

Quantitative Research Methods Section 02

SOCI 104

Spring 2024 3 Unit(s) 01/24/2024 to 05/13/2024 Modified 01/18/2024

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Sweet

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Office Hours

Wednesday, 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM, Online (Zoom)

Zoom link: <https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/8057568928?pwd=b3lYM3d3TWhZUXlpQXhRYVJVbDM2QT09>
(<https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/8057568928?pwd=b3lYM3d3TWhZUXlpQXhRYVJVbDM2QT09>).

Course Information

Online Asynchronous - No Class Meeting

This class will be conducted **completely online** using the Canvas Learning Management System. There are **no weekly class meetings**. The course will consist of a series of **online modules** in Canvas that you will complete within a specified period of time. You will need access to a computer and the Internet in order to access the course materials and to submit your work.

Course Description and Requisites

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. Required for majors.

Prerequisite: SOCI 1 or equivalent, SOCI 15 or SOCI 102 or approved Statistics course from another school; SOCI 100W, SOCI 101 and upper division standing.

Letter Graded

* Classroom Protocols

Course Policies and Expectations

All of us carry responsibilities in this course. As your instructor, it is my responsibility to be prepared when I teach, to share information with you in a clear and consistent manner, to direct you to resources which help you fulfill your tasks, to provide you with opportunities to meet with me, to provide feedback on your work, and to ensure that our course environment is an inclusive space in which each person can learn and share ideas. As the student, it is your responsibility to:

- **Prioritize your well-being.** Your health and well-being, and the health and well-being of your loved ones and communities, are more important to me than what you do in this class. We are living through a series of significant and ongoing global crises, and our daily lives are impacted by this in countless ways. I recognize this, and am willing to work with you so that you can succeed in this class while also taking good care of yourself and those around you as we ride through these crises.
- **Recognize when you are struggling and ask for help.** I want to help you succeed in this class and so it is important that I know if there is anything that is preventing you from doing so as soon as possible. There's no need to share beyond your comfort – it's enough just to let me know what part of the class you're struggling with (e.g.: completing assignments on time, accessing the course materials, your performance on course assignments, etc.) so we can problem solve. However, it is important that you let me know you are having an issue **in a timely manner**. It's much easier to problem solve in week 6 than in week 16!
- **Inform me of any accommodations needed.** It is my goal for this class to be accessible and inclusive of each student. If you are in need of course adaptations and/or accommodations, or if you have issues accessing any of the materials, please let me know as soon as possible.
- **Commit to integrity.** As a student in this course (and at this university) you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism and integrity both in and out of the classroom. 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. **Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.** Cheating on course quizzes and instances of plagiarism (presenting the work of another - or work created by AI - as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade on the assignment and possibly in the class, and may result in sanctions by the University.
- **Agree not to share course materials.** Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without their approval. **You may not publicly share instructor generated material for this course such as course lecture videos, quiz questions, lecture slides, or other module materials without instructor consent.**

Policy on Late Work

With a course of this nature, it is important to stay on top of course material as it's easy to fall behind. For this reason, **course modules and assignments are due by Sunday at midnight on the week that they are assigned** (this is the recommended due date). However, if you are not able to complete the modules during this time, **you will have an additional week to complete the work without penalty** (this is the final due date). If you anticipate that you will not be able to work by the final due date, please reach out so that we can come up with a plan for you to complete and submit the assignment.

Program Information

Program Learning Outcomes

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

Every day people encounter the results of quantitative social research in the news, but what does the process of such research actually entail? In this class, we will explore the nuts and bolts of quantitative social research, from defining a research topic to analyzing quantitative data and reporting the findings from these analyses. Specific topics include: an overview of sociological research, survey research design, hypothesis formulation, questionnaire and interview design, scaling, sampling and data preparation and SPSS analysis. Students in the class will complete a class research project and produce individual research reports. This class is required for majors.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

- **CL01:** Demonstrate an understanding of the language and process of sociological research. Students will learn about research methods concepts, processes, and skills in module lectures and assigned readings. Proficiency will be assessed through module quizzes.
- **CL02:** Convert abstract concepts into measurable forms through the process of conceptualization and operationalization. Students will learn this skill through course lectures, module tutorials, and module

activities. Proficiency will be assessed through project assignments and the final research report.

- **CL03:** Demonstrate an understanding of survey research design including the creation of survey questions. Students will learn this skill in module lectures and activities. Proficiency will be assessed through project assignments, module activities, and module quizzes.
- **CL04:** Use the SPSS computer program to describe and analyze quantitative data. This includes being able to describe variables, transform variables, and analyze the relationships between variables in SPSS. Students will learn these skills through module tutorials, readings, and activities. Proficiency will be assessed in project assignments and the final research report.
- **CL05:** Organize quantitative data and perform basic quantitative data analysis. Students will learn these skills through module lectures, tutorials, readings, and activities. Proficiency will be assessed in project assignments and in the final research report.
- **CL06:** Conduct a quantitative research project, including: formulating a research question; designing an appropriate research study; preparing and analyzing data; and presenting findings in a research report. Proficiency will be assessed in project assignments and in the final research report.

Course Materials

Required Texts

Making Sense of the Social World: Methods of Investigation

Author: Chambliss, Daniel F. and Russell K. Schutt

Publisher: Sage

Edition: Any

ISBN: ISBN: 9781506364117

Any edition of the text is fine

IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 26: A Basic Tutorial

Price: Free online

<http://ssric.org/node/696>

Required Software

We will be using **SPSS software** to work with quantitative data in this class. This software is **free for SJSU students** to download, and I will assist you with this process. If you do not have a device on which you can install this software, you will still be able to access the software needed.

Availability: Free

Course Requirements and Assignments

Your performance in this course will be evaluated based upon the following components:

Module Activities (25% of course grade):

Throughout the course modules, there will be activities (surveys, practice quizzes, assignments, interactive discussions, etc.) for you to complete. These activities are designed to give you practice with the concepts and skills we cover in class. Module activities will be graded based on completeness and the degree of effort they reflect.

Module Quizzes (30% of course grade):

Most modules will end with a Canvas quiz to assess your understanding of the module material. Quizzes will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and matching questions. Module quizzes can be completed **any time prior to the quiz due date**, and you will have **two attempts at each quiz**. Quizzes are timed, so you will need to **complete the quiz in one sitting**.

Project Assignments (25% of course grade):

In some of the course modules, you will find assignments that are designed to help you to develop different components of your course research project. Because these assignments are designed to be a **learning tool** for you, they will be evaluated based on their **completeness** and the degree of effort they reflect, and not on their correctness.

Research Report (20% of course grade):

Over the course of the semester, you will design and conduct a **guided quantitative research project** using data from the General Social Survey (GSS). The project assignments will help you to develop the various components of your research report. We will also work on parts of the project in SPSS tutorial sessions embedded in the modules. This project will give you hands-on experience with social research and will help you to develop your analytical, writing, and presentation skills. Even if you don't go on to a career that emphasizes research, developing these skills will still benefit you.

Your research report will summarize the process and results of your research. **You will submit two drafts of your research report: An early draft for peer review (worth 5% of your course grade) and a final draft, worth 15% of your course grade.** Full instructions and evaluation criteria for both the peer review and final report drafts will be detailed assignment prompts.

Grading Information

Final course grades are based on the **weighted percentage of points earned** and are assigned as follows:

Criteria

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Module activities	25%		
Module quizzes	30%		
Project Assignments	25%		
Research Report - Peer Review Draft	5%		
Research Report - Final Report	15%		

Breakdown

Grade	Range	Notes
A	93 to 100	
A-	90 to 92	
B+	87 to 89	
B	83 to 86	
B-	80 to 82	
C+	77 to 79	
C	73 to 76	
C-	70 to 72	
D+	67 to 69	
D	63 to 66	
D-	60 to 62	
F	0 to 59	

University Policies

Per [University Policy 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 the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

NOTE: This schedule is subject to change. All schedule changes will be announced on Canvas.

When	Topic	Notes
Course Overview Module Week 1 (1/24 - 1/28)	Welcome to SOCI 104!	
Module 1 Week 2 (1/29 - 2/4)	What is Social Research?	Read C&S Chapter 1
Module 2 Week 3 (2/5 - 2/11)	Research Design	Read C&S Chapter 2
Module 3 Week 4 (2/12 - 2/18)	Introduction to SPSS	Read SPSS Tutorial, Chapter 1
Module 4 Week 5 (2-19 - 2/25)	Research Ethics	Read C&S Chapter 3
Module 5 Week 6 (2/26 - 3/3)	Conceptualization and Operationalization	Read C&S Chapter 4
Module 6 Week 7 (3/4 - 3/10)	Describing Variables in SPSS	Read SPSS Tutorial Chapter 4
Module 7 Week 8 (3/11 - 3/17)	Transforming Variables in SPSS	SPSS Tutorial Chapter 3
Module 8 Week 9 (3/18 - 3/24)	Sampling	Read C&S Chapter 5
Module 9 Week 10 (3/25 - 3/31)	Survey Research	Read C&S Chapter 7
Spring Break Week 11 (4/1 - 4/7)		
Module 10 Week 12 (4/8 - 4/14)	Quantitative Data Analysis	Read C&S Chapter 8

When	Topic	Notes
Module 11 Week 13 (4/15 - 4/21)	Inferential Analyses in SPSS	Read SPSS Tutorial Chapters 5 & 6
Module 12 Week 14 (4/22 - 4/28)	Summarizing and Reporting Research	Read C&S Chapter 13
Module 12 - 13 Week 15 (4/29 - 5/5)	Reporting Research	Peer Review Drafts Due
Module 14 Week 16 (5/6 - 5/12)	Course wrap-up	
Research Report Due Friday, May 17th		