

SOCIOLOGY 205—METHODS OF SOCIAL RESEARCH
Spring 2004

M, W, F 10:00 AM
Room: Arjona 417

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 11-12 or by appointment.

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This course is an introduction to research methods in sociology. It is intended to teach students how to carry out basic sociological research, find information, and evaluate the research of others. It considers a variety of methods, including surveys, interviews, and the analysis of secondary data. Some basic statistics (means and percentages) are used in the class. I assume that you are familiar with these from previous classes, like Statistics 110V—if you aren't confident of your ability to use them, talk to me as soon as possible.

Requirements:

Projects:	1. Interview/Secondary data (Feb 27):	18%
	2. Survey Analysis (April 23):	18%
	Detailed instructions for these projects will be given later.	
Exams:	Tests (Feb 13; March 22; April 16)	12% each
	Final Exam (May 7):	18%
Other:	Collection of Survey Data	10%

Extra credit: optional extra credit assignments will be offered in March and April. Details will be given later.

Note: you must complete **all** assignments and exams to pass the course. The final exam is cumulative.

Late assignments: You must notify me at least 24 hours in advance. I will give an extension if you have a good reason; otherwise I will accept it with some penalty. If you don't give me any advance warning, I will not accept the assignment at all.

Important University Policies

1. The last day to drop a course is MONDAY, MARCH 29. If you are having trouble keeping up in this (or any other) course, you should consider dropping it. If you've missed assignments, you should definitely drop it.
2. Once final grades are submitted, they cannot be changed except in the case of errors in calculation. So if you are concerned about your grade, talk to me **before** the semester is over.

Reading: The main textbook is E. S. Adler and R. Clark, *How It's Done: An Invitation to Social Research (second edition)*, which is for sale at the Co-op. There are also several readings which are available on the internet (on the course web page or at the URL indicated). I may add a few short extra readings as the semester goes on. You should do each reading **before** the day that it is listed on the schedule.

Schedule

Jan 21	Introduction
Jan 23	Description and Explanation Adler and Clark, chapter 1
Jan 26	Variables and Measurement Adler and Clark, pp. 139-49
Jan 28	Measurement (continued) Adler and Clark, pp. 150-62
Jan 30	Sampling Adler and Clark, pp. 105-9, 113-18
Feb 2	Sampling (continued) Adler and Clark, pp. 123-34
Feb 4	Primary and secondary information *Barry O'Neill, "Invention of the School Discipline Lists," <i>School Administrator</i> , December 1994. Adler and Clark, pp. 357-65
Feb 6	Secondary Information (continued) Adler and Clark, pp. 365-71
Feb 9	Secondary Information (continued) Adler and Clark, pp. 346-57
Feb 11	Qualitative Interviews Adler and Clark, pp. 265-81
Feb 13	Test #1
Feb 16	Qualitative Interviews (continued) Adler and Clark, pp. 281-95
Feb 18	Qualitative Interviews (continued) Adler and Clark, pp. 295-304
Feb 20	Observation Adler and Clark, pp. 308-21

Feb 23	Observation (continued) Adler and Clark, pp. 322-34
Feb 25	Observation (continued) Adler and Clark, pp. 334-41
Feb 27	Focus Groups
Mar 1	Content Analysis Adler and Clark, pp. 379-91
Mar 3	Content Analysis (continued) Adler and Clark, pp. 391-95
Mar 5	Prediction and Explanation Adler and Clark, pp. 23-28; 30-36
Mar 15	Correlation and Causation Dan Akst, "Does an Elite College Really Pay?" http://moneycentral.msn.com/content/collegeandfamily/savingforcollege/p36742.asp
Mar 17	Reading Tables Adler and Clark, pp. 471-77
Mar 19	Surveys Adler and Clark, pp. 230-41
Mar 22	Test #2
Mar 24	Surveys (continued) Adler and Clark, pp. 241-50
Mar 26	Surveys (continued) Adler and Clark, pp. 250-58
Mar 29	Random Probes Tom W. Smith, "Random Probes of GSS Questions" http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/GSS/rnd1998/reports/m-reports/meth51.htm
Mar 31	Survey research designs Adler and Clark, pp. 178-92
Apr 2	Experiments Adler and Clark, pp. 197-211
Apr 5	Experiments (continued) Adler and Clark, pp. 211-17
Apr 7	Experiments (continued) Adler and Clark, pp. 217-25
Apr 9	Factorial Surveys
Apr 12	Using experimental design *"Are Emily and Greg More Employable than Lakisha and Jamal?: A Field Experiment on Labor Market Discrimination." National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper #9873, pp. 1-12, 22- 24.
Apr 14	Quasi-experiments
Apr 16	Test #3

Apr 19	Ethical Issues Adler and Stier, pp. 39-58
Apr 21	Ethical Issues (continued) Adler and Stier, pp. 58-68
Apr 23	Kinds of Explanation Adler and Stier, pp. 494-6
Apr 26	Specification Effects
Apr 28	Generalizability
Apr 30	Comparative Research