San José State University
Quantitative Research Methods
SOCI 104 Section 2 Fall 2015

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Megan Holston-Alexander
Office Location: DMH 161
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Email: Megan.holston@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays 5:00 – 6:00pm
Class Days/Time: Tuesdays 6:00 – 8:45pm
Classroom: DMH 161
Prerequisites: SOCI 001, SOCI 015 (or SOCI 102), and SOCI 100W

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on my faculty web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/people/firstname.lastname and/or on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates.

Course Description

Quantitative research methods including survey research design, hypothesis formulation, questionnaire and interview design, scaling, sampling and data preparation and SPSS analysis. Completion of a class research project plus individual research reports. Prerequisites: SOCI 101, SOCI 15 or SOCI 102, upper division standing.

Required Materials

2. The most recent version of SPSS available for purchase ($15) from the University Help Desk on the first floor of Clark Hall.
3. One binder.
4. A calculator.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Readings: Reading assignments should be completed before class and students should be prepared to discuss the readings.

Exams: Three exams, worth 50 points each, are scheduled for this course. Exams a will include true/false, multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.
**SPSS Portfolio:** All students will complete and maintain a portfolio of SPSS assignments. In all there will be seven assignments worth a combined 70 points. SPSS assignments will not be accepted more than two days late so please be aware of the due dates for each of these assignments.

**Research Report:** At the end of the semester students will put together a brief research report. With this assignment you will have the opportunity to apply many of the skills you have learned throughout the class. This assignment will be worth 75 points.

**Survey Exercises:** All students must complete five interviews with research subjects and enter the data into an SPSS database. These exercises will be worth a combined 30 points.

**Class Exercises:** Several class exercises are planned this semester. These exercises will be completed in small groups. The goal of completing these assignments is to give students some experience in completing several of the steps in the research process.

**Attendance:** Attendance is a very important part to successfully completing 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 Policy**

*Points will be earned according to the following point distribution:*

Exams (3) 150
SPSS Portfolio 70
Research Report 75
Survey Exercises 30

**Total Possible Points 325**

**Grade Distribution**

- A+ 98% of the points or higher
- A 97.9-92%
- A- 91.9-90%
- B+ 88-89.9%
- B 87.9-82%
- B- 81.9-80%
- C+ 78-79.9%
- C 77.9-72%
- C- 71.9-70%
- D+ 68%-69.9%
- D 67.9-62%
- D- 61.9-60%
- F Less than 60%

**Course Assignments**

**SPSS Portfolio**

One of the main goals of this course is to give students basic competence using the Statistical Packet for the Social Sciences (SPSS). As such students will be required to complete several assignments throughout the semester using this program. Each assignment is worth 10 points for a total of 70 points when all assignments are completed. Keep in mind that while the assignments are not worth very many points individually they are still very important because future assignments (and ultimately the SPSS Research Report) depend on successfully completing even the smallest assignment. Students will be required to keep track of all of the assignments in a binder. Each assignment will be submitted in a binder along with all other assignments in the binder. Assignments are to be placed in reverse chronological order with the most recent assignment on top.

**Survey Exercises**
Students will be assigned to complete two assignments to reinforce survey research skills. The goal of these assignments is to learn the main components of survey research namely, writing questions, survey construction, data collection, data entry, and database creation. More in-depth instructions will follow but these are the general steps for completing the assignment. These assignments are worth 30 points.

**Research Report**
Students will be assigned to complete a research report that combines class lecture skills with SPSS skills. The goal of the assignment is to test your ability to use SPSS. This assignment is worth 75 points.

**Classroom Protocol**
1. You are expected to behave in a courteous manner to other students and the instructor at all times.
2. You are expected to be on time for class and stay for the full class period.
3. Please be sure that all cell phones are turned off during class. Ringing cell phones and cell phone use in class are grounds for being asked to leave the classroom.
4. I strongly discourage you from bringing laptop computers to class. In my experience they are more of a distraction than an advantage. However, if you choose to bring one in it is not acceptable to use your computer to check your email, work on other class assignments, etc. Engaging in these types of activity is strictly forbidden in this class. Students caught doing this will be asked to leave the classroom.
5. Please note the dates of the exams for this class. I expect each student to take his/her exams at the time and date scheduled.
6. I will hold and store all exams.
7. Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. I do not expect to have a problem with cheating, however, should anyone be caught cheating on an exam or an assignment, I will pursue the appropriate disciplinary actions.
8. **All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Items submitted after the start of class are considered late.** I do not accept assignments via e-mail or fax or handwritten assignments except under very rare circumstances.
9. All assignments should be submitted in class. Any assignment that is late will be penalized at 5 points per weekday until it is worth zero points. Assignments must not be turned into the main office!
10. Any assignment submitted 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 may result in your assignment not being graded.
11. I reserve the right to amend the syllabus as necessary. Any such changes will be announced to the class.
12. A note on emails and grades: I will not discuss grades in anyway using email. This includes giving out grades or discussions on point totals or final grades. If you would like to talk about your grades please make an appointment to meet with me.
13. Incompletes will only be given in exceptional cases.
14. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact me so that special accommodations can be made.

**University Policies**

**General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student**
As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU’s policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See University Policy S90–5 at http://www.sjsu.edu senate/docs/ S90-5.pdf. More detailed information on a variety
of related topics is available in the SJSU catalog, at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Information on add/drops are available at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-324.html. Information about late drop is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf 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/.

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 at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at http://www.sjsu.edu/aec to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See University Policy S14-7 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center at http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/ located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab 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 DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring,
enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit Peer Connections website at http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu for more information.

**SJSU Writing Center**

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to scan this code.)

**SJSU Counseling Services**

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services website at http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling.
## Course Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug 25</td>
<td>Course Introduction &amp; Lecture 1 – Introduction to Sociology (No Reading) SPSS EX1 Directions</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sept 1</td>
<td>Lecture 2 – Human Inquiry and Science &amp; SPSS EX2 Directions (Chapter 1)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Sept 8</td>
<td>Lecture 3 – Paradigms, Theory and Research &amp; SPSS EX3 Directions (Chapter 2)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Sept 15</td>
<td>Lecture 4 – Causation (No Reading) – EXAM 1 REVIEW</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Sept 22</td>
<td>EXAM 1</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Sept 29</td>
<td>Lecture 5 – Research Design (Chapter 4) &amp; SPSS EX4 Directions</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Oct 6</td>
<td>Lecture 6 – Conceptualization, Operation and Measurement (Chapter 5) &amp; SPSS EX5 Directions</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Oct 13</td>
<td>Lecture 7 – Indexes, Scales and Typologies (Chapter 6) &amp; SPSS EX5 Directions</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Oct 20</td>
<td>Lecture 8 – Survey Research (Chapter 9)</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Oct 27</td>
<td>SPSS EX6 Directions &amp; SE1 Directions; EXAM 2 REVIEW</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Nov 3</td>
<td>EXAM 2 &amp; Lecture 9 – Quantitative Analysis (Chapter 14) &amp; SPSS EX7 Directions</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Nov 10</td>
<td>Research Report Directions; SE2 Directions; Lecture 10 – Sampling (Chapter 7)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Nov 17</td>
<td>Lecture 11 – Ethics and Politics of Research (Chapter 3)</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Nov 24</td>
<td>Lecture 12 – Other methods of Social Research (Chapter 8 &amp; 12)</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Dec 1</td>
<td>REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM &amp; SPSS Research Report Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Dec 8</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM – Normal Class Time &amp; Hours</td>
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