SOCY22101: Methods of Social Research (Spring, 2009)
Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00-10:15 a.m.
Campion 236

Professor: Paul S. Gray
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Office Hours: Tue 11:00 a.m.-12 p.m.; Wed 10:30-11:30 a.m. and by appointment.

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Office Hours: Mon 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and by appointment.

Required text:

Assignments and Requirements:
Midterm Exam (25%); Final Exam (25%); Independent Study Project (50%)

COURSE CALENDAR
Please have readings and assignments completed by the dates shown.

September 3: Introduction

September 8: Social Science Inquiry
    Gray et al., Chapters 1 and 2

September 10: Research Design - Begin Brainstorming about your project
    Gray et al., Chapter 3

September 15: Conceptualization - Begin Independent Study Project meetings with Prof. Gray or Fatima
    Gray et al., Chapter 4

September 17: Operationalization

September 22: Measurement

September 24 and 29: Questions and Questionnaires
    Gray et al. pp. 130-138

October 1: Sampling
    Gray et al., Chapter 6

October 6 and 8: Surveys
    Gray et al., Chapter 7
NO CLASS ON OCTOBER 13

October 15 and 20: Interviewing
    Gray et al., Chapter 8

October 22: Quantitative Analysis  - Hand Out Mid-term Exam
    Gray et al., Chapter 18

October 27: Causality

October 29: Explanation         MID-TERM EXAM IS DUE

November 3 and 5: Indexes and Scales
    Gray et al., Chapter 17

November 10 and 12: Ethnographic Field Research
    Gray et al., Chapter 9

November 17: Experimentation
    Gray et al., Chapter 12

November 19: Content Analysis
    Gray et al., Chapter 13

November 24: Evaluation Research
    Gray et al., Chapter 16

VACATION

December 1: Feminist Research Methods, Black Feminist Epistemology
    Gray et al., Chapter 10

December 3: Social Context for Research
    Gray et al., Chapter 5 and Epilog

December 5: Recap of Independent Projects  - INDEPENDENT PROJECTS ARE DUE

December 10: Final Examination Review – Hand Out Take-Home Final Exam

Final Exam Due: Wednesday December 17, 2014 at 12 noon in Prof. Gray’s mailbox, 426 McGuinn.
INDEPENDENT STUDY ASSIGNMENT

Half of your grade for this course will be based on your independent study assignment. Based on what you are learning in the course, you are asked to design and carry out some social research on a topic of your choosing. Of course, Fatima and I are ready to assist you in your work. Please plan to meet with either one of us as often as you need to, in order to keep yourself on track.

Beginning around September 10th brainstorm and write a list of settings in which you would be interested in doing your project. If you can, indicate what social phenomenon or research question you are interested in learning about or answering in each setting. In addition, if you are interested in particular phenomena or questions but cannot think of a setting, list those too, and we can likely help you come up with settings. This brainstorming exercise will form the basis for your first meeting with one of us, which should be scheduled between September 15-22.

You may use any of the methods of data collection we are covering this semester, including in-depth interviews, participant observation, surveys, content analysis or secondary data analysis. We will consult with you about how many individuals or observations will need to be included in your research.

Your final report is due on December 5, 2014. It should be at least 10 pp. in length and contain all of the elements in study design covered in lecture on September 10th. The report must also include whatever data you have collected, along with analysis.