Sociology 205
Topics for Test #3

March 24-6 Surveys
- standardization--reasons for
- methods of administering
- importance of sampling/callbacks

March 29 Survey Questions
- closed vs. open-ended: advantages of each
- general rules--clarity, balance
- giving information in questions
- random probes--what they are and what you can learn

April 2-5 Relations between variables/Hypotheses
- What it means for variables to be related
- Why that's relevant to explanation
- Hypotheses--identifying variables
- Distinguishing between hypotheses and other kinds of statements

April 5-7 Research designs
- cross-sections, repeated cross-sections (trend), panels (longitudinal)
- cohorts vs. repeated cross-sections
- advantages and disadvantages of each

April 9 Experiments
- elements of experiment
- difference between experimental and non-experimental (observational) research
- advantage of experiments
- Practical/ethical difficulties in social sciences

April 12-14 Experimental Validity
- Internal validity
  - how to make groups similar
  - "Hawthorne" effects
  - how to control/check for Hawthorne effects
- External validity
  - Population (why random samples uncommon)
  - setting and duration
- Interpretation of experimental results