	5	Sampling	Ch. 7	Data Collection and Analysis
	6	Midterm		
4	7	Fieldwork and Qualitative Analysis	Ch. 10 & Ch. 13	
	8	Content Analysis	Ch. 11	Research Writing
5	9	Quantitative Analysis	Ch. 13	
	10	Writing Sociological Research	Ch. 15	
6	11	Final		