

Sociology 205  
Topics for Test #1

- Jan 23      What is Social Science?  
                 Description and Explanation  
                 Exploratory, Critical, and Applied Research
- Jan 26-8.    Variables and measurement  
                 Definition of variables  
                 Conceptualization  
                 Operationalization  
                 Indexes and scales--basic idea  
                 Constructing an index  
                 Multidimensional concepts
- Jan 30      Sampling  
                 convenience samples  
                 judgment (purposive) samples  
                 quota samples  
                 random (probability) sampling  
                                 how it is done  
                                 advantages
- Feb 2        Sampling (2)  
                 target and achieved samples  
                 importance of response rate  
                 modifications of simple random sampling--especially cluster sampling  
                 snowball sampling--what it is and when it's useful
- Feb 4-6     Secondary information  
                 Definition--difference between primary and secondary information  
                 Issues with secondary statistics:  
                                 Basic accuracy  
                                 Consistency over time/place  
                                 Conceptual validity--are they right for your question?
- Feb 9        Secondary information (cont)  
                 Checking with secondary data: individual and aggregate  
                 Oral histories, documents, and other non-statistical information