

BASIC SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

SOC 246

SYLLABUS

MORAVIAN COLLEGE

SPRING 2011

DR. D. WETCHER-HENDRICKS

REQUIRED READING MATERIAL

Babbie, Earl. *The Basics of Social Research*,
5th Edition. Wadsworth Publishing, 2011.
ISBN-13: 9780495094685

Assorted handouts and websites



CONTACTING THE PROFESSOR

office: PPHAC 314

office hours: Tuesday 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Friday 8:45-10:00 a.m.

telephone/voice mail: 610-861-1415

e-mail: medwh02@moravian.edu



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

Course Outcomes

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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."

Four non-cumulative quizzes 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 last ½ hour of class on scheduled dates (see course schedule). Lab responses are due at the end of these classes.

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.

RESEARCH PROJECT		40%
PHASE 1	10%	
PHASE 2	10%	
PHASE 3/PORTFOLIO	20%	
LAB RESPONSES		20% (4% each)
QUIZZES		32% (8% each)
CLASS PARTICIPATION		8%

Course grades follow the letter-grade system. Please consult the Moravian College Student Handbook for descriptions 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%



Policies

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 and labs are completed at the end of the semester. Late papers and 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.

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services




NOTE: The "Course Schedule" on the following page provides an anticipated agenda 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 4-12, 14-20, and 23-28	1/17	1/18 Introductions	1/19	1/20 Sociological Inquiry	1/21
Read Chapter 2 (beginning with page 45)	1/24	1/25 Research Elements	1/26	1/27 LAB Research Elements	1/28
Read Chapter 4	1/31	2/1 The Research Plan	2/2	2/3 LAB The Research Plan	2/4
Read handout(s) and website(s) Write Phase 1 summary	2/7	2/8 LITERATURE REVIEWS LITERATURE REVIEWS	2/9	2/10 Phase 1 summary due LITERATURE REVIEWS	2/11
Read Chapter 5	2/14	2/15 LITERATURE REVIEWS/ MEASUREMENT	2/16	2/17 MEASUREMENT	2/18
Read Chapter 6	2/21	2/22 MEASUREMENT	2/23	2/24 DEVELOPING QUESTIONS	2/25
Read Chapter 7	2/28	3/1 DEVELOPING QUESTIONS	3/2	3/3 QUIZ SAMPLING	3/4

Rest and relax	3/7	3/8	3/9	3/10	3/11	
	 S P R I N G B R E A K					
Read Chapter 3	3/14	3/15 Sampling	LAB	3/16	3/17 Research Ethics 	3/18
Write Phase 2 summary	3/21	3/22 Research Ethics	LAB Phase 2 summary due	3/23	3/24 Individual Meetings	
Read HSIRB information	3/28	3/29 Individual Meetings		3/30	3/31 Research Ethics	QUIZ 4/1
Read handout Read Chapter 9	4/4	4/5 Data Collection Overview	LAB	4/6	4/7 Surveys	4/8
Read pages Chapter 10	4/11	4/12 Surveys		4/13	4/14 Observations	4/15
Read Chapter 8	4/18	4/19 Observations/Experiments		4/20	4/21 Experiments	4/22
Skim Chapter 11 	4/25	4/26 Unobtrusive Research	QUIZ	4/27	4/28 make-up/review day	4/29
Write Phase 3 Organize Portfolio	5/2	5/3		5/4	5/5	5/6