

SOCIOLOGY 334 METHODS OF SOCIAL RESEARCH

Spring, 2012

LECTURE: Mondays, 4:00 to 5:50pm in Powdermaker 117

LABS: Wednesdays, 4:00 to 5:50pm in Powdermaker 208

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OVERVIEW

Sociology 334 is the Sociology Department's final required course in social research methods. The objectives of this course are:

- to provide students with a rigorous review of basic methods and concepts of social research
- to expose students to contemporary reports of both good and poor quality social research so as to provide them with skills in interpreting such reports and evaluating their quality
- to develop students' skills in basic research methods and to provide them with the opportunity to use these skills in their own work

Sociology 205 (Statistics) and Sociology 212 (Analysis) are prerequisites for taking this course.

This course will include extensive in-laboratory experience analyzing quantitative data from the 1972 - 2010 General Social Survey and other large-scale quantitative datasets.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Approaches to Social Research by Royce A. Singleton, Jr., and Bruce C. Straits.
Published by Oxford University Press.

The 4th edition is preferred, and relatively inexpensive *used* copies of this edition can be purchased online. The 5th edition is acceptable, and it is available from the QC Bookstore for a higher price. (If you will be using the 5th edition please let Prof. Turner know, and he will update the chapter numbering which varies between the 4th and 5th editions.)

In addition, selected additional readings may occasionally be assigned to the class, and they will be distributed as PDFs posted on the class website www.popepi.org/soc-334-1. These readings will be announced in class.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Lab Assignments (50%). Regular attendance at lab sessions is required. Biweekly written assignments will be required, and they will count for 50% of your grade. Students may work individually or in pairs. Instructions on how to prepare these assignments will be handed out in class. We will work on these assignments during the computer lab portion of our classes.

Evaluative Quizzes (50%). The first evaluative quiz will be given in class on April 2nd; it will count for 25% of your final grade. The second evaluative quiz will be given during exam week in May, It will count for 25% of your final grade. Quiz questions will be drawn from materials presented in lectures and readings.

Plagiarism. The use of other people's work or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment is a serious breach of the standards of academic scholarship. Students who engage in such behavior may be given a grade of F, and they may be subject to other disciplinary action. The university's academic integrity policy is published in full at:

web.cuny.edu/academics/info-central/policies/academic-integrity.pdf

Computer Accounts. If you do not have a CAMS/Active Directory account, you must sign up for one. See tutorial at: www.qc.cuny.edu/cams_tutorial/newcams.swf

Contacting Me. The best way to contact me is to send E-Mail to Soc334.CFTurner@GMAIL.COM. My office telephone is 202-657-4455.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

(Labs will parallel but not follow in lockstep with Lectures.)

Chapter numbers are for 4th edition; 5th edition chapter numbers are shown in brackets

Jan. 30	Course Overview
Feb 6	Science and Social Science: Basic Concepts Chapter 1, Introduction [1] Chapter 2, The Nature of Science [2] Chapter 16, Research Ethics [3]
Feb 13	CUNY closed
Feb 21*	Elements of Research Design Chapter 3 [4] * Note this is a Tuesday that follows Monday's class schedule
Feb 27	Issues in Social Measurement Chapter 4 [5]
March 5	Population Sampling Chapter 5 [6]

March 12	Theory and Practice of Experimental Research Chapters 6 and 7 [7 & 8]
March 19	Survey Research Methodology I Chapter 8 [9]
March 26	Survey Research Methodology II Chapter 9 [10]
April 2	Evaluative Quiz #1
April 9	Spring Break
April 16	Field Research and Research Using Publicly Available Data Chapters 10-11 [11 & 12]
April 23	Integration of Research using Multiple Methodologies Chapter 12 [13]
April 30	Evaluation Research Chapter 13 [14]
May 7-14	Advanced Data Analysis Chapter 14-15 [15 & 16]
Exam Week	Evaluative Quiz #2