

SOCI 202: Research Principles and Practices

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Class time
Wednesdays, 9:45-11:00
Fridays, 8:15-9:30

Office hours
Tuesdays, 9:00-11:30
Thursdays; 9:00-11:30
Fridays, 1:15-2:15
or by appointment

Course Description

This course addresses how various philosophic assumptions shape the aims and practices of research in Sociology. It provides students with empirical research design principles and an introduction to methods of collecting and recording data, assessing reliability and validity, and conducting data analysis. Different research strategies are introduced and ethical implications of research will be discussed. 3 credits

Textbook

Jackson, Winston and Norine Verberg. 2007. *Methods: Doing Social Research, 4th ed.*
Toronto: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Learning Objectives

At the end of this course, you will have grounding in the following research areas:

- Different philosophic approaches to studying the social world (ch 1);
- Theory development and developing causal models (chs 2 & 12);
- Quantitative approaches and strategies, including:
 - Experimental design (ch 3)
 - Survey research methods and questionnaire development (chs 4 & 14)
 - Secondary analysis; Content analysis (ch 5)
 - Measurement (ch. 13)
 - Sampling (ch. 15)
- Qualitative approaches, including:
 - Ethnography; Phenomenology; Grounded theory (ch 6)
- Critical approaches, including:
 - Action research; Feminist research (ch 7)
- Approaches to considering ethical practices in research (ch 10); and
- Strategies for avoiding and recognizing research bias (ch 11)
- Strategies for describing data and drawing inference (ch 8 & ch. 9)

Evaluation

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| ❖ Midterm | 30% | Wednesday, October 17 (Chapters 1-5 & 12 & 14) |
| ❖ Assignment | 30% | Due Friday, November 23 (beginning of class) <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The project will be outline in class and in a handout |
| ❖ Final exam | 40% | TBA (primarily focused on Chapters 6-11 & 13) |