SOCY22101: Methods of Social Research (Spring, 2016)
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00-4:15 p.m.
Gasson 209

Professor: Paul S. Gray
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Office Hours: Tue 1-2 p.m.; Thu 10-11 a.m. and by appointment.

TA: Alina Alekseyko
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Office Hours:

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.

Tue, January 19: Introduction

Thu, January 21: Social Science Inquiry
Gray et al., Chapters 1 and 2

Tue, January 26: Research Design - Begin Brainstorming about your project
Gray et al., Chapter 3

Thu, January 28: Conceptualization
Gray et al., Chapter 4

Tue, February 2: Operationalization
Begin Independent Study Project meetings with Prof. Gray or Alina

Thu, February 4: Measurement

Tue, Thu, February 9 and 11: Questions and Questionnaires
Gray et al. pp. 130-138

Tue, February 16: Sampling
Gray et al., Chapter 6

Thu, Tue, February 18 and 23: Surveys
Gray et al., Chapter 7
Thu, February 25: Interviewing
    Gray et al., Chapter 8

Tue, March 1: Interviewing

Thu, March 3: Quantitative Analysis - Hand Out Mid-term Exam
    Gray et al., Chapter 18

VACATION

Tue, March 15: Causality

Thu, March 17: Explanation
    MID-TERM EXAM IS DUE

Tue, March 22: Indexes
    Gray et al., Chapter 17

VACATION

Tue, March 29: Scales

Thu, March 31: Ethnographic Field Research
    Gray et al., Chapter 9

Tue, April 5: Ethnographic Field Research

Thu, April 7: Experimentation
    Gray et al., Chapter 12

Tue, April 12: Content Analysis
    Gray et al., Chapter 13

Thu, April 14: Evaluation Research
    Gray et al., Chapter 16

Tue, April 19: Feminist Research Methods, Black Feminist Epistemology
    Gray et al., Chapter 10

Thu, April 21: Action Research

Tue, April 26: Social Context for Research
    Gray et al., Chapter 5 and Epilog
Thu April 28 and Tue, May 3: Recap of Independent Projects

INDEPENDENT PROJECTS ARE DUE ON THURSDAY, APRIL 28TH

Thu, May 5: Final Examination Review – Hand Out Take-Home Final Exam

Final Exam Due: Wednesday, May 11, 2016 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, Alina 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 January 26th 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 during the first week in February.

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 Thursday, April 28, 2016. It should be at least 10 pp. in length and contain all of the elements in study design covered in lecture on January 26th. The report must also include whatever data you have collected, along with analysis.