We share a desire to do something meaningful. . . . But doing so requires a base of evidence beyond our own personal knowledge and experience—evidence about how things really are, and evidence about how to make things better.

Remler and Van Ryzin, 2015

Instructor: Saul Cohn, Ph.D.
Office Location: DMH 237A
Email: saul.cohn@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: TuTh, 10:30-11:30am
Th, 5:45-7:00pm
Phone: 408.924.5338
Class Days/Time: TuTh, 12:00-1:15pm
Classroom: DMH 226A
Prerequisites: SOCI 101, SOCI 15, or SOCI 102, upper division standing

Course Description
This course is designed to provide a basic understanding of quantitative research methods. Quantitative research primarily involves the use of surveys, sampling, and the analysis of numerical data to draw conclusions about larger populations. This course will introduce you to survey research design, hypothesis formulation, questionnaire and interview design, scaling, sampling, data preparation, and SPSS analysis. Students will gain first-hand experience through participation in a class survey research project and the completion of an individual research report.
Course Objectives for Quantitative Research Methods

By the end of the semester students will have the ability to do the following:

1) Discover the uses of quantitative methods in the social sciences.
2) Explore the steps in conducting survey research methods.
3) Gain hands-on experience with the following: collecting quantitative data; designing and conducting a group survey research project; and using basic data analysis techniques in SPSS.
4) Explore ways in which quantitative data is analyzed, evaluated, presented, and disseminated.

Course Website/Canvas: https://www.sjsu.instructure.com

Required Texts/Readings

Previous editions are NOT acceptable.

Other Readings (Recommended)

The Casio Fx-260 is required for practice problems and exams. Please note that cell phones or other texting devices may not be used on tests.

Other equipment / material requirements

SPSS v.22 (available for $15 at the University Help Desk on the first floor of Clark Hall. Cash/check only- bring Tower ID). A Binder

Course Requirements

Readings: Reading assignments should be completed before class and students should be prepared to discuss the readings per upper-division standing.

Exams: Two exams are scheduled for this course: a midterm and a final. Exams may include true/false, multiple choice, short answer, and essay-type questions.

Survey: Students learn the following skills: conceptualizing and operationalizing variables, developing a questionnaire, interviewing research subjects, creating

1 We shall refer to our text as “RMP”.
a codebook, and setting up and entering data into an SPSS database.

**SPSS Assignments:** Students will complete and maintain a portfolio of SPSS assignments. In all there will be seven assignments. These, although a small portion of your overall grade, are important to prepare you for the SPSS Report.

**SPSS Report:** At the end of the semester students will put together a brief, albeit intensive, research report. Students will apply many of the skills learned throughout the class.

**Attendance:** Attendance is important to successfully complete this course. Material covered during lecture will not necessarily duplicate what is covered in course readings. Students are strongly encouraged to attend class and actively participate in discussions.

**Grading Criteria and Final Grades**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (2)</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPSS Assignments</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPSS Report</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All assignments will be given point scores. These scores will be turned into percentages and weighted according to the table below to average your course grade. The course percentages will be assigned a letter grade as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>98-100%</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91-97%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88-89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81-87%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78-79%</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>71-77%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70%</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68-69%</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61-67%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60%</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Classroom Protocol

1. Come to class prepared. This means having all the tools you need to participate (books, notebooks, writing utensils, and so on) as well having completed the readings and/or assignments.

2. Do not plan to use class time to read, surf the Internet, chat with friends, or do work for other courses. Mentally “checking out” of class in this way will make it difficult to do well in the course and will be disruptive.

3. Please be sure cell phones are silenced and put away before class begins. I ask that you refrain from checking them during class. If you have urgent business that requires you to be available to text/email during class time, please do not come to class. No matter how innocent your use, cell phones are distracting to you, your peers, and me.

4. I strongly discourage you from using laptops to take notes during class. They are distracting and I know, from experience, that the temptation to check your email or browse Facebook, Reddit, and other sites is strong. Again, if you have other business (including work for other classes) that you need to attend to, please do not come to class. During times that laptops are required for coursework, I ask that you refrain from using them for any other purpose.

5. Be courteous to your peers. We are here to learn from each other. It is difficult to learn from others when they are rolling their eyes at you, yelling at you, ignoring you, or engaging in other disruptive behaviors. Disrespectful behaviors such as these will not be tolerated in the classroom.
Honor Statement

The final SPSS report (20% of final grade) must include a cover page with a signed honor statement. The honor statement indicates to me that you have completed your work without assistance from anyone and that the assignment was specifically completed for this class. Failure to include this will result in your assignment not being graded. Following is an example of the honor statement that must accompany the SPSS report:

The work that I am submitting was completed by me without the aid of anyone else using only sources that I specifically cite in my reference page(s). This assignment was prepared specifically for the FALL 2014 session of Soci 104.

Your signature then follows.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies section at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic calendar web page located at http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/. The Late Drop Policy is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.

University Policies

Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University’s Academic Integrity policy, located at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/ to establish a record of their disability.
Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

Learning Assistance Resource Center

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to inspire them to become independent learners. The Center's tutors are trained and nationally certified by the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA). They provide content-based tutoring in many lower division courses (some upper division) as well as writing and study skills assistance. Small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring are available. Please visit the LARC website for more information at http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The Writing Center website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/.

Peer Mentor Center

The Peer Mentor Center is located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall in the Academic Success Center. The Peer Mentor Center is staffed with Peer Mentors who excel in helping students manage university life, tackling problems that range from academic challenges to interpersonal struggles. On the road to graduation, Peer Mentors are navigators, offering “roadside assistance” to peers who feel a bit lost or simply need help mapping out the locations of campus resources. Peer Mentor services are free and available on a drop-in basis, no reservation required. The Peer Mentor Center website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/

Course Outline

**Week 1** (08/26- 08/28) Course Introduction; Ch. 1: Research in the Real World In-class: “Quantitative versus Qualitative Research”

**Week 2** (09/02; 09/04) Ch. 2: Theories, Models, and Research Questions In-class: Constructing Logic Models and “Research Hypotheses, Purposes, and Questions” worksheet
**Week 3** (09/09; 09/11) Ch. 4: Measurement; **SPSS EX1 Due (Sep. 11th)**
In-class: “Introduction to Validity” & “Judgmental Validity”

**Week 4** (09/16; 09/18) Ch. 5: Sampling **SPSS EX2 Due (Sep. 18th)**
In-class: “Simple Random and Systematic Sampling”

**Week 5** (09/23; 09/25) Ch. 6: Secondary Data **SPSS EX3 Due (Sep. 25th)**

**Week 6** (09/30; 10/02) Ch. 7: Surveys and Other Primary Data

**Week 7** (10/07; 10/09) Statistics Overview: Unleashing the Power of Data (Canvas ppts); Review Midterm; **SPSS EX4 Due (Oct. 9th)**

**Week 8** (10/14; 10/16) Ch. 8: Making Sense of the Numbers
In-Class: “Scales of Measurement” **Midterm (10/16)**

**Week 9** (10/21; 10/23) Ch. 9: Making Sense of Inferential Statistics
In-Class: Empirical Rule, standard errors, and estimating intervals
**SPSS EX5 Due (Oct. 23rd)**

**Week 10** (10/28;10/30) Ch. 10 pp. 313–36; Making Sense of Multivariate Statistics; **Review Instructions for Survey Research**

**Week 11** (11/04/11/06) Ch. 11 Causation **SPSS EX6 Due (Nov. 6th)**

**Week 12** (11/11;11/13) Ch. 12 Observational Studies **Survey Ex 1 Due**

**Week 13** (11/18;11/20) Ch. 16 The Politics, Production, and Ethics of Research “Ethical Considerations in Research” Ch. 17 How to Find, Review, and Present Research **SPSS EX7 Due**

**Week 14** (11/25) **Survey Ex 2 Due** Review Instructions for SPSS Report

**Week 15** (12/02;12/04) Work on SPSS report

**Week 16** (12/09) **SPSS Report Due**

**Week 17 Dec 18th** Final **Examination: 0945–1200**

*This outline provides a tentative schedule. We may find it necessary or beneficial to change the course outline from time to time.*