

Sociology 205
Topics for Final Exam

April 19 Factorial Surveys

Relation to Experiments

Uses: question wording
question order
vignettes

Reason for vignette studies

April 21 Field experiments

Advantages

difficulties of conducting

April 23 Ethical issues

Types

setting limits

incentives to advance knowledge--sharing data; replication & critique

balancing goals and standards

Informed consent--meaning

Deception

role in experiments

debriefing

Harm and distress

Selective distribution of benefits--random assignment

April 25 Ethical issues (cont)

Surveys--confidentiality

Ethnography/observation

obligation to people being studied/obligation as sociologist

confidentiality

issues with illegal/unethical behavior

April 27

Comparative research

definition--comparing "societies" or nations (remember units of analysis, March 3)

qualitative--parallel histories

quantitative--measure variables

Comparative survey research:

language issues

sampling issues

choice of countries

Most important topics from earlier in course:

descriptive and explanatory research

Correlation and causation

variables--what they are

hypotheses--role in inductive, deductive research

sampling--why random sampling is preferred

Major ways of getting information: surveys, qualitative interviews,

observation/ethnography, focus groups, content analysis

difference between observational and experimental research