About the Course
This applied course is designed for undergraduate students with a prior background in statistics at the level of SOCY2200 (Statistics) and for graduate students with a prior background in statistics at the level of SOCY7702 (Introduction to Statistics and Data Analysis). The course will lead students through the design, collection, and analysis of their own surveys. Major topics will include research ethics, sampling, item selection, modes of response, interviewer effects, nonresponse, and data management and analysis. Qualtrics and SPSS will be used to design internet surveys and analyze the resulting data, respectively.

Required Books
The bookstore has ordered:


These books are also available on 2-hour reserve at O’Neill.

Course Reserves Online
Access additional readings as .pdf files through the library website or through the link on the course Canvas page.

Accommodations
If you are a student with a documented disability seeking reasonable accommodations in this course, please contact Kathy Duggan, (617) 552-8093, dugganka@bc.edu, at the Connors Family Learning Center regarding learning disabilities and ADHD, or Paulette Durrett, (617) 552-3470, paulette.durrett@bc.edu, in the Disability Services Office regarding all other types of disabilities, including temporary disabilities. Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations.
Assessment

Grading scale
A+ none at Boston College  A  93 – 100%  A-  90 – 92%
B+  87 – 89%  B  83 – 86%  B-  80 – 82%
C+  77 – 79%  C  73 – 76%  C-  70 – 72%
D+  67 – 69%  D  63 – 66%  D-  60 – 62%
F  below 60%

Task Due date Percentage of grade
Participation Throughout 10
Beam rebuttal October 3 10
Sampling October 17 15
Item selection October 31 15
Survey design November 14 15
Class presentation December 5 15
Ethics training December 12 5
Results and Analysis December 12 15

Assignment Submission

All written assignments are to be uploaded to Canvas by 11:59 pm Eastern time on the due date. Papers submitted after 11:59 pm on the due date are late and will lose a letter grade a day. That is, a paper submitted on time is worth, at best, an A. A paper submitted between midnight and 11:59 pm of the day following the due date is worth, at best, a B. If you wish to avoid the late penalty, you must make arrangements with me in advance, or you must provide proof of extenuating circumstances (e.g., doctor’s note, funeral program).

Academic Honesty

Your work must be your words and ideas. When writing papers, use quotation marks around someone else’s exact words and identify whose words they are. If you come across a good idea, by all means use it in your writing, but be sure to acknowledge whose idea it is. Failure to comply will result in (a) automatic failure of the assignment, and (b) a report to the Dean and the Committee on Academic Integrity. For further information, please review the College’s policies on academic integrity here: http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/stserv/academic/integrity.html
Schedule

August 29: The Survey in Social Science Research
   1) Fink Chapter 1

***September 5 is Labor Day***

September 12: Sampling I
   1) Fink chapter 4
   2) First half of Beam

September 19: Sampling II
   1) Fink chapter 5
   2) Second half of Beam

September 26: Asking about Events and Behaviors: Self-Reports as Statements of Identity
   3) Fink Chapter 2
October 3: Asking about Events and Behaviors: Reporting in Good Faith, but Incorrectly or Unverifiably


2) Fink Chapter 3


***October 10 is Columbus Day***

October 17: Asking about Attitudes and Opinions: Nuts and Bolts


October 24: Designing Web Surveys in Qualtrics


October 31: Asking About Attitudes and Opinions: Social Theory

November 7: Asking About Attitudes and Opinions: The Role of Polling in U.S. Elections

November 14: Asking About Attitudes and Opinions: Persuasion

November 21: Data Management, with a focus on Nonparticipation and Missing Data
November 28: Data Analysis and Reporting Survey Results
   1) Fink chapter 6
   2) Fink chapter 7

December 5: Class Presentations
-no reading-