Course Outline for SOC 13

RESEARCH METHODS

Effective: Spring 2019

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
SOC 13 — RESEARCH METHODS — 4.00 units

This course orients students to the methods of data collection and analysis used by sociologists. Instruction includes an overview of sociological theory, instruction on experimental methods, surveys, interviews, field research, participant observation, demographic methods, and comparative historical approaches.

 3.00 Units Lecture 1.00 Units Lab

Prerequisite
SOC 1 - Principles of Sociology
with a minimum grade of C

Strongly Recommended
MATH 40 - Statistics and Probability
with a minimum grade of C

Grading Methods:
Letter or P/NP

Discipline:
• Sociology

	MIN
Lecture Hours:	54.00
Lab Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	108.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:
Before entering the course a student should be able to:

A. SOC1
1. Outline multiple social theories
2. Apply social theory to world events
3. Explain how identities such as gender and race are socially constructed.
4. Outline the impacts of modernization and globalization on social institutions
5. Develop an argumentative research-based term paper
6. Explain the workings of global economic and political systems
7. Outline the symbiotic relationship between culture and social structure

Before entering this course, it is strongly recommended that the student should be able to:

A. MATH40
1. Define different types of statistics, how they are used and misused;
2. Identify the standard methods of obtaining data and identify the advantages and disadvantages of each;
3. Distinguish among different scales of measurement and their implications;
4. Distinguish between controlled experiments and observational studies, including identifying potential confounding factors, and explain why they are confounding;
5. Take real world raw data and organize it into tables, charts, and/or graphs both with and without the use of technology;
6. Interpret data displayed in tables and graphically;
7. Calculate and understand the meaning of the the measures of central tendency: mean, median, mode, and the measures of variation and position: range, variance, and standard deviation as they relate to a population, sample, or distribution;
8. Construct and interpret confidence intervals for single populations and two-populations comparisons;
9. Apply concepts of sample space and probability;
10. Identify the baisic concept of hypothesis testing including Type I and II errors;
11. Distinguish the difference between sample and population distributions and analyze the role played by the Central Limit Theorem;
12. Formulationg a hypothesis test by selecting the appropriate technique for testing the hypothesis and interpreting the result for

one and two-populations comparisons;
13. Determine and interpret levels of statistical significance including p-values;
14. Use appropriate statistical techniques to analyze and interpret applications based on data from disciplines including business, social sciences, psychology, life science, health science, and education.

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:
Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:
A. Outline the strategies for sociological inquiry
B. Apply scientific method to the study of human behavior
C. Evaluate the quality of evidence in published research
D. Discuss a range of quantitative, qualitative, and unobtrusive sociological research methods
E. Prepare a research proposal

V. CONTENT:
A. The Foundations of Social Science
1. The purposes of social research
2. Social science paradigms
3. The relationship between theory and research The importance of social research in society
B. The Ethics of Social Research
1. Ethical issues in social research
2. Controversy in social research
3. The politics of social research
C. Research Design
1. How to design a research project
2. Units of analysis
3. Deductive/Inductive research
4. Writing a research proposal
5. Human Subjects-IRB Approval
D. Sampling
1. Types of Sample Designs
E. Modes of Observation
1. Unobtrusive Research
a. Content analyses
b. Analyzing existing data sets
c. Comparative historical research
2. Quantitative Data Analysis
a. The Experimental Method
b. Survey Research
c. Descriptive Statistics
d. Inferential Statistics
3. Qualitative Data Analysis
a. Field research: Researcher roles and analytical yield, individual research and team research
b. Building rapport
c. Bias
d. Field notes: making observations, writing, coding; and memoing
e. Case studies
f. Qualitative Interviewing; Interview instrument construction, conducting, transcribing, and analyzing interview data
g. Focus Group
4. Writing a Research Proposal

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:
A. **Lecture** -
B. Online Learning
C. **Lab** -
D. **Discussion** -

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:
A. Reading Assignment
1. Students will typically read one chapter per week
B. Exams
C. Lab Activities
1. Developing research questions
2. Hypothesis construction
D. Research Proposal
1. Students will compose a 8-10 page research proposal that addresses a contemporary social issue.

VIII. EVALUATION:
Methods/Frequency

A. Exams/Tests
2 midterm exams and one final exam
B. Research Projects
One research proposal paper
C. Home Work
One activity every week
D. Lab Activities
10-12 lab activities

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:
1. Chambliss, D.F. (2016). *Making Sense of the Social World* (5 ed.). Los Angeles, California : Sage.
2. Carr, D. (2018). *The Art and Science of Social Research* (1 ed.). New York, New York: W W Norton.
3. Barbbie , E. (2017). *The Basics of Social Research* (7 ed.). Belmont, California : Cengage.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:
A. SPSS Free Trial Version
B. Access to Microsoft Excel