This course is designed as an introductory course in social research methods, it provides a general overview of the ways sociologists collect information about social phenomena, focusing on how to collect data that are reliable and applicable to our research questions. In this course, you will learn how to construct a testable hypothesis, design a small-scale research project that tests it, and write up the findings of your work. Throughout the course, we will develop a critical eye to the structure of social science research: identifying the object of inquiry, noting what are the independent and dependent variables being tested; analyzing how the variables are being operationalized; and evaluating the quality of the research conducted. The course includes a required discussion section where you review the readings and lecture materials. Discussion section will also review how to analyze the data that you have collected during your research projects, and will focus on showing students how to write-up their findings. The course does not assume any background in research methods or statistics—everything you need to complete the assignments will be taught in class.

Prerequisites: Students must be enrolled as a student in the sociology undergraduate program or instructor’s permission

Student Learning Outcomes:
On completion of Introduction to Research Methods in Sociology, students will be able to:

1. Understand the challenges and limitations of doing social research;
2. Learn how to design social research so that it has a testable hypothesis and clear and measurable dependent and independent variables;
3. Learn how to analyze data once it has been collected;
4. Learn to write-up a research report;
5. Develop the skills to assess the research design and findings of others, so that you can know how trustworthy the information is;
6. Develop an appreciation of good social science and the ability to identify weak social science (which I realize is somewhat subjective); and
7. Recognize that doing social research is fun!
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance and Participation

Class Attendance is required. You are required to be in class for the entire period. If you are late to class, or leave early, you are expected to get the information you missed from another student. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to consult with another student to obtain a complete set of notes and to find out about any assignments that you may have missed. If you have a university-authorized excuse for missing a Quiz or turning in a paper, it must be documented in writing and turned in the following class period or attached to your late assignment for consideration. Since attention to class, and participation in discussion and group exercises are important to the learning process both for the class as a whole and for you, attendance and participation are counted as part of your overall course grade.

Labs and Computing
There are no lab or technology requirements for this class. There is a REQUIRED Discussion Section for all students.

Paper Assignments
You will have three paper assignments (20% each) due during the semester that will help you learn and understand concepts. Due dates are in class (electronic assignments will not be accepted), but will be specified for each assignment. Late assignments will NOT be accepted or graded. Assignments turned in after lecture on the due date are considered late. If you are late to class, your assignment is late and will not be graded.

Requirements and Grading:
(1) Mid-term and Final Data Collection Projects (2 for total of 50%)
(2) Quizzes (Number to be determined for total of 20%)
(3) Homework Assignments (3 for total of 15%)
(4) Class participation in class discussions and section (15%)

In accordance with university policy you must have attempted the midterm exam, assignments and the final project for a passing grade; grades of "incomplete" are not given except in extreme situations, and the following letter grades will be awarded:

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   60-69
F   Below 60%
Academic Integrity
Cheating or any form of academic dishonesty can result in a permanent grade of “F/dishonesty” for the course. Written documents regarding late assignments or missed exam that contain false information are considered academic dishonesty cases and will be handled accordingly.
Additionally, in accordance with the university’s nationally recognized Honor Code, on every homework, exam, and on the reflection projects, you must write by hand the following honor pledge at the top of your work “I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/exam” and sign your name.

Students with Learning, Emotional, Psychological and Physical Disabilities
In accordance with university policy, every effort will be made to accommodate students who are registered with the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation Form that has been updated for the Fall 2013 semester. This form must be presented to me no later than October 1, 2013. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide me with documentation that has been reviewed by DSS after October 1, 2013. If you are having difficulties in reading, note taking, writing, or preparing for exams, please take advantage of the campus Learning Assistance Service. See www.counseling.umd.edu/LAS for further information.

Disruptive Students
It is university policy and my policy that students are expected to treat each other with respect. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Students who are unable to show civility with one another, the teaching assistants, or myself will be subject to being referred to the Office of Student Conduct or to Campus Police. You are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct. See www.jpo.umd.edu for further information.

Medical Excuses
Campus Senate policy requires students who are absent due to illness/injury to furnish documentary support to the instructor. I require students to contact me by email prior to class time to indicate that you have an illness or an injury. You must provide written documentation verifying your illness/injury immediately upon your return to class. You will not be allowed to turn in missed assignments or make up quizzes, tests, papers, etc. if you have not provided this documentation. Documentation not presented to me in a timely manner will not be accepted. In addition, if it is found that you have falsified the documentation provided, I will refer you to the University’s Student Conduct Office.”

Religious Observance
In accordance with university policy on religious observance, students must provide in writing a request for a make-up exam if I have indicated a date on this syllabus that you are unable to make due to a specific religious observance (specify) on a specific date.
Inlement Weather
If campus is closed due to inclement weather or other campus emergencies, and assignments
and/or exams are schedule during the closure, the assignments are due the next time our class
meets.

Required Book (available through the University of Maryland Book Store):
  Scientists Answer Their Questions*. Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0199827411
  Singleton, Royce A. Jr. and Bruce C. Straits. 2009. *Approaches to Social Research, Fifth

Additional Readings, if necessary, are available through the course’s Site on Canvas.

NOTE: You should read over the reading(s) indicated on the syllabus PRIOR TO class. Some
material will not be discussed in class. You should be certain you understand the main points of
each chapter or article, and how they relate to qualitative methods as a whole. You should focus
on making connections among ideas in readings from class discussions

Course Guidelines:
- Attendance at classes and section is expected. You are required to obtain the information
  from missed classes. If you miss a significant number of classes, it is very likely that
  your performance and grade will suffer.
- It is expected that you will have completed the reading assignments for the class before
  coming to class. Although you do not have a mid-term or final exam, you will be graded
  on your knowledge of the readings through the course’s assignments and quizzes, as well
  as the ways that you incorporate the class readings in to your comments in class and
  section.
- Participation in class discussions and section is expected (and makes up 15% of your
  grade)
- All communication about the course (including schedule and syllabus changes) will be
  made via e-mail (and be reiterated in class if possible). Be sure to check your account
  regularly!
- Late assignments will NOT be accepted.
- Plagiarism and cheating is not tolerated. You are responsible for completely
  understanding the rules associated with the University of Maryland Honor Code before
  you hand in your first assignment. Handing in the first assignment indicates that you
  understand the rules and are abiding by them.
Weekly Syllabus: Schedule of Topics and Readings

SEPT 3  Introduction to class, review of syllabus and assignments.

SEPT 8  **Introduction to Social Research and discussion of assignments**
**Available on CANVAS Under Class Files**

SEPT 10 **Overview of Research Design**
Chapters 1 and 2 of Singleton and Straits

SEPT 15 **Discussion of Research Design**
Chapter 4 of Singleton and Straits 2010

Chapter 1 of Khan and Fisher 2014

Selection of partners for first research project in class.

SEPT 17 **Discussion of Measurement in Social Research**
Chapter 5 of Singleton and Straits 2010

Introduction of Homework Assignment #1

SEPT 22 **Discussion of Sampling in Social Research**
Chapter 6 of Singleton and Straits 2010
Discuss how to get started on field projects.

SEPT 24 **Discussion of Field Research Methods**
Chapter 11 Singleton and Straits 2010

Introduce Observational Research Plan in class

**HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT #1 due in class.**

SEPT 29 **Examples of Field Research**
** Available at: http://eth.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/3/1/91

Chapter 4 of Khan and Fisher 2014

Observational Research Plan due in class
OCT 1  QUIZ #1 on Research Design at beginning of class

Discussion of Field Studies
Chapter 5 of Khan and Fisher 2014

OCT 6  Discussion of How to Write up Findings of Social Research
Chapter 17 of Singleton and Straits 2010 and Go over writing-up the findings for
the observational exercise.

Discuss how to analyze data collected and write-up findings for field project. Go
over writing-up the findings for the observational exercise.

OCT 8 and 13  WORK WITH TAS ON ANALYZING DATA AND WRITING UP
OBSERVATIONAL PROJECT

OCT 15  Introduction of Field Experiments and Experiment Research Project
Chapter 7 of Singleton and Straits 2010

OCT 20  Discussion of Field Experiments and Experimental Designs
Chapter 8 of Singleton and Straits 2010

OBSERVATIONAL PROJECT DUE IN CLASS

OCT 22  Discussion of Field Experiments
Chapter 1 of Khan and Fisher 2014

Darley and Batson, “From Jerusalem to Jericho: A Study of Situational and
Dispositional Variables in Helping Behavior” and “Latent Aspects” in Golden, M.
** Available through CANVAS

Doob and Gross, “Status of Frustrator as an Inhibitor of Horn-Honking
Responses” and “How We Did it?” in Golden, M. Patricia. 1976. The Research
** Available through CANVAS

OCT 27  Discussion of Field Experiments
**Available at: http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?RQT=318&pmid=29258

Metropolitan Books. Chapter 1: Introduction: Getting Ready (pp1-10)
** Available through CANVAS
OCT 29  **Discussion of Field Experiments**
** Available through CANVAS

** Available through CANVAS

NOV 3  **Catch-up day to discuss field experiments and finalize plans for your projects**

NOV 5  **Beginning of Discussion of Ethics in Social Science Research**
Chapter 3 of Singleton and Straits 2010

** ** Available through CANVAS

NOV 10  **Discussion of Ethics in Social Science Research (cont’d)**
** Available through CANVAS

** Available at: http://www.nybooks.com/articles/14054

Introduce Homework Assignment #2.

NOV 12  **Introduction to Survey Research**
Chapter 9 of Singleton and Straits 2010

NOV 17  **Discussion of Survey Research (cont’d)**
Chapter 10 on Survey Instrumentation Singleton and Straits 2010

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT #2 Due in class

NOV 19  **More Examples of Survey Research**
Chapters 2 and 3 of Khan and Fisher 2014
**Introduce Homework Assignment #3 on writing survey question**

NOV 24  **Review and Workshop on Survey Questions and Discussion of Homework Assignment #3**
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>NOV 26</td>
<td>NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEC 1</td>
<td>QUIZ #2 ON ETHICS, EXPERIMENTS, AND SURVEY RESEARCH</td>
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<td>DEC 3</td>
<td>CATCH-UP DAY ON SURVEYS AND EXPERIMENTS</td>
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<td>DEC 8</td>
<td>Presentations of Field Experiments</td>
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<td>HOMEWORK #3: Survey Question Assignment Due in Class</td>
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<td>DEC 10</td>
<td>Presentations of Field Experiments (cont’d) and Final Discussion</td>
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