San José State University

Department of Sociology

and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences

Quantitative Research Methods

SOCI 104 Section 1 Winter 2019

Course and Contact Information

**Instructor:** Carlos E. Garcia

**Office Location:** DMH 241

**Telephone:** (408) 924-5804

**Email:** carlos.e.garcia@sjsu.edu

**Office Hours:** Mondays 1:00-1:30 and by appointment

**Class Days/Time:** MTWThF 9:30-12:15

**Classroom:** DMH 208

**Prerequisites:** SOCI 101, SOCI 15 or SOCI 102, upper division standing

Course Format

**Faculty Web Page**

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on my faculty web page at [http://www.sjsu.edu/people/carlos.e.garcia/](http://www.sjsu.edu/people/carlos.e.garcia/)

Unless you have provided me with another email address, all email communications will be through sjsu.edu email accounts or the email address you have on file with the University

**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.

**Sociology Program Learning Objectives**

1. Students will be able to think sociologically about the relationship between social structure, interaction, identities, and inequalities.
2. Students will be able to identify and explain major sociological theories and apply them to everyday life.
3. **Students will be proficient in qualitative and quantitative research design, data collection and data analysis.**
4. Students will be proficient in oral and written communication skills appropriate to the discipline.
5. Students will be able to practice sociology as educated and civically engaged persons.
Course Goals and Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. **CLO1** – Students will develop basic proficiency using SPSS. This includes learning to perform basic analysis and variable manipulation. Proficiency will be assessed through course assignments and the final research report.

2. **CLO2** – Students will learn the language used in research methods during class lectures and assigned readings. Proficiency will be assessed in exams.

3. **CLO 3** – Students will develop proficiency in the process of conceptualization and operationalization that involves the conversion of abstract concepts into measurable forms. Students will develop this skill through course lecture and small group work. Proficiency will be assessed in exams.

4. **CLO4** – Students will develop proficiency in the creation of indexes. Students will learn this skill in lecture and develop it with small group work and homework. Proficiency will be assessed in exams, the research report, and the homework.

5. **CLO5** – Students will develop proficiency in the creation of survey questions and the design of questionnaires. Material will be introduced in lecture and practiced in small group work. Assessment of this CLO will occur during exams.

6. **CLO6** – Students will develop basic proficiency in performing basic data analysis and presentation of data. Material will be introduced in class lecture and reinforced in small group work and homework. Proficiency will be assessed in homework, exams, and the research report.

Required Texts/Readings (Required)

**Textbook**

**Other technology requirements / equipment / material**

1. The most recent version of SPSS available at [http://itsdev2.sjsu.edu/services/software/](http://itsdev2.sjsu.edu/services/software/) or from the University Help Desk on the first floor of Clark Hall.

2. A calculator for the final exam and class exercises.

Course Requirements and Assignments

**SPSS Assignments**

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. **You are very strongly encouraged to keep an archive of these assignments so that you can reference them in the future.**
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.

Students are encouraged to explore the following links:
- Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ Syllabus Information web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Final Examination or Evaluation
Two 75 point exams are scheduled for this course. The final exam is scheduled for the last day of the semester.

“Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment.”

Grading Information
There are 295 points possible in this course. Points will be earned through the following activities:
- 2 exams worth 75 points each, 150 points total.
- 7 SPSS assignments worth 10 points each, 70 points total.
- 1 research report worth 75 points

Note, unless otherwise specified, all late assignments will be penalized -10% of total point value per day late.

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

1. You are expected to be on time for class and stay for the full class period.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. I will hold and store all exams.
6. 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.
7. All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Items submitted after the start of class are considered late.
8. All assignments should be submitted in class. Any assignment that is late will be penalized at 10% of the total point value per weekday until it is worth zero points.
9. I do not accept assignments via e-mail or fax or handwritten assignments.
10. I reserve the right to amend the syllabus as necessary. Any such changes will be announced to the class.
11. 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.
12. Incompletes will only be given in exceptional cases.
13. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact me so that special accommodations can be made.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9 (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf), relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. is available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ Syllabus Information web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/"
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<th>Reading/Due Dates</th>
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<td>Jan. 2</td>
<td>Course Introduction How to Write SPSS Reports SPESX1 Directions Discussed Lecture 2 Human Inquiry and Science</td>
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<td>Jan. 3</td>
<td>Lecture 2 Human Inquiry and Science (Continued) Lecture 3 Paradigms, Theory, and Research SPSS EX2 Directions Discussed</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
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<td>Jan. 4</td>
<td>Lecture 4 Causation SPSS EX3 Directions Discussed Lecture 5 Research Design</td>
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<td>Jan. 7</td>
<td>Lecture 5 Research Design (Continued) SPSS EX4 Directions Discussed SPSS EX5 Directions Discussed</td>
<td>SPSS EX2 Due</td>
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<td>Jan. 8</td>
<td>Lecture 6 Conceptualization, Operationalization, and Measurement SPSS EX6 Directions Discussed</td>
<td>Chapter 5 SPSS EX3 Due</td>
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<td>Jan. 9</td>
<td>Lecture 7 Indexes, Scales, and Typologies SPSS EX7 Directions Discussed</td>
<td>Chapter 6 SPSS EX4 Due SPSS EX5 Due</td>
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<td>Jan. 10</td>
<td>Lecture 8 Survey Research</td>
<td>Chapter 9 SPSS EX6 Due</td>
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<td>EXAM 1 (Covers Lectures 2-6) Research Report Directions Discussed</td>
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<td>Jan. 14</td>
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<td>Jan. 16</td>
<td>Lecture 10 Sampling Lecture 11 Ethics and Politics of Social Research In Class Research Report Lab</td>
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<td>Jan. 17</td>
<td>Lecture 11 Ethics and Politics of Social Research (Continued) Lecture 12 Experiments</td>
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<td>Jan 18</td>
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<td>Research Report Due by 4PM</td>
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