

SOC 3620 Research Methods for Collecting Social Data Spring 2013

Section 1: Tuesday & Thursday 2:00 -3:15 p.m. Blair Hall 2103
Section 2: Tuesday & Thursday 11:00 a.m. -12:15 p.m. Blair Hall 2103
Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Eastern Illinois University

Professor: Dr. William E. Lovekamp
Office Phone: 581-6217
E-mail: welovekamp@eiu.edu

Office: Blair Hall 3151
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday
9:30-11 and 1-2 or by appt.

Required Texts:

Babbie, Earl. 2011. *The Basics of Social Research*. 5th Ed, Wadsworth.
Wysocki, Diane Kholos. 2008. *Readings in Social Research Methods*. 3rd Ed, Wadsworth.
Schmidt, Judy H., Michael K. Hooper & Diane Kholos Wysocki. 2003. *6 Steps to Effective Writing in Sociology*. Wadsworth.

Course Description & Objectives: In this course, you are introduced to a variety of research methods in the social sciences including the use of the library, techniques of observation, elementary steps in quantitative & qualitative measurements & analyses, & must understand the utility of such methods. I use lecture, guided discussion and in-class working groups to enhance your comprehension of the assigned readings & require you to work through a variety of assignments with your colleagues and individually to practice your research skills during the semester. By the end of the course you should be able to:

1. understand a variety of qualitative & quantitative social research methods & demonstrate that you understand the strengths & weaknesses of each.
2. explain the connection between theory & research & show evidence of this in your writing.
3. explain the techniques of collecting, analyzing, & presenting results of research.
4. contemplate ethical concerns in scientific research & practice within these guidelines.

Course Etiquette:

Collegiality - You are expected to respect the viewpoints expressed by others. If you disagree with what someone has said, you are encouraged to express your disagreement but are expected to do so in a civil, respectful, & polite manner. Failure to comply will result in course dismissal.

Attendance/Participation – I record attendance daily. You are expected to attend class daily and participate fully. You will obviously miss critical information if you have excessive absences and this will be reflected in your exam and homework grades. Also, walking into class late is disrespectful to both your professor & your colleagues & will not be tolerated.

Readings - I write each lecture with the expectation that you have completed the assigned readings for the day. We will use class time to discuss & build on the readings. Reading is required to participate in class and for successful completion of this course.

Cell Phones/Texting/Technology - **NOT ALLOWED! Turn off or silence all cell phones** before entering class & **DO NOT use them for texting** during class or you will be asked to leave. You **may NOT use laptops or tape recorders** in class without appropriate approval.

Plagiarism/Cheating - Plagiarism is the use, without adequate attribution, of another person's words or thoughts as if they were your own. **You will automatically fail the course if you submit any work that shows evidence of plagiarism or cheating** & documentation will be filed with the Office of Student Standards as a violation of the student code of conduct.

Communication - I am always available to meet with you to discuss grades, lecture, exams or other the course matters. Please make use of my posted office hours, call my office phone, or use email to schedule appointments. If you use email, please be professional and follow standard email guidelines. 1) Put the course # in the subject line (SOC 3620), 2) include greeting (Dr. or Professor Lovekamp), 3) use standard English, write in complete sentences, avoid abbreviations and text slang (TTYL, LOL), 4) and end with a signature (your full name).

Course Evaluation:

Course Exams (2)	200 pts.	A=(100-90%) 500-450
Final Exam	100 pts.	B= (89-80%) 449-400
Field Assignments	200 pts.	C= (79-70%) 399-350
<u>TOTAL</u>	500 pts.	D= (69-60%) 349-300
		F= (0-59%) 299 or below

Homework: You will complete 8 field assignments that are either Wysocki readings response papers or assignments where you will conduct research ‘in the field’ demonstrating that you have mastered the various research methods we discuss. If I suspect that you are not keeping up with the readings, unannounced quizzes will replace the field assignments. To reduce our carbon footprint and as a cost savings measure to you, you are required to submit all homework assignments through Desire2Learn “eiu online (d2l)”. You will NOT submit printed copies of assignments in class. If you fail to submit a homework assignment by the due time and date, you will have **24 hours** to submit the work late. **All grades for late homework will be reduced by 20%.**

Desire2Learn: You are required to use d2l for this course. Your User ID is your E-mail User ID. Once you successfully log in, our class will be listed as *SOC-3620-001 or 002-Research Methods*. Click the link to our course. There you will find links to the syllabus, assignments, grades, ASA style guide, additional handouts & websites of interest.

Exams: You will have three exams that may consist of a combination of multiple choice, short answer & essay questions. You will be required to draw upon your readings, lectures, class discussions, video’s, etc. to answer the questions. Exams cannot be made up. If you miss an exam on the scheduled day you will receive a zero for the assignment. Any deviation in this policy must be in accordance with EIU Internal Governing Policy 43.

Disabilities Statement Students with documented disabilities are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) if they wish to discuss any necessary academic accommodations.

Medical Emergency Statement For medical emergencies, go to the nearest phone & call 911. All faculty offices have telephones & during normal business hours (8-12 & 1-4:30), the Sociology Office (Blair 3170) is open. Be sure to state the floor & room number of the emergency to the 911 operator. If possible, someone should go to the central entrance of Blair Hall to direct EMS personnel to the medical emergency scene. If the medical emergency is on the second or third floor, someone else should hold the elevator on the first floor for EMS use.

Tornado Statement In case of a tornado warning, proceed to the center of the hallway on the first floor, near the posted severe weather signs. Under no circumstances should you attempt to leave the building.

Building Fire Statement In case of fire, activate the fire alarm & exit the building. When a fire alarm sounds, everyone must exit the building & cannot re-enter the building until allowed by the building coordinator or fire department official. Fire alarms are located at the north & south ends of the corridors just inside the fire doors. The closest exits for all classrooms in Blair are on the north & south ends of the building. Under no circumstance should the elevator be used. Group assembly areas for all classes in Blair are either on the patio area between Blair & Old Main or on the southeast corner of the North Quad. As you exit the building, continue moving well away from the exits so that you do not impede the egress of other students or the work of fire officials. Move a safe distance away from the building.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	LECTURE TOPIC	READINGS	ASSN DUE DATE
1/8,10	Research In Sociology	Babbie Ch 1 Wysocki #1 (1-16)	
1/15,17	Theory	Babbie Ch 2 Wysocki #3 (17-30)	FA 1-Wysocki 3(1,2,3) Due 1/17 (15 pts)
1/22,24	Research Design	Babbie Ch 4 Wysocki #8 & 9 (61-64,74-80)	FA 2-Wysocki 9(1,2,3) Due 1/24 (15 pts)
1/29,31	Research Ethics	Babbie Ch 3 Wysocki #7 (41-45,58-60)	FA 3 – Wysocki 7(1,2,3) Due 1/31 (15 pts)
2/5,7			EXAM 1- 2/7 (Ch. 1-4)
2/12,14	Measurement	Babbie Ch 5	FA 4- Research Inquiry Due 2/14 (20 pts)
2/19,21	Indexes & Scales	Babbie Ch 6	
2/26,28	Sampling	Babbie Ch 7 Wysocki #14 (117-129)	FA 5- Wysocki 14(1,2,3) Due 2/28 (15 pts)
3/5,7	Survey Research	Babbie Ch 9	FA 6-Survey Article Review Due 3/7 (30 pts)
3/19,21			EXAM 2-3/21 (Ch. 5,6,7,9)
3/26,28	Quantitative Analysis	Babbie Ch 14	
4/2,4	Field Research	Babbie Ch 10	FA 7-Quant Analysis Due 4/2 (30 pts)
4/9,11	Qualitative Analysis	Babbie Ch 13	FA 8-Qualitative Article Review Due 4/9 (30 pts)
4/16,18	Qual Analysis (cont'd) Unobtrusive Research	Babbie Ch 11	FA 9-Qual Analysis Due 4/16 (30 pts)
4/23,25	Unobtrusive Research		
S-1:5/2 S-2:4/30	Thursday 10:15–12:15 Tuesday 2:45–4:45	Blair 2103	FINAL EXAM

1/18/12 deadline to drop course with no grade; 3/29/12 deadline to withdraw from course with W.

**This class is also offered as an honors course (SOC 3692) & fulfills a requirement for the departmental honors program. You must be accepted into the honors program to enroll in SOC 3692.

**This syllabus serves as a contract between the student & instructor. The student is responsible for all information & any changes the instructor makes will be announced in class.