

COURSE SYLLABUS

# ADVANCED SOCIAL RESEARCH

SOC 346

Fall 2010

Moravian College

Dr. D. Wetcher-Hendricks

## CONTACTING THE PROFESSOR

Office: PPHAC 314

Office Hours: Tuesday 9:00 -10:15 a.m. Office Phone: 610-861-1415

Wednesday 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. e-mail: medwh02@moravian.edu

## REQUIRED COURSE READINGS

Babbie, Earl. *The Basics of Social Research*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition.  
Wadsworth Publishing, 2008.

Wetcher-Hendricks, Debra. *Analyzing Quantitative Data:*

*An Introduction for Social Scientists*. Wiley and Sons. DRAFT

Internet readings and handouts as assigned in class



Upon completion of this course, students should have gained the following.

1. familiarity with the tools of data collection, organization and analysis, specifically using the SPSS computer program

COURSE OUTCOMES

2. skills for interpreting raw data, including recognition of appropriate basic statistical processes used to analyze data
3. the ability to draw conclusions that are useful to social service personnel, policymakers, future researchers, etc.
4. proficiency in presenting and explaining research findings in both written and oral forms
5. competence in objectively assessing the appropriateness of a research project, identifying any shortcomings and possible improvements

## Evaluation

Throughout the course, students must complete four labs/quizzes, which take place during the first hour of designated classes. (Please see the course schedule for specific dates.) During the first half of this hour, students individually complete multiple choice and short-answer questions based upon recently-covered material. During the second half of the hour, students complete a lab exercise that requires organization and analysis provided data. Students may work cooperatively on the lab exercise, but each must submit his or her own completed lab sheet and relevant output. Suggestions regarding preparation for each practical are provided before the class in which the practical is scheduled.

Each student must complete a research project involving organization of data and basic statistical analysis using SPSS software. This project involves the submission of two written reports. Detailed descriptions of these reports can be found in "Course Project Guidelines."

Although attendance, itself, does not directly 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 (such as consistently arriving late to class), or lack of effort lowers the grade.

The preceding factors are combined in the following manner to determine students' course grades.

LABS/QUIZZES

48% (12% each)

PROJECT

40% (20% each phase)

CLASS PARTICIPATION

12%




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

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

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# policies

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



It is the responsibility of the student to obtain information and distributed materials from any class that he or she misses. Please make every possible effort to complete labs/quizzes on the scheduled dates. All missed labs/quizzes are given at the end of the semester. Project reports must be submitted on time to receive full credit. Late reports are accepted with a penalty for each overdue day (including weekends and holidays), beginning with the due date.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

This calendar provides an anticipated schedule of topics and assignments. Please be aware that it may to change based upon the progression of the term.

<u>CLASS DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>FOR THIS CLASS...</u>
September 1	Introductions/SPSS basics	Buy the book(s)
September 8 Instruction	Data Manipulation	Skim Chapter 1 and Chapter 1 SPSS
September 15	Descriptive Analyses	Read Chapter 2 Skim Chapter 2 SPSS Instruction
September 22	Descriptive Analyses	Read Sections 3.1-3.4 of Chapter 3 Skim Chapter 3 SPSS Instruction
September 29	QUIZ 1 Regression and Correlation	Study for quiz Read Sections 8.1 and 8.2 of Chapter 8 Skim Chapter 8 SPSS Instruction (relevant
October 6 parts)	Regression and Correlation	Read Sections 8.3-end of Chapter 8 Skim Chapter 8 SPSS Instruction (relevant
October 6 parts)		Write Phase 1 Report
October 13	QUIZ 2 Statistical Significance	Study for Quiz Read Sections 4.1, 4.3 to end of Chapter 4 Skim Chapter 4 SPSS Instruction
October 20 Chapter 5	Chi-Square Tests	Read Sections 5.1, 5.3, 5.4, 5.6 to end of  Skim Chapter 5 SPSS Instruction
October 20 parts)	Chi-Square tests/T-tests	Read Sections, 6.1, 6.3.1, 6.3.2 of Chapter 6 Skim Chapter 6 SPSS Instruction (relevant
October 27	QUIZ 3 T-tests	Study for Quiz Read Sections 6.3.3, 6.5 to end of Chapter 6

parts)		Skim Chapter 6 SPSS Instruction (relevant
November 3	ANOVAs	Read Sections 7.1, 7.3.1, 7.4.1 of Chapter 7
		Skim Chapter 7 SPSS Instruction (relevant
parts)		
November 10	ANOVAs	Read Sections 7.3.3, 7.4.2, 7.6 to end of
Chapter 7		Skim Chapter 7 SPSS Instruction (relevant
parts)		
November 18	QUIZ 4	Study for Quiz
	Advanced Analyses	/Workshop Read Section 9.1-9.3 of
Chapter 9		Skim Chapter 9 SPSS Instruction (relevant
 parts)		
November 25	THANKSGIVING BREAK	EAT! EAT! EAT!
December 1	Writing Research Reports	Read Sections 11.1, 11.3 to end
of Chapter 11	Workshop/Make-ups	
December 8	Workshop	
December 15	PHASE 2 REPORT DUE BY 1:30 p.m.	