

SOCIOLOGY 710. SURVEY OF RESEARCH METHODS

Dr. Paul S. Gray

Voice Mail: Ext. 24140

Hours: Tue. 1:30-2:30 p.m.; Wed 3-4 p.m., or by appointment

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Tue 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Course Description

This course is a preparation for the real world of social research. You will be introduced to a wide range of research methods, including survey work, fieldwork, content analysis, secondary data analysis, experimentation, and evaluation research. We shall also debate the core issues of measurement and conceptualization, inference, reliability and validity. In behavioral terms, this course is designed to prepare doctoral students for their initial comprehensive examination by focusing on the relative strengths and weaknesses of various data collection techniques. In addition, the end product of the semester's work is a research proposal that is similar in format to proposals for master's and doctoral theses.

Course Requirements

1. Three class assignments (on conceptualization, question writing, and interviewing). Each of these counts 10% of your final grade.
2. A take home mid-term examination (counting 20% of your final grade).
3. A preliminary research proposal (ungraded) and a final research proposal (counting 40% of your final grade).
4. Class participation (10% of your final grade). Expectations are that you will attend regularly and come prepared to discuss the issues raised by the readings. Formal student presentations may be requested, depending on enrollment.

Required Course Text:

SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS (5th Ed.), by W. Lawrence Neuman (Allyn & Bacon)

Handouts on specific techniques will be distributed from time to time.

CALENDAR

Please have readings and assignments completed by the dates indicated. I reserve the right to make changes in the calendar, with due notice.

date	topic/activity	assignment
9/6	Introduction, Inquiry & Science	NEUMAN, chs. 1, 2, 4
9/13	Research Design	NEUMAN, ch. 6
9/20	Conceptualization & Operationalization	NEUMAN, ch. 3, 7
9/27	Proposal Writing	NEUMAN, pp. 95-117; ch. 16 PAPER #1 IS DUE.
10/4	Questions & Questionnaires	NEUMAN, pp. 268-286
10/11	Sampling, Surveys	PAPER #2 IS DUE. NEUMAN, ch. 8, 10
10/18	Surveys, Quantitative Analysis	NEUMAN, chs. 12
10/25	Interviewing	GRAY <i>et al.</i> , ch 8 (handout) HAND OUT MID-TERM
11/1	Fieldwork, Qualitative Analysis	MID TERM IS DUE.
11/8	Fieldwork II	NEUMAN, ch. 13, 14, 15
11/15	Content Analysis, Experimentation Aggregate Data Analysis	NEUMAN, chs. 9, 11
11/22	Evaluation Research, Action Research	PAPER #3 IS DUE.
11/29	Feminist Methodology	GRAY <i>et al.</i> , ch. 10 (handout)
12/6	Establishing Professional Identity Research Ethics	NEUMAN, pp. 116-136; Appendix A
12/9		FIRST (UNGRADED) DRAFT OF PROPOSAL DUE. [12 noon, MY MAILBOX, 426 MCGUINN]

12/15

FINAL DRAFT OF PROPOSAL DUE

[12 noon, MY MAILBOX, 426
MCGUINN]