

San José State University
Department of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences
SOCI 104, Section 03, Quantitative Research Methods, Spring 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Jason DeHaan (he/him/his)
Office Location:	DMH 237A
Email:	jason.dehaan@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 to 10:30 am Wednesday, 5:00 to 6:00 pm
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday and Thursday, 4:30 to 5:45 pm
Classroom:	DMH 162
Prerequisites:	SOCI 1 or equivalent, SOCI 15 or SOCI 102 or approved Statistics course from another school; SOCI 100W, SOCI 101 and 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 survey design, 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.

Course Goals

Sociology Department Learning Outcomes

Following are the Sociology BA program learning outcomes created by the department. They are accessible at [this link \(http://www.sjsu.edu/siss/assessment/\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/siss/assessment/). This class will specifically address the outcomes that have been bolded.

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 Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Following are the learning specific learning for this course and the coursework that will address each.

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

Learning Outcome	Assignment or Activity
CLO 1: Understand the role of paradigms in theories in research design	Quizzes, In-Class Activities, Annotated Bibliography
CLO 2: Understand the difference between quantitative and qualitative research methods	Quizzes, In-Class Activities
CLO 3: Understand the terminology used in quantitative research design	Quizzes, In-Class Activities, Annotated Bibliography, Observations, Survey Questions
CLO 4: Use the processes of conceptualization and operationalization to develop a research project	In-Class Activities, Survey Questions
CLO 5: Develop survey questions and design a questionnaire	In-Class Activities, Survey Questions
CLO 6: Clean, format, and analyze quantitative data using SPSS	SPSS Assignments
CLO 7: Interpret descriptive statistics	Research Paper, SPSS Assignments
CLO 8: Communicate the results of a research project in a written report	Research Paper,, SPSS Assignments

Course Resources

Textbook

There is no required textbook for this course. All readings will be uploaded to Canvas.

Laptop

You will need access to a laptop that you can bring to class. We will be working with SPSS during class time and you will need it to follow along. If you do not have a laptop or tablet that you can bring to class, you can borrow one from [Student Computing Services](#).

Statistical Analysis Software

You will need access to IBM SPSS software. You can download it free [here](#) (sign-in with your SJSU email address- do not request access using a different account). I will share specific directions that explain how to download and install the software.

Note that SPSS will only run on MacOS, OS X, or Windows computers. It will not work on tablets running iOS or Android, and there is no suitable alternative that will work on them.

Library Liaison

If you need assistance accessing or using any library resource, please contact [Jane Dodge](#) (jane.dodge@sjsu.edu).

Assignments

Assignment	Due Date	Percent of Grade
Quizzes	Weekly, on Tuesday	20
In-Class Activities	Varies, see schedule	10
Annotated Bibliography	May 7	10
Survey Questions	May 7	10
Group Research Paper	May 13	25
SPSS Assignments		
Codebook	May 7	2
Frequency Distributions	May 7	2
Measures of Central Tendency	May 7	3
Variable Transformation	May 7	5
Select Cases and Split File	May 7	3
Crosstabs	May 7	5
T-Tests	May 7	5

Quizzes

You will take a total of 13 quizzes over the course of the semester. You will take the quizzes on Canvas (using the quiz function built into Canvas) and they must be taken in class. This means that you will need to have access to a computer or tablet (or maybe a smartphone) that can load a Canvas quiz. The quizzes will be multiple-choice, about 10 questions long, and will be timed. You'll have about 15 minutes to complete them but the amount of time will depend on how many questions there are on the quiz. You will not be allowed to use notes or your book on quizzes.

The quizzes will cover content from the preceding week. Any assigned sources, lecture material, or ideas that were discussed in class may be included on the quizzes.

The quizzes will be taken at the beginning of class on Tuesdays. I will give you a password that will enable you to start the quiz. The quizzes will close at a set time, based on the amount of time assigned. For instance, if it is a 15-minute quiz, the quiz will close at 4:45. This means that coming in late will eat into the amount of time you have to complete it.

Your lowest quiz score will be dropped.

In-Class Activities

The in-class activities are small exercises that will be completed in class. There are a total of 30 scheduled activities. You will be able to drop your three lowest scores.

Missed in-class activities cannot be made up.

Annotated Bibliography

The annotated bibliography is part of the larger academic literature exploration process. This assignment will require you to use the library databases to find peer-reviewed sources that are relevant to the research topic your group chose. For the annotated bibliography you will find five appropriate sources and briefly summarize them. Once you have summarized your sources individually, you will write a short summary of what you learned from them. This summary will be used as the foundation for the literature review in your group research paper. This is an individual assignment. You are welcome to collaborate with your peers but you will be responsible for searching for your own sources and any writing you submit must be your own.

Survey Questions

The survey question assignment will require you to write ten survey questions that are relevant to the research topic your group selected for the group research paper. The survey questions must conform to the best practices described in the readings and during lecture. This is also an individual assignment.

Group Research Paper

You will collaborate with four of your peers (for a group of five) and write a minimum 7,500 word research paper. The paper must be formatted as an academic research paper that could be submitted to a sociological journal. You will form your group at the beginning of the semester and spend the rest of the semester working on a topic of your group's choice. Your topic will become the foundation of

the rest of the work that you do. Your annotated bibliography, survey questions, SPSS assignments, and the research paper will all be based on that topic. The research paper, however, is the only assignment that you will submit as a group (and will be evaluated as a group as well).

SPSS Assignments

You will complete seven different assignments requiring you to use SPSS. These will be workshopped in class.

Final Evaluation

You will not have a final exam in this class. Your final evaluation in this class will be the group research paper.

Extra Credit

There are no planned extra credit opportunities for the class and it will not be offered unless a particularly interesting or relevant opportunity becomes available during the semester. I will announce any opportunities in class and on Canvas.

Submitting Assignments

All of your assignments will be submitted on Canvas. You can find the specific times that assignments are due there.

I will not excuse late penalties due to technical problems like web browser issues, Canvas sign-in troubles, or Internet connectivity issues. You will be responsible for ensuring that the appropriate version of your assignment gets uploaded to Canvas on time. You will also need to check to be sure that the assignment loaded properly. There are sometimes technical errors where assignments do not upload or display properly, which means that I cannot grade them. If you upload the wrong file or your work does not upload properly, and this mistake is not caught until I grade your work, you will have only two options: (1) accept the grade you receive for what you submitted or (2) submit the correct assignment and accept the late penalty (based on how much time has passed since the assignment was due).

You will always have the option to resubmit your work on Canvas. Unless you direct me to do otherwise, I only review/grade the most recent submission. You can even re-submit your work after the due date/time has passed but I will apply the appropriate late penalties based on when you submitted that version (Canvas records the date and time every assignment is submitted).

I will not accept emailed or physical copies of the work that is due on Canvas.

Workload Statement

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 three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course-related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Grading Information

Late Assignments

Late work will only be accepted in the case of extended absences that you have discussed with me. I drop your lowest quiz score and your three lowest in-class activity scores with an understanding that you will need to miss class sometimes. If you have to miss class for a couple weeks due to an emergency or hardship, talk to me. I cannot guarantee that you will be able to make up missed work but I will do what I can to accommodate you.

The work that is due at the end of the semester will only be accepted late in an emergency situation. My expectation is that you will complete that over the course of the semester. There will be nothing I can do to help you if you come to me at the end of the semester to tell me that you completed little to none of your work.

If you are struggling at all, *come talk to me*. I am happy to work with you and develop some plan for helping you complete the course successfully.

Determination of Grades

Final letter grades will be assigned based on the following ranges:

Percentage	Letter Grade
93-100%	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

Classroom Protocol

Other than expecting you to be respectful, I do not have any specific requirements or expectations for classroom behavior. I am not bothered by cell phone or laptop use, eating in class, lateness, absences, and so on, so long as you are respectful about it. For instance, if you need to be heavily engaged with your phone or computer in a way that might be distracting, leave class. If you are late, slip in quietly and do not interrupt with questions that may have already been asked (talk to your peers later or with

me after class). If you need to have a private conversation with a classmate during lecture, step out of class or wait for a more appropriate time to have that discussion.

Email Protocol

I would like to reduce the amount of time I spend replying to emails and would appreciate it if you would consider the following when you plan to contact me:

- Unless it will somehow affect your coursework, I do not need to be notified if you are running late or are going to miss class.
- If you have questions about matters like assignment due dates or policies, please check the syllabus and/or Canvas first.
- If you missed class and want to know what you may have missed, please talk to your peers or come to my office hours.
- I prefer to talk in-person whenever possible. I would appreciate you coming to my office hours with questions. If you are not available during my office hours, schedule another time with me.

I also prefer that you email me directly (jason.dehaan@sjsu.edu) rather than message me via Canvas. When you email me, please be sure to include the course and section number in the title.

University Policies

Per University Policy S 16-9 ([http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S 16-9.pdf](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S%2016-9.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](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>)

SOCI 104 / Quantitative Research Methods, Spring 2020, Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change with notice. Any changes will be announced in class and on Canvas.

Week	Date	Topics and Readings	Assignments
1	Course Introduction		
	Jan. 23	Course Introduction	Canvas Check-In
2	Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods		
	Jan. 28	Read: Human Inquiry and Science	Methods Comparison
	Jan. 30		Install SPSS
3	Paradigms and Theories		
	Feb. 4	Read: Paradigms, Theory, and Research Listen: How a Theory of Crime and Policing Was Born, and Went Terribly Wrong	Broken Windows Quiz 1
	Feb. 6	Read: Social Distance in the United States: Sex, Race, Religion, Age, and Education Homophily among Confidants, 1985 to 2004	Library Research
4	Ethics		
	Feb. 11	Read: The Ethics and Politics of Social Research Read: Ethics on the Run	Group Project Planning Ethical Issues Quiz 2
	Feb. 13	Read: The Tearoom Trade Read: The People Next Door	The Codebook
5	Quantitative Research Design		
	Feb. 18	Read: Research Design	GSS Exploration Quiz 3
	Feb. 20	Read: Data Collection as Disruption: Insights from a Longitudinal Study of Young Adulthood	Frequency Distributions
6	Feb. 25	Listen: The Scientific Process	Issues in Social Science Quiz 4
	Feb. 27		Group Project Planning

7	Conceptualization and Operationalization		
	Mar. 3	Read: Conceptualization, Operationalization, and Measurement	Defining Concepts Quiz 5
	Mar. 5		Measuring Concepts
8	Indexes and Scales		
	Mar. 10	Read: Indexes, Scales, and Typologies	Indexes and Scales in the GSS Quiz 6
	Mar 12		Select Cases
9	Sampling		
	Mar 17	Read: The Logic of Sampling	Split File Quiz 7
	Mar. 19		Group Project Planning
10	Survey Research		
	Mar. 24	Read: Survey Research	Survey Question Writing Quiz 8
	Mar. 26		Survey Question Writing 2
11	Mar. 31	Spring Recess - Class Does Not Meet	
	Apr. 2	Spring Recess - Class Does Not Meet	
12	Apr. 7		Group Project Planning Quiz 9
	Apr. 9		Variable Transformation
13	Unobtrusive Measures		
	Apr. 14	Read: Unobtrusive Research	Content Analysis Quiz 10
	Apr. 16	Read: The Historical Nature of Cities: A Study of Urbanization and Hazardous Waste Accumulation	Data Sources
14	Quantitative Data Analysis		
	Apr. 21	Read: Quantitative Data Analysis	MOCT Quiz 11

	Apr. 23		Crosstabs
15	Apr. 28		Chi-Square Quiz 12
	Apr. 30		T-Tests
16	May 5		Group Project Planning Quiz 13
	May 7		Group Project Planning