

San José State University
Department of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences
Course Number, Title, Section, Semester, Year

Course and Contact Information

Instructor(s):	Jason DeHaan
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, 12:00 - 1:15 pm
Classroom:	DMH 162
Prerequisites:	SOCI 1 or equivalent, SOCI 100W, SOCI 101 and upper division standing.

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the various approaches to designing and conducting qualitative research. Qualitative research is a multi-method approach to studying human social interaction and deriving meaning from individuals' experiences. Students will be introduced to basic sociological concepts, how to select and design research projects, ethics in social research, and qualitative data collection methods (observation and interviews). They will then gain first-hand experience through participation in group research projects. The projects will require students to enter the field to perform observations and interviews. Collected data will then be coded, analyzed, and presented in class.

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 course work that will address each. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

Learning Outcome	Assignment or Activity
CLO 1: Understand basic sociological research principles and use appropriate terminology to describe practice	Quizzes, In-Class Activities, Group Research Paper
CLO 2: Understand and identify the basic differences between qualitative and quantitative research	Quizzes, In-Class Activities
CLO 3: Use academic literature and research to develop a foundation for a qualitative research project	In-Class Activities, Annotated Bibliography
CLO 4: Understand the steps in qualitative research design and able to practice them	In-Class Activities, Observations, Interview Guide, Interview and Transcription, Data Analysis, Group Research Paper
CLO 5: Understand major ethical issues in social sciences research	Quizzes, In-Class Activities
CLO 6: Perform and document sociological observations	In-Class Activities, Data Collection
CLO 7: Complete a research-based interview and transcribe the audio recording	Interview Guide, Interview and Transcription
CLO 8: Analyze qualitative data for patterns; identify key sociological ideas	Data Analysis, Group Research Paper
CLO 9: Communicate the results of a research project orally and in a written report	Group Research Paper

Course Resources

Textbook

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

Laptop or Tablet

You will need access to a laptop or tablet that you can bring to class. You will regularly take in-class quizzes over the course of the semester that you will complete on Canvas. A laptop or tablet will also be helpful for completing in-class activities. If you do not have a laptop or tablet that you can bring to class, you can borrow one from [Student Computing Services](https://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/student-computing-services) (<https://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/student-computing-services>).

Library Liaison

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

Assignments

Assignment	Due Date	Percent of Grade
Quizzes	Weekly, on Thursday	20
In-Class Activities	Varies, see schedule	10
Annotated Bibliography	May 7	10
Interview Guide	April 9	5
Interview and Transcription	May 7	10
Data Collection	May 7	10
Data Analysis	May 13	10
Group Research Paper	May 13	25

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 12:15. 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 26 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.

Interview Guide

The interview guide is a group assignment and will require you to develop an interview guide that could be used to conduct an hour-long interview. The focus of the interview guide will be based on a topic that your group has chosen.

Interview and Transcription

You will perform one interview using the interview guide your group developed. Based on your research topic, your group will determine the criteria that will be used to determine who you interview. Your interview must last for at least one hour. It will be recorded and then transcribed.

Data Collection

In addition to the interview, your group will decide on one additional way to collect data. You may choose from one of the other methods discussed in class: visual sociology, observation, content analysis, or autoethnography. The method you choose will need to complement your research topic.

Data Analysis

You will be required to analyze your transcribed interviews and records from the other form of data collection. This data analysis will be reported in your group research paper.

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, interview guide, interview and transcription, data collection, data analysis, and research paper will all be based on that topic.

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 have 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 S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

SOCI 105 / Qualitative Research Methods, Spring 2020, Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change with notice. Any changes will 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 Qualitative Research Methods		
	Jan. 28	Read: What is Social Research?	Methods Comparison
	Jan. 30		Research Approaches
3	Getting Started		
	Feb. 4	Read: Strategies for Beginning Research Read: Starting Where You Are	Starting Where You Are Quiz 1
	Feb. 6		Library Research
4	Ethics and Issues		
	Feb. 11	Read: Ethical Issues Read: ASA Code of Ethics	Ethical Issues Quiz 2
	Feb. 13	Read: What If a Guy Hits on You? Read: Ethics on the Run	Group Project Planning
5	Research Design		
	Feb. 18	Read: Enduring Dilemmas in Fieldwork	Addressing Issues Quiz 3
	Feb. 20	Read: Designing Qualitative Research	Research Design
6	Feb. 25	Read: Social Class and Childrearing in Black Families and White Families	Group Project Planning Sampling Strategies Quiz 4
	Visual Sociology		
	Feb. 27	Read: Visual Sociology, Documentary Photography, and Photojournalism: It's (Almost) All a Matter of Context	Photography Practice
7	Ethnography and Observation		
	Mar. 3	Read: Ethnographic Field Strategies	In-Class Observations Quiz 5
	Mar. 5		Campus Observation
8	Mar. 10	Read: Ethnography in the Kitchen	Line Observation Quiz 6

	Mar 12		Sidewalk Questions
9	Interviewing		
	Mar 17	Read: A Dramaturgical Look at Interviewing	Interviews as Performance Quiz 7
	Mar. 19	Read: Interview Guide	Interview Guide Development 1
10	Mar. 24	Read: Interviews	Interview Guide Development 2 Quiz 8
	Mar. 26		Practice Interview
11	Mar. 31	Spring Recess - Class Does Not Meet	
	Apr. 2	Spring Recess - Class Does Not Meet	
12	Transcription		
	Apr. 7	Read: Beyond the Qualitative Interview: Data Preparation and Transcription	Group Project Planning Quiz 9
	Apr. 9	Read: Transcribing Interviews	Transcription Practice
13	Unobtrusive Measures		
	Apr. 14	Read: Unobtrusive Measures: Analyzing Texts and Material Artifacts	Data Sources Quiz 10
	Apr. 16		Content Analysis
14	Autoethnography		
	Apr. 21	Read: Autoethnography, an Overview	Autoethnography Quiz 11
	Domain and Theme Analysis		
15	Apr. 23	An Introduction to Content Analysis	Group Project Planning
	Apr. 28		Quiz 12
16	Apr. 30		
	May 5		
	May 7		