

SOC A200: INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS

Item	Value
Curriculum Committee Approval Date	10/07/2020
Top Code	220800 - Sociology
Units	3 Total Units
Hours	54 Total Hours (Lecture Hours 54)
Total Outside of Class Hours	0
Course Credit Status	Credit: Degree Applicable (D)
Material Fee	No
Basic Skills	Not Basic Skills (N)
Repeatable	No
Open Entry/Open Exit	No
Grading Policy	Standard Letter (S)
Associate Arts Local General Education (GE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area 4 Social and Behavioral Sciences 4B Social and Economic Institutions (OD2)
Associate Science Local General Education (GE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area 4 Social and Behavioral Sciences (OSD)
California State University General Education Breadth (CSU GE-Breadth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSU D0 Sociology & Criminology (D0)

Course Description

Introduces basic steps in the research process and/or basic steps in critically evaluating discussions on social issues using a variety of research methodologies. Emphasizes the scientific investigation of social subject matter. PREREQUISITE: SOC A100 or SOC A100H. ADVISORY: STAT C1000. Transfer Credit: CSU; UC. C-ID: SOCI 120. **C-ID:** SOCI 120.

Course Level Student Learning Outcome(s)

1. Compare and contrast the strengths and weaknesses of experiments, surveys, interviews, and field research.
2. Design, conduct, and analyze a survey, experiment, and/or research project.
3. Critically evaluate current research using knowledge about the elements of research design, measurement, and sampling.

Course Objectives

- 1. 1. Differentiate between empirical vs. opinion-based information.
- 2. 2. Describe and apply the scientific method.
- 3. 3. Define and recognize examples of independent and dependent variables.
- 4. 4. Compare and contrast different types of validity.
- 5. 5. Apply knowledge about population vs. sample to address generalizability.
- 6. 6. Explain and contrast the various sampling techniques used in research.
- 7. 7. Evaluate issues of sample size.
- 8. 8. Distinguish between cross-sectional, longitudinal, and sequential methods.

- 9. 9. Explain operational definitions and develop such definitions.
- 10. 10. Use the elements of research design, measurement, and sampling to analyze critically research
- 11. 11. Practice research design, data collection, and analysis.
- 12. 12. Design well-controlled experiments, particularly avoiding biased variables.
- 13. 13. Identify good sources for existing data.
- 14. 14. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of experiments, surveys/interviews, field research, and using existing data.
- 15. 15. Define various data processing methods.
- 16. Explain the major issues, which affect generalization of results.
- 17. Explain the major ethical concerns that influence the conduct of human research.

Lecture Content

Scientific understanding of behavior Use of research methods Scientific method Goals of science Empirical vs. opinion Basic vs. applied research Sociology and research methods Elements of research design Unit of analysis Independent vs. dependent variables Qualitative vs. quantitative Causation Hypothesis Theory Stages of social research Measurement Measurement process Reliability Validity types Measurement scales Sampling Population vs. sample Sampling designs Factors affecting sampling design choice Sample size Sampling errors Generalizability Experimental design Strengths and weaknesses Internal validity Assigning participants to conditions: Independent groups vs. repeated measures vs. matched pairs Developmental research designs: Longitudinal, cross-sectional, sequential Challenges Conducting experiments Selecting participants Manipulating the independent variable Measuring the dependent variable Surveys interviews Strengths and weaknesses Types Designs Constructing questions Response types Rating scales Challenges Field research Strengths and weaknesses Types Stages Challenges Using existing data Strengths and weaknesses Sources Types Data processing drawing conclusion Data processing methods Statistics and results Presenting results strategies Generalizing results Other populations Other experimenters Laboratory settings Role of replications Types of replications Research Ethics Informed consent Debriefing Institutional review boards Protection of human subjects

Method(s) of Instruction

- Lecture (02)
- DE Online Lecture (02X)

Instructional Techniques

1. Lecture: Explanation and application of topics, concepts, and terms, as well as providing relevant examples 2. Written feedback to all assignments 3. Verbal feedback on small discussion groups 4. Textbook and other instructor-provided handouts 5. Review sheets to support student preparation for tests 6. Overhead projector, board, or white board 7. Fims, or online media 8. Exams to assess student progress and mastery 9. Technology in the classroom: Power point presentations, Canvas use, accessing internet websites, and online journal references

Reading Assignments

Students will spend a minimum of three hours per week reading from assigned textbook(s) and additional assigned articles.

Writing Assignments

May include: A. Exams B. Analysis of current academic research C. Assigned Research activities and analysis (surveys, interviews, field research, exisitn data, and experiments) D. Application exercises E. Oral Presentations F. Reflection and discussion G. Small group activities

3. Students will use critical thinking skills to explain, to compare and contrast, and to describe relevant content in order to answer teacher or textbook questions.

Out-of-class Assignments

Three hours of homework per week spent on some or all the following:
May include: A. Analysis of current academic research B. Assigned Research activities and analysis (surveys, interviews, field research, exisitn data, and experiments) C. Application exercises D. Oral Presentations E. Reflection and discussion F. Small group activities

Demonstration of Critical Thinking

1. Objective and critical thinking examination questions covering text and lecture material. 2. Prepare a critical analysis assignment on of a piece of current research by using principles of measurement, sampling, and research design. 3. Practice research design, data collection, and analysis. 4. Participate in in-class discussions. 5. Term projects (as described in Writing Assignments)

Required Writing, Problem Solving, Skills Demonstration

1. Students will use critical thinking skills to conduct and design research project. 2. Students will use critical thinking skills to answer essay questions. Student success will be viewed in terms of (a) practical applications described; (b) examples of content that are fully explained; and/or (c) reasons given to justify the student's position. 3. Students will use critical thinking skills to explain, to compare and contrast, and to describe relevant content in order to answer teacher or textbook questions.

Eligible Disciplines

Sociology: Master's degree in sociology OR bachelor's degree in sociology AND master's degree in anthropology, any ethnic studies, social work, or psychology OR the equivalent. Master's degree required.

Textbooks Resources

1. Required Editor Ridnor, Rachel,D., Introduction to Sociology Research Methods, ed. OER, 2022

Other Resources

1. Discipline Related Web Sites Instructor provided handouts