

Sociological MethodsCourse Description:

An examination of major methods of sociological research. Topics include theory construction and hypothesis testing, conceptualization and measurement, causation and research design, sampling, survey research, comparative and historical research, participant observation, visual sociology, qualitative analysis, and experimental research. We will analyze data from the General Social Survey using the SPSS statistical package. Class projects include a choice between analyzing the General Social Survey, doing a visual sociology project with photography, or conducting interviews about people's experience in the time of the Coronavirus. In Spring 2021, this class will be held live, remotely online on Zoom, due to the Covid pandemic.

Course Requirements:

The course will consist of lectures, discussion, computer exercises, and a final report in one of three formats: quantitative analysis of the GSS survey, a qualitative analysis of photos, or a qualitative analysis of Covid interviews.

1. Read the assignments in the texts: Russell Schutt, Investigating the Social World, 9th edition (Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press, 2018, ISBN-13 : 978-1506361192), and Joseph Healey, John Boli, Earl Babbie, and Fred Halley, Exploring Social Issues, 3rd edition (Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press; 2009; ISBN-10: 1412964210).
2. Regular attendance at lectures. In-class quizzes will account for up to 10% of the grade.
3. Completion of assigned exercises.
4. A mid-term exam and a final exam on Moodle.
5. A final project: a choice between analyzing the General Social Survey, doing a visual sociology project with photography, or conducting interviews for a research project on Covid-19.
6. Any other assignments to be announced in class and/or on the class website: <http://www.fweil.com/s2211/>.

More details on the assignments and various updates to the syllabus and/or scheduling information will be posted on the class website: <http://www.fweil.com/s2211/>. Students are responsible for staying informed of that information. My lecture notes and other helpful materials are available on my website. The lecture notes are optional, but attendance at lectures is still required.

Although the Covid-19 Pandemic makes it necessary to conduct our class remotely, by Zoom, Moodle, and websites, our goal is to make the class approximate an in-person experience as much as can be achieved. One thing this means is that the class will be held “synchronously,” which is to say, live.

All students must keep the instructor informed of the screen names or phone numbers used to sign into the Zoom sessions, including multiple names and phone numbers, in the event you join Zoom through a variety of means. We will use this information partly to recognize you online, and also partly to give you credit for attendance. If you don't provide us with this information, you might not get credit for classes you attend.

Normal university-approved excuses will be accepted, work can be made up, and the instructor is happy to help students understand material they missed in excused absences. If you experience technical difficulties connecting remotely, make sure to inform the instructor, and we will make the best accommodations we are able. Any disability accommodations will be handled according to guidelines established by the Office of Disabilities. In addition to the formal disability notifications, the instructor is happy to help work with you according to your needs.

If you miss a class for one of the approved reasons listed above, please take the steps you would ordinarily take if this were a regular in-person class. You can ask for notes from another student in the class, and you can request a Zoom meeting with the instructor. In addition, I will record the Zoom lectures and will give you access if you have an excused absence. I will not make these recordings generally available, in order to encourage class attendance and participation. Unexcused absences will be counted against attendance numbers. We are in a situation not of our choosing, and this is my best attempt at finding a fair balance, while encouraging class participation.

All students are required to leave their computer/device cameras on during our Zoom sessions, and everyone should remain muted unless you want to speak. If technical difficulties prevent you from doing this, say, due to a weak internet connection, you must inform the instructor and request an exemption prior to the day of class. Students are strongly encouraged to use devices like computers rather than mobile devices because they can handle certain technical situations better. For instance, during in-class quizzes, students will need to keep their Zoom link open and at the same time take a short (5-10 minute) quiz on Moodle. This may be difficult on mobile devices. Please try to avoid communicating with me during class via the chat

function, because it's hard for me to monitor the chat while presenting. You can direct a chat to the teaching assistant, Sara Brown, when she's there. Or you can unmute yourself and say you have a question. Students are also strongly urged not to drive while in class, and there may be point penalties for doing so. We cannot encourage dangerous behavior!

Grade Weights:

40% Class Project
 30% Homework & Quizzes
 15% Midterm Exam
 15% Final Exam

Grade Scale:

97-100	A+
93-96	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
Below 60	F

Note: A higher grade begins at the exact number. For instance, an A is 93.00 to 96.99, and an A- is 90.00 to 92.99.

LSU catalog course description:

SOCL 2211 Methods of Sociological Research (3)

Prereq.: SOCL 2001 and SOCL 2201 or equivalent. Open to sociology majors; open to others with permission of instructor. Scientific methods and their application in sociological research, including problem selection, research design, measurement, data sources and evaluation of data.

Standard LSU Statements (as of 8/1/2020):

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

It is important to attend class regularly and keep up with the assigned readings. Please utilize office hours if you have any questions about the course material, your standing in the course, or other related matters.

LSU policy states that for each credit hour, students should plan to spend at least two hours working on course related activities outside of class. Since this course is for three credit hours, you should expect to spend a **minimum of six hours outside of class each week** working on assignments for this course. More information on this expectation can be found [here](#).

ABSENCES AND MAKE-UPS

Class attendance is the responsibility of the student. Students are expected to attend all classes. A student who finds it necessary to miss class assumes responsibility for making up examinations, obtaining lecture notes, and otherwise compensating for what may have been missed. The course instructor determines the validity of a student's reason(s) for absences and will assist those students who have valid reasons as outlined in [LSU Policy Statement 22](#).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All LSU students are responsible for observing high standards of academic integrity. The [LSU Student Code of Conduct](#) explains student rights, excused absences, and what is expected of student behavior. Students are expected to understand this code. Any violations will be reported to the Dean of Students.

ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

LSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. The syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. If you have a disability

that may have some impact on your work in this class, please visit [Disability Services](#) so that such accommodations can be considered. Students who receive accommodation letters should meet with their instructor to discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

The primary ingredients for your academic success are attending class, managing your time efficiently, taking good notes, and developing your critical thinking and communication abilities. LSU has a number of excellent resources that can assist you in developing these skills. The [Center for Academic Success](#) offers guidance on what learning strategies are best suited to your talents, tutoring, and workshops on a variety of topics. [Communication Across the Curriculum](#) assists students in developing the communication skills necessary for academic and professional success. Finally, the [Olinde Career Center](#) can assist you in choosing a major and a profession that best suits your talents and develop a career plan to ensure success when you graduate from LSU.

COVID-19 STATEMENT

We remain under pandemic conditions and expect to be in this state for the entire semester. In order to consistently provide the highest quality LSU education, all students should follow current LSU guidelines. These include the following:

1. If you have any signs of illness, do not come to class.
2. The University requires everyone to wear facemasks/cloths on campus. Failure to do so is a violation of the code of student conduct.
3. Wash hands with soap and water or clean with sanitizer frequently, and refrain from touching your face.
4. If you cough or sneeze unexpectedly, please

be mindful of others nearby and cough or sneeze into your elbow or shield yourself the best you can.

5. If you have been exposed to others who have tested positive for COVID-19, self-quarantine consistent with current CDC guidelines.

Daily Symptom Checker

You are required to respond to a daily symptom check request sent via email or text message each morning. Completing the symptom checker will take approximately one to two minutes. Once you have provided information about your symptoms, you will be given feedback on whether or not you are certified to return to campus and attend your classes. Additionally, if you test positive for COVID-19, you are required to report it in your daily symptom checker application.

Resources for Students

If you are feeling ill or overwhelmed with anxiety, please contact the [LSU Student Health Center](#) for medical advice and mental health support. General health care and mental health support are available for all enrolled students through telehealth appointments.

Unexpected Changes to Courses

Due to the unpredictable nature of the situation, the format of the course and/or requirements may be forced to change, and if this is the case students will be given appropriate notification.

Sociological Methods, Spring 2021

(Note: Details and updates will be given on the class website)

Week	Computer Lab Exercises from Healey	Class Projects	Lecture/Reading in Schutt
1/11	Introduction to the course & website	Introduction to the Covid project	Introduction to Photographic Sociology
1/18	ML King Day	Using SPSS & datasets	Theory construction & hypothesis testing; ch. 1-3
1/25	Religiosity: ch. 4	Finding questions on the GSS	Census assign
2/1	Attitudes toward abortion: ch. 5	Questionnaire development	Conceptualization and measurement; ch. 4
2/8	Crime: ch. 7	Questionnaire development	Causation and research design; ch. 6
2/15	Inequality and gender: ch. 9	Finalize Questionnaire; Intro to Photos	Sampling; ch. 5
2/22	Inequality and race: ch. 10	5 photos presentation (1st set)	Survey research; ch 8
3/1	Review for Mid-term exam	Mid-term exam	Comparative and historical research; ch. 15
3/8	The Family: ch. 11	5 photos presentation (2nd set)	Mid-semester Break
3/15	Voting: ch. 12	Photo project discussion	Ethnography; Schutt ch. 10
3/22	Intro to Covid Interviewing	Practice Covid Interviewing	March Break
3/29	Project Prep	Discussion of Covid Interviewing	Good Friday Holiday
4/5	Project Prep	Discussion of Covid Interviewing	Content Analysis; ch. 11
4/12	Project Prep	Discussion of Project progress	Experimental research; ch. 7 (ch. 12, 14, 16 on your own)
4/19	Project Presentations	Project Presentations	Project Presentations; Reports due
Saturday, May 1, 10:00am - 12:00N Final Exam			