

SYLLABUS

SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS

MORAVIAN COLLEGE

FALL 2006

DR. D. WETCHER-HENDRICKS

CONTACTING THE PROFESSOR

OFFICE: PPHAC 314

OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAY 11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY 9:30 A.M. - NOON

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COURSE READING MATERIALS

BABBIE, EARL. THE PRACTICE OF SOCIAL RESEARCH, 10TH EDITION. WADSWORTH PUBLISHING. 2003.

ASSORTED HANDOUTS AND WEBSITES

Successful completion of this course should produce the following outcomes.

1. understanding of the basic scientific research process
2. competence in identifying components of a study and recognizing their relationships to one another
3. appreciation for the influences that previously conducted research and established theories have upon new research
4. familiarity with methods of sociological research and related issues, such as validity, reliability, and research ethics
5. skills to comprehend and assess research reports as well as to write summaries of new research

EVALUATION

Two non-cumulative exams are given in this course. They include objective and subjective questions that cover the basic concepts discussed in class and in assigned readings.

A research project must be completed by the students during the term. Three written summaries, due at various points during the semester, should demonstrate the methodological process involved in

formulating and investigating a hypothesis. Specific information about the project appears in the “Semester Project Guidelines.”

Students must also complete five written lab reports, one to two pages in length. Lab sessions take place in class on scheduled dates (see course schedule). Each report is due at the beginning of the following class. These assignments help to fulfill the college’s requirements for writing-intensive courses. Information about each lab will be presented as it becomes relevant.

Although attendance, itself, does not affect students’ grades in this course, each student receives a class participation grade. **IT IS NECESSARY TO ATTEND CLASS TO RECEIVE CLASS PARTICIPATION CREDIT.** Contributions to class discussions and activities increase students’ participation grades. Obvious inactivity (including sleeping), disruptions, or lack of effort lowers the grade.

To determine a course grade, the preceding factors have been combined in the following manner.



EXAMS	40% (20% each)
RESEARCH PROJECT	30% (10% from each phase)
WRITTEN LAB REPORTS	20% (4% each)
CLASS PARTICIPATION	10%

Course grades follow the letter-grade system. Please consult the Moravian College Student Handbook for description of the requirements for attaining each grade. The numerical ranges used in assigning each letter grade in this course are as follows.

A	92%-100%	C	72%-77.9%
A-	90%-91.9%	C-	70%-71.9%
B+	88%-89.9%	D+	68%-69.9%
B	82%-87.9%	D	62%-67.9%
B-	80%-81.9%	D-	60%-61.9%
C+	78%-79.9%	F	0%-59.9%

course policies


All policies listed in the college catalog that deal with attendance, withdrawal, cheating, plagiarism, and any other pertinent policies apply to this class.



Please make every possible effort to take exams on the scheduled dates (see course schedule). All missed exams will be given at the end of the term. Late papers and lab reports will be accepted with a five point penalty for each day that it is late (including weekends and holidays).

NOTE: The Course Schedule on the following page provides an anticipated schedule of topics and assignments. Please be aware that this schedule is subject to change based upon the progression of the term.



COURSE SCHEDULE

assignment for this week	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Buy the book Read pages 5-6, 8-12, 16-21, and 24-28	8/28	8/29 Introductions	8/30	8/31 Sociological Inquiry	9/1
Read Chapter 2 (beginning with page 43)	9/4 NO CLASS  Labor Day	9/5 Research Elements	9/6	9/7 LAB Research Elements	9/8
Read Chapter 4 Write lab report	9/11	9/12 The Research Plan	9/13	9/14 LAB The Research Plan	9/15
Read Chapter 5 Write lab report	9/18	9/19 Measurement	9/20	9/21 Measurement	9/22
Read Chapter 3 Write Phase 1 summary	9/25	9/26 LAB Phase 1 summary due Research Ethics	9/27	9/28 Research Ethics	9/29
Write lab report STUDY!	10/2	10/3 Research Ethics	10/4	10/5 EXAM 1	10/6

Read handout(s) and assigned website(s)	10/9 FALL	10/10 BREAK	10/11	10/12 Literature Reviews	10/13
Read handout(s) and assigned website(s)	10/16	10/17 Literature Reviews	10/18	10/19 Literature Reviews/ Developing Questions	10/20
Read Chapter 6	10/23	10/24 Developing Questions	10/25	10/26 Developing Questions	10/27
Read Chapter 7	10/30	10/31*  Sampling	11/1	11/2 LAB (due at ind. meeting) Sampling	11/3
Prepare for meeting Write lab report	11/6	11/7 Individual Meetings	11/8	11/9 Individual Meetings	11/10
Read handout Read pages 243-266 Write lab report	11/13	11/14 LAB Data Collection Overview	11/15	11/16 Surveys	11/17
Read pages 221-227 and 239	11/20	11/21 Surveys/Observations	11/22	11/23 	11/24
Read pages 314-324 and	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30	12/1

332-338		Observations/ Experiments		Experiments	
Read pages 283-309	12/4	12/5 Unobtrusive Research	12/6	12/7 make-up/review day	12/8
STUDY	12/11	12/12	12/13	12/14	12/15

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	Literature Reviews		Developing Questions		
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