Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Jason DeHaan
Office Location: Dudley Moorhead Hall, Room 237A
Email: jason.dehaan@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday, 4:00-6:00pm
Class Days/Time: Tuesday, 6:00-8:45pm
Classroom: Dudley Moorhead Hall, Room 226A
Prerequisites: SOCI 101, SOCI 105, 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 research project and the creation of a research paper that documents this experience and provides an analysis of collected data.

Canvas and Email

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, presentations, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website at http://sjsu.instructure.com. You are responsible for regularly checking your email associated with MySJSU for any course updates.

Textbook


The textbook is available in the bookstore and online (at sites such as Amazon.com).

Other Readings

Additional readings will be provided in PDF format and uploaded to the course Canvas page.

Other Materials

You will need access to IBM SPSS software. You can get it for free by visiting the Help Desk at Clark Hall (on the first floor). If you bring a thumb/flash drive with at least 1.5GB of space you can copy the
files you need to install the program. You can also copy the files to Google Drive/Dropbox if you have the space available.

While it is not required, you will find it helpful to have a laptop (with SPSS installed) that you can bring to class. I will provide in-class tutorials throughout the semester and being able to follow along in class will benefit you. If you do not have a laptop that you can bring to class, you can borrow a laptop with SPSS on it from Student Computer Services.

As an SJSU student, you can download the Microsoft Office suite (which includes Word and Excel) for free. Visit this link (http://products.office.com/en-us/student/office-in-education). You will need to provide your SJSU email address to get access. If you do not know it, you can find it here (http://my.sjsu.edu/students/email/).

Library Liaison
Kathryn Blackmer Reyes kathryn.blackmer.reyes@sjsu.edu 408.808.2097

Kathryn is the library liaison for the Sociology department (along with a couple of other departments) and is available to help you better take advantage of library resources. She is very knowledgeable about sociological topics and you should not hesitate to contact her if you need help using the library catalog, databases, or other resources.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Workload
SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf.

Assignment Submission

Unless specifically noted otherwise in the assignment sheet, all assignments for this course will be submitted on Canvas. They will need to be submitted on the due date and at the time indicated on Canvas. Assignments are generally due one hour before class starts but I sometimes make exceptions. I will not accept physical copies of assignments unless they were specifically requested.

Assignments

Exams

The midterm and final will both be 50 questions multiple-choice exams. They will be open and book and open note but you can expect them to be challenging. You will need a green Scantron form (882-E) for each.

Course Survey Project

Over the course of the semester you will be involved in a community research project. This will provide real-world research experience and allowed you to engage with the community around SJSU. More details about this project will be provided in class. In preparation for your participation in this
project, you will be required to create a brief report about the neighborhood we will be working in. You will also develop survey questions relevant to the project.

**SPSS Assignments**

You will complete a total of eight SPSS-related assignments over the course of the semester. You will use SPSS to analyze survey data we collect during the semester. While each individual assignment will not be worth a lot of points, most of the SPSS assignments build on previous ones so it is important to complete them all.

**Research Paper**

As a final requirement for the course, you will write a research paper that summarizes the work you did over the course of the semester. In it you will describe the research project we worked on, the methods you used to conduct research, and the results of your SPSS analysis.

**Assignments, Due Dates, and Weights**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Survey Project</td>
<td></td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Report</td>
<td>Feb. 23</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey Questions</td>
<td>Apr. 19</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Collection</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>May 24</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**SPSS Assignments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Install SPSS</td>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency Distributions</td>
<td>Mar. 1</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variable Transformation</td>
<td>Mar. 15</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Composite Variables</td>
<td>Apr. 5</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measures of Central Tendency</td>
<td>Apr. 26</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crosstabulations</td>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select Cases</td>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Codebook</td>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>May 24</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exams**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>Mar. 22</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>May 24</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grading Policy**

**Late Work**

Late work will be accepted up to one week after the due date. Every 24-hour period that an assignment is late will result in 10% reduction in points (up to 70% total). Work submitted after one week will still be evaluated (with feedback provided) but will not be assigned a grade.
Late penalties will be excused if you can provide documentation of an illness, injury, or emergency that prevented you from submitting your work. I am willing to negotiate late penalties if you contact me in advance to let me know that you are not going to be able to submit an assignment on time. Note, however, that situations that arise the day before an assignment is due are not an excuse for not submitting work on time. My expectation is that you start your work well in advance of the due date.

Plagiarism

I take plagiarism very seriously and recommend that you review SJSU's Plagiarism Policy very carefully. Plagiarism refers to any instance of presenting someone else’s ideas as your own and is more than simply copying and pasting text without giving credit. While I provide instruction about plagiarism in class, it is your responsibility to understand what it is and to take appropriate steps to avoid it. Ignorance is not an excuse.

All plagiarism checking will be performed through Canvas, using the Turnitin.com functionality built into the website. The student submission and review process happens only through Canvas—there is no reason for you to submit anything directly to Turnitin.com.

I allow students to submit multiple drafts of their work through Canvas and will only grade the most recent draft that was submitted. I also allow students to review their Turnitin plagiarism reports immediately (note: they often take roughly an hour to process). This means that, if you submit your work far enough in advance, you can review your plagiarism report and make any necessary changes. So long as your work is submitted before the due date/time, no penalty will be applied.

Following is my procedure for dealing with plagiarism. Note that in each case we will meet to discuss your assignment and, if you believe that my charges of plagiarism are mistaken, you will have the opportunity to present your case.

First instance: You receive a zero on your assignment. I will report the plagiarism to the Office of Judicial Affairs and it will be recorded in your academic record.

Second instance: You receive a zero on your assignment and a 10% reduction in your total course grade. I will report the plagiarism to the Office of Judicial Affairs and it will be recorded in your academic record.

Third instance: You will receive a zero for your course grade. I will report the plagiarism to the Office of Judicial Affairs, it will be recorded in your academic record, and I will recommend that the department pursue administrative sanctions.

Note: In many instances, plagiarism is not clear-cut and every match that Turnitin flags is not necessarily plagiarism. I try to give students benefit of the doubt and if I find your work questionable, I will start with a conversation and a warning. I do not accuse students of plagiarizing unless I am certain of it.
Calculation of Grades

All assignments will be given point scores. There are are 100 total points available in the class, with individual assignment points being equivalent to the weights in the assignment table above. Your grades will be calculated by dividing the points you earned by the total points in the class (your percentage). Letters grades will be assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>98% or greater</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92-97.9%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-91.9%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88-89.9%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82-87.9%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-81.9%</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78-79.9%</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72-77.9%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-71.9%</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68-69.9%</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62-67.9%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-61.9%</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
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Classroom Protocol

Attendance

I do not require attendance. However, you should note that a significant amount of class time will spent actually practicing quantitative methods. While I will lecture, the course will not be me simply talking about the content of the textbook. It is very likely that you are going to miss important information/experiences if you regularly miss class.

Classroom Rules and Etiquette

1. Come to class prepared. This means having all of the tools you need to participate. At minimum, please bring something to take notes on and a writing utensil. You should also have access to the readings assigned for the day/week.

2. Silence all electronic devices before entering the classroom. Do NOT leave them on vibrate. It is annoying and disruptive when they make noise.

3. Use of laptops in class should be limited only to instances where it is absolutely necessary. If you’re a note-taker, I would encourage you to use pen and paper. No matter how well-intentioned you are, Internet access is a constant temptation and it can be hard to resist it. In addition, research indicates that students who take notes by hand show greater comprehension of lectures than those who use computers. If you want to use your laptop regularly for taking notes I ask that you talk to me after class and assure me that you only plan to use it for notes.

4. Do not plan to use class time to read, surf the net, make grocery lists, plan your weekend, write letters, sleep, flirt, or catch up with friends. Mentally “checking out” of class in this way will make it difficult to do well in the course. It will be disruptive to your classmates. In addition, I find it
incredibly annoying and boring. If you have a pressing need to do these things during class time, please do yourself, your classmates, and myself a favor and just don’t come to class.

5. Classroom discussion is to remain civil. We talk about a wide-array of sensitive and provocative subjects in this class. 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 our classroom.

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. To learn important campus information, view University Policy S90–5 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf and SJSU current semester’s Policies and Procedures, at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.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 address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as the next step.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. 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/.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf, requires students to obtain instructor’s permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
  - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”
**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’ free tutoring and mentoring is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to inspire them to become independent learners. Peer Connections tutors are trained to provide content-based tutoring in many lower division courses (some upper division) as well as writing and study skills assistance. Small group and individual tutoring are available. Peer Connections mentors are trained to provide support and resources in navigating the college experience. This support includes assistance in learning strategies and techniques on how to be a successful student. Peer Connections has a learning commons, desktop computers, and success workshops on a wide variety of topics. For more information on services, hours, locations, or a list of current workshops, please 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.)

QR Code
## Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Feb. 2</td>
<td><strong>Course Introduction and Introduction to Quantitative Research</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2    | Feb. 9 | **Introduction to Quantitative Research and Reviewing the Literature**  
Research Design Chapter 1: The Selection of a Research Approach  
Research Design Chapter 2: Review of the Literature  |
| 3    | Feb. 16 | **Reviewing the Literature and Introduction to SPSS**  
Canvas: Ellison and Musick: Southern Intolerance  
Install SPSS Due  |
| 4    | Feb. 23 | **Applying Theory**  
Research Design Chapter 3: The Use of Theory  
Neighborhood Report Due  |
| 5    | Mar. 1 | **Ethical Considerations and Research Design**  
Research Design Chapter 4: Writing Strategies and Ethical Considerations  
Research Design Chapter 5: The Introduction  
Frequency Distributions Due  |
| 6    | Mar. 8 | **Research Design Chapter 7: Research Questions and Hypotheses**  |
| 7    | Mar. 15 | **Research Design Chapter 8: Quantitative Methods**  
Variable Transformation Due  |
| 8    | Mar. 22 | **Indexes and Scales and Midterm**  
Canvas: Basics of Social Research Chapter 6: Indexes, Scales, and Typologies  
Midterm  |
| 9    | Mar. 29 | **No Class – Spring Break**  |
| 10   | Apr. 5 | **Indexes and Scales and Survey Design**  
Canvas: Basics of Social Research Chapter 9: Survey Research  
Composite Variables Due  |
| 11   | Apr. 12 | **Survey Design and Sampling**  
Canvas: Basics of Social Research Chapter 7: The Logic of Sampling  |
<p>| 12   |       | <strong>Sampling and Quantitative Data Analysis</strong>  |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|      | Apr. 19 | Canvas: Basics of Social Research Chapter 14: Quantitative Research Design  
Survey Questions Due |
| 13   | Apr. 26 | Measures of Central Tendency Due |
| 14   | May 3  | Crosstabulations Due |
| 15   | May 10 | **Quantitative Data Analysis and Final Paper Workshop**  
Select Cases Due  
Codebook Due |
| Final Exam | May 24 | 7:45-10:00pm  
Research Paper Due |