

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 make extensive use of the department's computer lab (102 Stubbs Hall) and will hold our classes there. 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 or doing a visual sociology project with photography.

Course Requirements:

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

1. Read the assignments in the texts: Russell Schutt, Investigating the Social World, 8th edition (Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press, 2014, ISBN-13 978-1483350677), 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. There may be several unannounced quizzes that account for up to 10% of the grade.
3. Completion of assigned exercises.
4. A mid-term exam and a final exam.
5. A final project: a choice between analyzing the General Social Survey or doing a visual sociology project with photography.
6. Any other assignments to be announced in class and/or on the website.

More details on the assignments and various course materials are available on the class website: <http://www.fweil.com/s2211/>. There will be updates of assignments, listings of data sources, survey results, press clippings, and other useful materials. Students are responsible for staying informed of that information.

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.

Sociology 2211: Sociological Methods

Spring 2017

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

Week	Computer Lab Exercises from Healey	Baton Rouge Survey	Lecture/Reading in Schutt
1/9		Introduction to the course	General introduction to the computer lab & web site
1/16	No class (ML King Day)	Using SPSS & datasets	Census assignment
1/23	Religiosity: ch. 4	Questionnaire development	Theory construction & hypothesis testing; ch. 1-3
1/30	Attitudes toward abortion: ch. 5	Questionnaire development	Conceptualization and measurement; ch. 4
2/6	Crime: ch. 7	Finalize Questionnaire	Causation and research design; ch. 6
2/13	Inequality and gender: ch. 9	Visual Sociology (Photos)	Sampling; ch. 5
2/20	Inequality and race: ch. 10	Visual Sociology (Photos)	Survey research; ch 8
2/27	No class (Mardi Gras)	No class (Mardi Gras)	Comparative and historical research; ch. 13
3/6	Review for Mid-term exam	Mid-term exam	GENESYS quiz
3/13	The Family: ch. 11	Project Prep	Ethnography; Schutt ch. 10
3/20	Voting: ch. 12	Project Prep	Content Analysis; ch. 11
3/27	First progress report on final report	Project Prep	Experimental research; ch. 7
4/3	Project Prep	Project Prep	Ch. 14-16
4/10	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break
4/17	Second progress report on final report	Project Prep	Project Prep
4/24	Project Presentations	Project Presentations	Reports due