

COURSE SYLLABUS

BASIC RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIOLOGY

SOC246

SPRING 2010

MORAVIAN COLLEGE

DR. DEBRA WETCHER-HENDRICKS

CONTACTING THE PROFESSOR

Office: PPHAC 314

Office Hours: Tuesday 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Friday 9:00-10:00 a.m.

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REQUIRED READING MATERIAL



Babbie, Earl. The Basics of Social Research,
4th Edition. Wadsworth Publishing,
2007. ISBN-13: 9780495094685

Assorted handouts and websites

Course Outcomes

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

Throughout the term, students work on research projects. Three written summaries, due at designated times throughout the semester, should demonstrate the methodological processes involved in formulating and investigating a hypothesis. Specific information about the project appears in the "Semester Project Guidelines."

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.

Five laboratory practicals require students to apply information from class and readings to various research scenarios. Specific information about each lab will be presented as it becomes relevant. Students have access to their books and notes and may discuss the labs with classmates during lab sessions. These sessions take place during the first ½ hour of class on scheduled dates (see course schedule). Lab responses are due at the end of these time periods.

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 (including consistently arriving to class late), and lack of effort lowers the grade.

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



EXAMS	36% (18% each)
RESEARCH PROJECT	36% (12% each)
LAB RESPONSES	20% (4% each)
CLASS PARTICIPATION	8%

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%

All standards 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 and submit written assignments on the scheduled dates (see course schedule). All missed examinations are given at the end of the semester. Late papers and lab reports will be accepted with a five point penalty for each day that they are late (including weekends and holidays). Attendance, itself, does not directly affect students' grades in this course. However, attendance is indirectly reflected in the class participation/activities grade. Class participation grades rely, in part, upon presence in class. Also, students may not make up class activities that take place during classes for which they are absent.






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

COURSE SCHEDULE

PLEASE NOTE: This Course Schedule provides an anticipated calendar of topics and assignments. Please be aware that this schedule is subject to change based upon the progression of the term.

assignment for this week	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Buy the book Read pages 5-6, 8-12, 16-21, and 24-28	1/18	1/19 Introductions	1/20	1/21 Sociological Inquiry	1/22
Read Chapter 2 (beginning with page 43)	1/25	126 Research Elements	1/27	1/28 Research Elements	1/29
Read Chapter 4 Write lab report	2/1	2/2 LAB The Research Plan	2/3	2/4 The Research Plan	2/5
Read Chapter 5 Write lab report	2/8	2/9 LAB Measurement	2/10	2/11 Phase 1 summary due Measurement	2/12
Read handout(s) and website(s) Write Phase 1 summary	2/15	2/16 Measurement/ Literature Reviews	2/17	2/18 Literature Reviews	2/19
Write lab report STUDY!	2/22	2/23 Literature Reviews	2/24	2/25 EXAM 1	2/26
Read Chapter 3	3/1	3/2 Research Ethics	3/3	3/4 Research Ethics	3/5

Rest and relax	3/8	3/9	3/10	3/11	3/12
	S P R I N G B R E A K 				
Read Chapter 6	3/15	3/16 Research Ethics	3/17 	3/18 LAB Developing Questions	3/19
Read Chapter 7	3/22	3/23 Phase 2 summary due Developing Questions	3/24	3/25 Sampling	3/26
Read handout	3/29	3/30 Sampling	3/31	4/1 LAB Data Collection Overview	4/2
Read handout 	4/5	4/6 Individual Meetings	4/7	4/8 Individual Meetings	4/9
Read pages 243-266 Read pages 221-227 and 239	4/12	4/13 LAB Surveys	4/14	4/15 Surveys/ Observations	4/16
Read pages 314-324 and 332-338	4/19	4/20 Observations	4/21	4/22 Experiments	4/23
Read pages 283-309	4/26	4/27 Phase 3 summary due Unobtrusive Research	4/28	4/29 make-up/review day	4/30
STUDY	5/3	5/4	5/5	5/6	5/7