

Central Washington University
The College of the Sciences
Department of Sociology

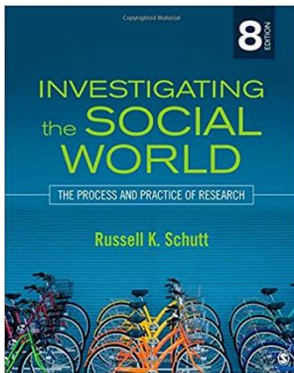
SOC363 Methods of Social Research
Spring 2019

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Classroom: Samuelson 117
Office Hours: MW 8-9am
Class: MW 9-10:40am

Required Texts:

Schutt, Russell K. 2012. *Investigating the Social World: The Process and Practice of Research*. 8th edition, Washington DC, Pine Forge Press.



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.

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.

LEARNER OUTCOMES	ASSESSMENT
Articulate the methods terminology and apply it in methods practices.	Journal, Structured Discussion
Compare and contrast qualitative and quantitative methods.	Journal, Structured Discussion
Apply research processes in research projects.	Project

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 the classroom.

It is critical that you read the textbook and any supplemental readings BEFORE you come to class. 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 Canvas 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. Seek help from the instructor rather than keep quiet and do poorly in the course if there is something you do not understand.
7. Ask specific questions when seeking help so that the instructor can figure out the best way to help you.

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:*** If you experience difficulties submitting online, please email me your work without delay. Your submission will be in Canvas checking for plagiarism issues. 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.
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. If you do not receive my response within 48 hours, please follow-up. Do not assume I have received your email.

4. 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 as occasions permit.
5. **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."
6. 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 June, there is no extension.
7. There is NO flexibility for assignments due in June.
8. Electronic devices: NO electronic devices other than a laptop for the purpose of notetaking. When we need electronic devices for class, I will let you know.
9. **Signing Attendance Sheet:** Please sign the attendance sheet when you are in class. However, if you have to be late or leave early by 15 minutes or more without documented excuses, you can sit in class. Please do NOT sign the attendance sheet.

Grading and Evaluation:

Journal	40
Structured Discussions (3 X 15 points)	45
Projects [(2 X 35)+(1X25)]	95
Online Discussion	10
Attendance	10
Total Points	200

Journal: Journal is to keep record of our class activities that occur every class. You will be asked to turn in your journal 4 times during the semester. I will give you 10 points for each submission based on completeness and clarity of the journal. See Canvas for detailed instructions.

Structured Discussions: You will participate in discussions (3 X 15points=45 points). Detailed instructions for these activities will be provided in class when discussions take place. Instructions must be followed in order to be successful. *Failure to follow the required format will result in a 0.*

Online Discussions: There are 10 online discussions that you will need to participate. Each discussion is worth 1 point. Instructions will be provided in the discussion threads.

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. *Failure to follow the required format will result in a 0.*

Attendance: Your attendance score will be calculated at the end of the semester. The score will be points assigned to attendance times the percentage of your attendance in the semester. For example, if the perfect attendance score is 10 points and you attend 80% of all classes in a semester, you get 8 points. **See class policy for instructions of signing attendance sheets.**

Bonus Points: There is NO bonus points.

Grading Scale:

Points	Letter Grade (%)	GPA Credit
186-200	A (93-100%)	4.0
180-185	A- (90-92%)	3.7
174-189	B+ (87-89%)	3.3
166-173	B (83-86%)	3.0
160-165	B- (80-82%)	2.7
154-159	C+ (77-79%)	2.3
146-153	C (73-76%)	2.0
140-145	C- (70-72%)	1.7
134-139	D+ (67-69%)	1.3
126-133	D (63-66%)	1.0
120-125	D- (60-62%)	0.7
119 and lower	F (0-59%)	0

Assignment Due Dates:

Project 1	April 8 Monday on Canvas
Journal Submission 1	April 8 Monday in Class
Project 2	April 22 Monday on Canvas
Journal Submission 2	April 22 Monday in Class

Journal Submission 3	May 6 Monday in Class
Journal Submission 4	May 20 Monday in Class
Online Discussions	March 29, April 5, April 12, April 19, April 26, May 3, May 10, May 17, May 24, May 31 Friday on Canvas
Project 3	June 3 Monday on Canvas

**Class Schedule
(Subject to Change)**

MODULE I: FOUNDATIONS FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

Week 1: March 26-29

Readings:

Investigating the Social World (hereafter referred to as ISW): Chapter (abbreviated as CH hereafter) 1 Science, Society, and Social Research

Week 2: April 1-5

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

MODULE II: FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIAL RESEARCH

Week 3: April 8-12

Readings:

ISW: CH 4 Conceptualization and Measurement

ISW: CH 5 Sampling and Generalizability

Project 1 due: April 8 Monday

Journal 1 due: April 8 Monday

Week 4: April 15-19

ISW: CH 6 Research Design and Causation

MODULE III: BSIC SOCIAL RESEARCH DESIGNS

Week 5: April 22-26

ISW: CH 7 Experiments

ISW: CH 8 Survey Research

Dillman, Don A. 2007. *Mail and Internet Surveys: The Tailored Design Method*. New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Documentary: The Last Lecture

Project 2 due: April 22 Monday

Journal 2 due: April 22 Monday

Week 6: April 29 – May 3

Readings:

ISW: CH 9 Quantitative Data Analysis

ISW: CH 10 Qualitative Methods: Observing, Participating, Listening

Documentary: Catch a Trader

Week 7: May 6-10

Readings:

ISW: CH 11 Qualitative Data Analysis

Emerson, Robert M., Rachel I. Fretz, and Linda L. Shaw. 2011. *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press

Journal 3 due: May 6 Monday

MODULE IV: ADVANCED SOCIAL RESEARCH DESIGNS

Week 8: May 13-17

Readings:

ISW: CH 12 Evaluation and Policy Research

CH 13 Historical and Comparative Research and Content Analysis

Week 9: May 20-24

Readings:

ISW: CH 14 Secondary Data Analysis and Big Data

Journal 4 due: May 20 Monday

Week 10: May 27

Memorial Day No Class 😊

Week 10: May 28-31

Readings:
CH 15 Mixed Methods

Week 11: Final's Week
Project 3 due: June 3 Monday