

SOC 4309: Introduction to Sociological Research Spring 2020

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Introduction

This course is an upper division research methods course in sociology. At completion, you will have the tools to begin a professional level research project and apply for funding, a marketable skill in professional and graduate school worlds. This is an exciting opportunity for YOU to drive the content. We will work together to develop your expertise in this upper division sociology course that will complement your career and graduate school goals. Because this is YOUR scholarship, I am framing this course as a collaboration between your research and fundamental skills that are critical for professionals and graduate students.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Acquisition of a specialized knowledge on self-chosen topic in sociology.
- Mastery of major scholarship in theory, studies and methods in chosen topic.
- Graduate level preparation in research prospectus, literature review, and grant proposal for area of specialization.
- Development of critical thinking, research, writing and analysis skills at senior undergraduate/beginning graduate student level.
- Communication skills in writing and research in sociological theory, methods and policy.
- Ability to extract theoretical ideas and apply them in analysis of new data.

The Americans with Disabilities Act

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832, Telephone Number 432-837-8203.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism will not be tolerated at any level. Any work submitted that has a portion or entire segment that is stolen will result in an automatic zero and conference with professor on withdrawal from course.

Texts

No textbook is required to purchase. Professor has selected a few readings to help with each project but the crux of the materials is student-driven. Students with consultation from professor will develop reading portfolios on their research area.

Independent Study Assessment and Project

Projects and Assessment

There are **five main phases** in this independent study:

- 1) project idea and hypothesis A & B;
- 2) literature review of eight or more peer-reviewed sources A & B;
- 3) research method tools A & B;
- 4) research report A & B; and
- 5) grant proposal.

You will note that every component but the grant proposal has part A and B. This is because you will turn in a first draft for review by professor. I will review your first draft and give you revisions for the second draft. You will be graded on the depth of your work, your understanding of the research process and development of original work that is grounded in sociology and ----how well you respond to revisions. No work is perfect in the initial phase and part of becoming a professional is learning how to respond to feedback and create a refined work. This is an iterative process to develop an area of research, learn the literature of your chosen area and create a research project to do the work with external funding (public or private).

LATE POLICY: YOU HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO COMPLETE EACH PHASE AND THUS, LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. ENTER THE DEADLINES INTO YOUR CALENDAR. THIS IS THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF AN UPPER DIVISION COURSE IN SOCIOLOGY AND YOU ARE BEING GRADED ON YOUR PROFESSIONAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT, AS WELL AS THE CONTENT YOU CREATE.

PROJECT PHASE SCHEDULE

SYLLABUS AGREEMENT

COMPLETION OF READING SYLLABUS AND AGREEMENT TO PROJECTS, SHOWING COMPREHENSION OF ALL AREAS. AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASK PROFESSOR QUESTIONS.

POINTS: 25

DUE: FRI JAN 17 UPLOADED TO BLACKBOARD BEFORE MIDNIGHT CST

IA. PROJECT IDEA AND HYPOTHESIS, PART A

1-2 PAGE ESSAY ON WHY THIS TOPIC, HOW IT RELATES TO CONVERSATIONS IN SOCIOLOGY, AND A WORKING RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS, WITH PRELIMINARY IDEAS ABOUT THE RESEARCH METHODS YOU WILL INVOKE. YOU SHOULD INCLUDE RELEVANT THEORISTS, IDEAS, CASES AND READINGS.

POINTS: 50

LENGTH: 1-2 PAGES

DUE: FRI JAN 31 UPLOADED TO BLACKBOARD BEFORE MIDNIGHT CST

IB. PROJECT IDEA AND HYPOTHESIS, PART B

YOUR REVISIONS OF THE PROJECT PROSPECTUS AND HYPOTHESIS, SHOWING YOU HAVE INCORPORATED PROFESSOR CRITIQUE AND ADVICE, INCLUDING ANY FURTHER RESEARCH SUGGESTED.

POINTS: 50

DUE: FRI FEB 14 UPLOADED TO BLACKBOARD BEFORE MIDNIGHT CST

IIA. LITERATURE REVIEW, PART A

SELECTION OF 8 MINIMUM PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES. YOU WILL ORGANIZE EACH READING IN APA FORMAT WITH A 2-4 PARAGRAPH SUMMARY ON EACH READING. THAT WILL INCLUDE THE MAIN IDEA AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK, THE DATA, THE ANALYSIS AND HOW THIS CONTRIBUTES TO YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THIS TOPIC IN SOCIOLOGY.

POINTS: 100

LENGTH WITH WORKS CITED: 6-10 PAGES

DUE: FRI FEB 28 UPLOADED TO BLACKBOARD BEFORE MIDNIGHT CST

EXAMPLES OF APA SOCIOLOGICAL ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY CONTENT AND FORMAT:

- American Sociological Association:
http://libguides.enc.edu/writing_basics/annotatedbib/asa
- Sociology, California State University:
<http://www.csun.edu/~tph53095/Writing%20your%20Annotated%20Bibliography.pdf>
- Cornell University: <https://olinuris.library.cornell.edu/content/how-prepare-annotated-bibliography>

IIB. LITERATURE REVIEW, PART B

REVISION POST PROFESSOR REVIEW.

POINTS: 50

DUE: FRI MAR 6 UPLOADED TO BLACKBOARD BEFORE MIDNIGHT CST

IIIA. RESEARCH METHOD TOOLS, PART A

YOU WILL DESIGN RESEARCH TOOLS TO GATHER THE DATA OF YOUR PROPOSED PROJECT AND SHOW YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF RESEARCH METHODS. FOR EXAMPLE, SURVEY OR INTERVIEW QUESTIONS, CONSENT FORMS, VIDEO/PHOTO/AUDIO TOOLS. YOU WILL ALSO REFER TO SOURCES THAT HELPED YOU CREATE THESE TOOLS, INCLUDING THE JOURNAL ARTICLES WITH A WORKS CITED PAGE.

LENGTH WITH WORKS CITED PAGE: VARIES

POINTS: 50

DUE: FRI MAR 20 UPLOADED TO BLACKBOARD BEFORE MIDNIGHT CST

IIIB. RESEARCH METHOD TOOLS, PART B

REVISION POST PROFESSOR REVIEW.

POINTS: 50

DUE: FRI APR 3 UPLOADED TO BLACKBOARD BEFORE MIDNIGHT CST

IVA. RESEARCH REPORT, PART A

YOU WILL OPERATIONALIZE YOUR RESEARCH TOOLS AND COMPOSE A REPORT ANALYZING THAT DATA, AND COMBINING IT WITH YOUR HYPOTHESIS, LITERATURE BACKGROUND AND DESCRIPTION OF THE RESEARCH METHODS EMPLOYED.

LENGTH WITH WORKS CITED PAGE: 8-12 PAGES

POINTS: 100

DUE: FRI APR 10 UPLOADED TO BLACKBOARD BEFORE MIDNIGHT CST

IVB. RESEARCH REPORT, PART B

REVISION POST PROFESSOR REVIEW.

POINTS: 50

DUE: FRI APR 24 UPLOADED TO BLACKBOARD BEFORE MIDNIGHT CST

V. GRANT PROPOSAL

USING YOUR ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY AS YOUR LITERATURE BACKGROUND, DEVELOP AN ORIGINAL QUESTION, METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH AND PROJECTED IMPACTS TO THE FIELD. YOU WILL DEVELOP A RESEARCH PROPOSAL, USING EXAMPLES AND GUIDELINES DETERMINED BY PROFESSOR OVER CONSULTATION. YOU AND THE PROFESSOR WILL CHOOSE THE FUNDING AGENCY (NSF, NIH, ASA, ETC.) AND USE THOSE PERIMETERS IN YOUR PROPOSAL.

POINTS: 100

LENGTH WITH WORKS CITED: 8-12 PAGES

DUE: **MON MAY 4 BEFORE MIDNIGHT CST (NOTE MONDAY DEADLINE FOR FINALS WEEK)

EXAMPLES OF GRANT PROPOSALS

- Sociology Graduate Student NSF Fellowship Record, University of Notre Dame:
<https://sociology.nd.edu/news/sociology-graduate-students-build-winning-fellowship-record/>
- National Science Foundation (NSF):
https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5369
- Example of successful and unsuccessful NSF Grant*:
<https://jabunce.wordpress.com/sample-nsf-proposals/>
**You can see how the panel (professors from other universities) reviewed this candidate's work and the suggestions made.*
- Example for University of California, Davis Sociology "Small Grants":
http://poverty.ucdavis.edu/sites/main/files/file-attachments/sample_proposal_01_sharkey.pdf

VI. PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION

STAYING ORGANIZED AND IN-TOUCH WITH THE PROFESSOR. THIS CAN BE EMAIL AND/OR FACE-TO-FACE MEETING IN ALPINE, IF NEEDED. DO NOT WAIT FOR THE PROFESSOR TO CHECK ON YOU.

POINTS: 25

Final Grade Tally

650-600 points: A

599-550 points: B

549-500 points: C

499-450 points: D

Below 449: Failing Grade

Citations

Here is an online guide for APA in every possible source (websites, blogs, interviews, articles, books, etc.). It is important when you make an argument or analysis to share your sources.

APA Formatting and Style Guide. Purdue Online Writing Lab:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/07/>

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