SOC363 Methods of Social Research  
Winter 2019

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**Class Mode:** Online  
**Office Hours:** MW 1-3pm or by appointment

**Required Texts:**

Other readings will be on Canvas.

**Course Description:**
This course explores the relevance of research methods in the social sciences and provides students with the basic skills required to organize and implement sociological inquiries. Research methods are not only tools for social research but also reflections of the social science philosophies for many social scientists which is exciting as well as concerning. In this class, we will cover both qualitative and quantitative methods. I will also introduce some research tools such as interviews and statistical analysis with practice in labs. There are 4 themes covered in this class: Foundations for Social Research, Fundamentals of Social Research, Basic Social Research Designs, and Advanced Social Research Designs.

**Online Class Structure:**
CWU has a strong commitment to the use of electronic technology, and this online course will include lectures in the form of power points, videos, and readings from your book as well as articles that will be downloaded from Canvas. An overview of each of the weekly study modules will provide a guideline of class content. Students are responsible for submitting assignments on time. You will need to complete the assigned readings in order to create your writing assignments.

Assignments will be posted to the SOC363 Canvas Shell. Please be sure to follow ALL of the directions in order to receive a good grade on each assignment.

**Technological Requirements:**

All students must be using MS Word Version 2004 or higher to submit assignments as attachments to Canvas.

**Course Learning Objectives:**
The course is to help students to be able to

1. Approach the research review process appropriately.
2. Provide rationales for validity and reliability of analysis.
3. Develop research questions.
4. Apply learned research tools.

**Professor Responsibilities:**
The professor takes responsibility for monitoring the climate in the classroom, to help create an atmosphere conducive to student learning. This includes serving as a resource and guide for your professional learning, ensuring that the class offers a safe opportunity for exchange of ideas and opinions, and fairly evaluating all student work. I will grade all assignments in a timely manner, and in most cases return them to you within one or two weeks of the due date.

If you experience a problem or difficulty in class or with an assignment, please contact me so I can see how I can be of assistance. I am willing to be flexible and work with you, so please ask.

**Student Responsibilities:**
Respect all members of this course (instructor, peers, and guests) and their opinions. You do not have to agree with others’ point of view. But you need to show respect and willingness to hear and understand their perspectives. I reserve the right to remove disrespectful students from public display such as discussion board.

The rule of thumb is that for each 5-credit-hour course, at least 5 hours are needed outside classroom. It is critical that you read the textbook and any supplemental readings BEFORE
using the PowerPoints and other scheduled content on Canvas. This will help you retain much larger amount of knowledge than if you do it the other way around. Your full participation on a weekly basis is not only a requirement, but it is an essential aspect of the course process. All students are expected to do the work assigned and to notify the instructor when emergencies arise.

**To be Successful:**

1. You are expected to obtain and read all assigned readings before class and come to class. Failure to read these readings and come to class will make it difficult to be successful in this class.

2. You will need to **check Blackboard every day** to keep up with the course content (PowerPoint, syllabi, readings, instructions for assignments, announcements, and grades) and finish all assignments on time. Keep in mind that the PowerPoint presentations are guidelines only. They do not have enough information to allow students to succeed on exams without coming to class.

3. You need to apply critical thinking and improve writing skills.

4. You will need a desire to learn about social facts and perspectives to engage in discussions, particularly discussions on controversial topics.

5. Be concerned with the quality of your work. That is, turning in your assignments does not translate into an “A” grade or a passing grade at the end of the semester.

6. It is the students’ responsibility to make sure their Canvas is active and inform the instructor if there is a problem with submitting online work. If you experience difficulties with submission on Canvas, email me immediately with assignment copied and pasted in the email in addition to an attachment. Courtesy will not be extended without an email submission in the case of online submission difficulties. For help to solve Canvas issues, there is 24/7 support you can contact on Canvas. Toll free: (877)399-8897. Email: support@instructure.com. As much as I would like to help you, technology is not my expertise area.

7. Seek help from the instructor rather than keep quiet and do poorly in the course if there is something you do not understand.

8. Ask specific questions when seeking help so that the instructor can figure out the best way to help you.

9. Last but not least, turn in your assignments on time. You can turn in your work within two weeks after the due date with 50% of the grades deducted without excuses for ONE TIME in a quarter. Work that is turned in beyond two weeks after the due time will NOT get grades without excuses. With reasonable excuses, please make up for full credits within two weeks after the due time. There will be no make-up after two weeks unless there is extreme situation. For the exams and assignments due in March, there is no extension.
Incomplete Policies:
Incomplete will be granted at the end of the quarter for students who have done good work but cannot complete the class on time for reasonable excuses. Students will work with me to finish their work in a timely manner to change their grades. At the end of one year after “incomplete” is granted, incompletes will change to a failure grade.

Sexual Harassment:
As much as I hope that you will never have to deal with sexual harassment, it is important to recognize that it does happen, and as a university community we need to address it. University policy, state law, and federal law prohibit sexual harassment between faculty members and students, between students, and between students and staff. The university defines sexual harassment as follows: unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when 1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual’s employment or career advancement; 2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as a basis for employment decisions or academic decisions affecting such individual; or 3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonable interfering with an individual’s work or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work or academic environment.

Disability Statement:
Central Washington University is committed to creating a learning environment that meets the needs of its diverse student body. If you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning, discuss your concerns with the instructor. Students with disabilities should contact Disability Services to discuss a range of options to removing barriers, including accommodations. Student Disability Services is located in Hogue 126. Call (509) 963-2214 or email ds@cwu.edu for more information.

Please submit your documentation of disability at the BEGINNING of the quarter so that I can accommodate your needs.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism Policy:
Students are expected to do their own work and neither to give nor to receive assistance during quizzes, examinations, or other class exercises. One form of academic dishonesty is plagiarism. Plagiarism is intellectual larceny: the theft of ideas or their manner of expression. Plagiarism may receive such penalties as failure on a paper, failure in the course, and expulsion from the university in severe cases.

Each of the following constitutes plagiarism:
1. Turning in as your own work a paper or part of a paper that anyone other than you wrote. This would include, but is not limited to work taken from another student, from a published author or from an Internet contributor.
2. Turning in a paper that includes unquoted and/or undocumented passages someone else wrote.
3. Including in a paper someone else’s original ideas, opinions, or research results without attribution.
4. Paraphrasing without attribution.
5. Turning the same paper in for credit in more than one class.

If you are not sure if something you have written is plagiarized, please contact me BEFORE you turn it in.
If plagiarism is detected – and I will check – the student will receive an automatic zero for the assignment and proper university officials will be notified.

Course Policies:

1. All essays and papers will be written in an appropriate academic format including citations and references.
2. Submission of assignments: Please submit your assignment online. If you experience difficulties submitting online, please email me your work without delay. Your submission will be in Canvas checking for plagiarism issues.
3. Emails: I try to respond to your emails within 48 hours, excluding weekends and holidays. I encourage you to use office hours. Please be courteous in your emails, making sure you address me with my title or name and present your questions and request properly. I do NOT respond to disrespectful or intimidating emails.
4. Office Hour: I will be online during office hours. You can email your questions to me during office hours and I will respond immediately after receiving your questions.
5. I reserve the right to change the course syllabus, including assignments, course structure, and deadlines. You will be promptly notified of any changes well in advance.
6. Make-up: Assignments may be made up if, AND ONLY IF, you have an excuse. If you will be experiencing a lengthy absence due to illness, hospitalization, family emergency, and so on, please be sure to document your absence (e.g. doctor’s note) and provide your documentation IN ADVANCE for me. You will then have TWO WEEKs to make up the assignment. See also “To be successful.”
7. You are expected to complete all reading assignments and to complete written assignments by the date specified. Late papers without an excuse will not be accepted for full credits. Each student has ONE opportunity in a quarter to turn in a late work within TWO WEEKS after the due date for HALF credit. Work turned in more than TWO WEEKS after the due date will NOT be graded. See also “To be successful.”
8. There is NO flexibility for assignments due in March. See also “To be successful.”
Grading and Evaluation:

Exercises ([10X1]+[15X5] points) 85
Projects (3 X 35 points) 105
Participation (5X2 points) 10
Total Points 200

Exercises: Exercises are follow-ups for our weekly lectures. Points will be assigned based on the work involved in the lecture slides and a general worksheet. I will post the worksheet separately in Canvas for you to work on. Instructions must be followed in order to be successful. Failure to follow the required format will result in a 0.

Projects: You will complete 3 projects based on class lectures and assigned readings. Detailed instruction for the writing will be provided in advance of the due date. Instructions must be followed in order to be successful. Failure to follow the required format will result in a 0.

Participation: There are 5 online discussions that you will need to participate. Each discussion is worth 2 points. Instructions will be provided in the discussion threads.

Bonus Points: There is NO bonus points.

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Letter Grade (%)</th>
<th>GPA Credit</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>186-200</td>
<td>A (93-100%)</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180-185</td>
<td>A- (90-92%)</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>174-189</td>
<td>B+ (87-89%)</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>166-173</td>
<td>B (83-86%)</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160-165</td>
<td>B- (80-82%)</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>154-159</td>
<td>C+ (77-79%)</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>146-153</td>
<td>C (73-76%)</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140-145</td>
<td>C- (70-72%)</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>134-139</td>
<td>D+ (67-69%)</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>126-133</td>
<td>D (63-66%)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>120-125</td>
<td>D- (60-62%)</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>119 and lower</td>
<td>F (0-59%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
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Assignment Due Dates:
Exercises (6)  |  January 7, January 22 (TUESDAY), February 4, February 19 (TUESDAY), February 25, March 4  Mondays
---|---
Project 1  |  January 14 Monday
Project 2  |  January 28 Monday
Project 3  |  February 11 Monday
Discussion (5)  |  January 7, January 22 (TUESDAY), February 4, February 19 (TUESDAY), February 25, March 4  Mondays

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Class Schedule  
(Subject to Change)

**MODULE I: FOUNDATIONS FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH**

Week 1: January 3-4  
*Readings:*  
Investigating the Social World (hereafter referred to as ISW): Chapter (abbreviated as CH hereafter) 1 Science, Society, and Social Research

Week 2: January 7-11  
*Readings:*  
ISW: CH 2 The Process and Problems of Social Research  
ISW: CH 3 Research Ethics and Research Proposals  
IRB process: notes.  
Documentary: Obedience Experiment  
*Exercise 1 due:* January 7 Monday  
*Discussion 1 Due:* January 7 Monday

**MODULE II: FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIAL RESEARCH**

Week 3: January 14-18  
*Readings:*  
ISW: CH 4 Conceptualization and Measurement  
ISW: CH 5 Sampling and Generalizability  
*Project 1 due:* January 14 Monday
Week 4: January 21
*Martin Luther King Day, No Class 😊*

Week 4: January 22-25
ISW: CH 6 Research Design and Causation
*Exercise 2 due: January 22 Tuesday*
*Discussion 2 due: January 22 Tuesday*

**MODULE III: BSIC SOCIAL RESEARCH DESIGNS**

Week 5: January 28 – February 1
ISW: CH 7 Experiments
ISW: CH 8 Survey Research
Documentary: The Last Lecture
*Project 2 due: January 28 Monday*

Week 6: February 4-8
*Readings:*
ISW: CH 9 Quantitative Data Analysis
ISW: CH 10 Qualitative Methods: Observing, Participating, Listening
Documentary: Catch a Trader November 14, 16
*Exercise 3 due: February 4 Monday*
*Discussion 3 due: February 4 Monday*

Week 7: February 11-15
*Readings:*
ISW: CH 11 Qualitative Data Analysis
*Project 3 due: February 11 Monday*

**MODULE IV: ADVANCED SOCIAL RESEARCH DESIGNS**

Week 8: February 18
*Presidents Day, No Class 😊*

Week 8: February 19-22
Readings:
ISW: CH 12 Evaluation and Policy Research
CH 13 Historical and Comparative Research and Content Analysis
Exercise 4 due: February 19 Tuesday
Discussion 4 due: February 25 Monday

Week 9: February 25 – March 1
Readings:
ISW: CH 14 Secondary Data Analysis and Big Data
Exercise 5 due: March 4 Monday
Discussion 5 due: March 4 Monday

Weeks 10: March 4-8
Readings:
CH 15 Mixed Methods
Exercise 6 due: March 4 Monday

Week 11: Final’s Week
Optional Course Summary due: March 11 Monday