

Sociology 2211

Frederick D. Weil
Stubbs 17C
578-1140Sociological 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, ethnography and 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 interpreting interviews about people's experience in the time of the Coronavirus.

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, 10th edition (Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press , 2022, ISBN: 9781071817087), and Joseph Healey, John Boli, Earl Babbie, and Fred Halley, Exploring Social Issues, 3rd edition (Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press; 2009; ISBN: 1412964210).
2. Regular attendance at lectures.
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 interpreting 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 the class website. The lecture notes are optional, but attendance at lectures is still required.

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. Any disability accommodations will be honored 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.

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.

Standard LSU Statements (as of 8/22/2022):

See <https://www.lsu.edu/academicaffairs/syllabus-statements/index.php>

Expectations

LSU's general policy states that for each credit hour, you (the student) 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. [Visit the LSU Catalog](#) for more information regarding general information for courses.

LSU Student Code of Conduct

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 as described on the [Code of Conduct page](#). Any violations of the LSU student code will be duly reported to the Dean of Students.

Disabilities

Louisiana State University 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 and for which you may require accommodations, please see a [staff member in Disability Services](#) so that such accommodations can be considered. Students that receive accommodation letters, please meet with me to discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible.

Academic Success

The primary ingredients of your academic success are attending class, managing your time efficiently, taking good notes, and developing good critical thinking and communication abilities. LSU has a number of excellent resources that will assist you in developing these skills. The place to begin is the [Center for Academic Success](#) (CAS). The CAS

offers guidance on what learning strategies are best suited to your talents, tutoring in the basic subjects, and workshops on a variety of topics, from note taking to time management. [Communication Across the Curriculum](#) assist students in developing the communication skills necessary for academic and professional success. Finally, with respect to professional success, the [LSU Olinde Career Center](#) can assist you in choosing a major and a profession that best suits your talents and passions and help you develop a four year career plan to ensure success when you graduate from LSU.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Statement

We believe diversity, equity, and inclusion enrich the educational experience of our students, faculty, and staff, and are necessary to prepare all people to thrive personally and professionally in a global society. Therefore, LSU is firmly committed to an environment that affords respect to all members of our community. We will work to eliminate barriers that any members of our community experience.

To make LSU a place where that can happen, we must recognize and reflect on the inglorious aspects of our history. We now acknowledge the need to confront the ways racism, sexism, ableism, ageism, classism, LGBTQ+ phobia, intolerance based on religion or on national origin, and all forms of bias and exploitation have shaped our everyday lives.

We accept personal and professional responsibility to eliminate bias and oppression wherever they are found. We understand our obligation to speak up when we see bias whether it be in our teaching, study, or daily work. Our community will educate themselves proactively and continuously about how to intervene and bring bias to the attention of others with commitment and compassion.

We will hold ourselves accountable for our actions and inactions, and for maintaining intentional, measurable, and meaningful efforts to enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion, including through

ongoing evaluation of our policies, practices, and procedures.

Nondiscrimination, Sexual Harassment, & Title IX

LSU provides equal opportunity for all qualified persons in admission to, participation in, or employment in the programs and activities which the university operates without regard to race, creed, color, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, sex, national origin, age, mental or physical disability, or veteran's status. LSU has implemented a procedure to address complaints for those who believe they have been subjected to discrimination and/or harassment in violation of this policy. Please know that your instructors are here to support you and listen to your experience. We also want you to know that we are mandatory reporters and must report what we know to the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX. All LSU employees, with few exceptions, are required to report instances of sex- or gender-based harassment and discrimination, including sexual misconduct and power-based violence (e.g., sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual exploitation, retaliation, etc.) for which they may not be the victim, but of which they are aware. The Office of Civil Rights & Title IX is the LSU office responsible for investigating complaints regarding any type of discrimination, sexual harassment, or power-based violence. The Office of Civil Rights & Title IX is located in 118 Himes Hall and the phone number is (225) 578-9000. If you are aware of an

individual who has been victimized, you are encouraged to contact the Office of Civil Rights & Title IX or file an online report by visiting [LSU's Domestic & Sexual Violence Support and Reporting](#) website and clicking the [Report an Incident](#) box. If you have been assaulted, harassed, or a victim of violence, we encourage you to contact the Office of Civil Rights & Title IX. Please reach out for help immediately. Some excellent resources available to Baton Rouge residents include:

- STAR (Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response; 24/7 hotline: (855) 435-STAR (7827)
- IRIS Domestic Violence Center; 24/7 hotline: (800) 541-9706
- The Lighthouse Program; (225) 578-5718
- VIA LINK; (800) 273-TALK (8255) [national line but answered from New Orleans]

National resources include:

- RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network); 24/7 hotline: (800) 656-4673
- National Sexual Violence Resource Center

For additional information, visit www.lsu.edu/civil-rights the [Office of Civil Rights & Title IX](#) and review [PM-73](#) (Prohibiting Power-based Violence, including Sex- and Gender-based Harassment and Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct).

Sociological Methods, Spring 2023

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

Week	Exercises from Healey	Class Projects	Lecture/Reading in Schutt
1/16	ML King Day	Introduction to the course & website	Introduction to the Covid project
1/23	Introduction to Photographic Sociology	Using SPSS & datasets	Theory construction & hypothesis testing; ch. 1-3
1/30	Religiosity: ch. 4	Finding questions on the GSS	Census assgn
2/6	Attitudes toward abortion: ch. 5	Questionnaire development	Conceptualization and measurement; ch. 4
2/13	Crime: ch. 7	Questionnaire development	Sampling; ch. 5
2/20	Mardi Gras	Mardi Gras	Causation and research design; ch. 6
2/27	Inequality and gender: ch. 9	5 photos presentation (1st set)	Survey research; ch 8
3/6	Review for Mid-term exam	Mid-term exam	Qualitative Methods; Schutt ch. 10
3/13	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break
3/20	Inequality and race: ch. 10	Intro to Analyzing Covid Interviews	Qualitative Data Analysis; ch. 11
3/27	The Family: ch. 11	Discussion of Covid Themes 1	Comparative and historical research; ch. 15
4/3	Intro to Quantifying Covid lvs	Discussion of Covid Themes 2	Good Friday Holiday
4/10	Voting: ch. 12	Discussion of Covid Quantification 1	Experimental research; ch. 7
4/17	Project Prep	Discussion of Covid Quantification 2	Read ch. 12, 14, 16 on your own
4/24	Project Prep	Project Prep	Project Prep
5/1	Project Presentations	Project Presentations	Project Presentations; Reports due
Friday, May 12, 5:30-7:30pm Final Exam			