

SOC 3620**Research Methods for Collecting Social Data****Fall 2017**

Section 1: Tuesday & Thursday 11:00 - 12:15 p.m. Blair Hall 2165

Section 2: Tuesday & Thursday 9:30 - 10:45 a.m. Blair Hall 2165

Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Eastern Illinois University

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Office Hours: T & Th 2:00-2:30;

W 10-12, 1-2 pm or by appt.

Required Text: Babbie, Earl. 2015. *The Basics of Social Research*. 6th Ed, Wadsworth.

Course Description & Objectives: You are introduced to a variety of research methods in the social sciences including the use of the library, techniques of observation, and basic steps in quantitative & qualitative analysis. I use lecture, guided discussion and in-class work to enhance your comprehension of the course content. 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 Guidelines:

1. ***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.
2. ***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.
3. ***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.
4. ***Cell Phones/Texting/Technology*** - **NOT ALLOWED! Turn off or silence all cell phones** before entering class & **DO NOT use them for texting** during class. If I see someone texting, the entire class will have a pop quiz. You also **may NOT use laptops or tape recorders** in class.
5. ***Academic Integrity*** – Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards. **You will automatically fail the course if you submit any work that violates these principles.**
6. ***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).
7. ***Homework*** – You will complete 12 homework assignments that are either homework from the companion textbook website (Homework 1-7 with links available in the weekly D2L class

folders) or assignments where you will conduct research 'in the field' (Homework 8-12 which are available in the D2L dropbox with full instructions). 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. Since all homework is available well in advance of the due date, late work is simply not accepted. This means you must plan well and plan early to complete the work. All homework is due at 9am! Of course, you can always submit assignments early.

8. **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.

Course Evaluation:

Course Exams (2)	120 pts.	A=(100-90%) 400-360
Final Exam	78 pts.	B= (89-80%) 359-320
Field Assignments	202 pts.	C= (79-70%) 319-280
TOTAL	400 pts.	D= (69-60%) 279-240
		F= (0-59%) 239 or below

Students with Disabilities Statement: If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

Student Success Center Statement: If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

Medical Emergency Statement: For medical emergencies, go to the nearest phone & call 911. All Sociology/Anthropology 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 emergency is on the 2nd/3rd 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.

WEEK	LECTURE TOPIC	READINGS SCHEDULE	ASSN DUE DATE
8/22,24	Research In Sociology	Babbie Ch 1	
8/29,31	Theory	Babbie Ch 2	# 1 Due 8/29 (12 pts) # 2 Due 8/31 (14 pts)
9/5,7	Research Ethics	Babbie Ch 3	# 3 Due 9/7 (13 pts)
9/12,14	Research Design	Babbie Ch 4	# 4 Due 9/14 (9 pts)
9/19,21			EXAM 1- 9/21 (60 pts) (Ch. 1-4)
9/26,28	Measurement	Babbie Ch 5	# 5 Due 9/28 (9 pts)
10/3,5	Indexes & Scales	Babbie Ch 6	
10/10,12	Sampling	Babbie Ch 7	# 6 Due 10/10 (13 pts)
10/17,19			# 7 Due 10/17 (18 pts) EXAM 2-10/19 (60 pts) (Ch. 5-7)
10/24,26	Survey Research	Babbie Ch 9	# 8 Research Inquiry Due 10/24 (14 pts)
10/31,11/2	Survey Research		# 9 Article Review 1 Due 11/2 (20 pts)
11/7,9	Quantitative Analysis	Babbie Ch 14	#10 Research Project 1 Due 11/7 (30 pts)
11/14,16	Field Research	Babbie Ch 10	
11/28,30	Qualitative Analysis	Babbie Ch 13	#11 Article Review 2 Due 11/28 (20 pts)
12/5,7	Qualitative Analysis and Course wrap up		#12 Research Project 2 Due 12/5 (30 pts)
S-1: 12/11 S-2: 12/13	Monday 10:15-12:15 Wednesday 8-10:00	Blair 2165 Blair 2165	FINAL EXAM (78 pts)

- 9/1/17 deadline to withdraw from course w/ no grade; 11/3/17 deadline to withdraw from course w/ W.
- This class is also offered as an honors course (SOC 3692) & fulfills a requirement for the department 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 contained within this syllabus. Any changes the professor makes will be announced in class.