

BASIC SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

SPRING 2016
MORAVIAN COLLEGE

CONTACTING THE PROFESSOR

Dr. Debra Wetcher-Hendricks

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phone: 610-861-1415

office: PPHAC 314

hours: Tuesday 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. and Wednesday 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.



REQUIRED COURSE READINGS

Book Babbie, Earl. The Basics of Social Research, 6th Edition. Wadsworth Publishing. 2011. ISBN-13: 9781133936770

Handouts distributed in class

Successful completion of this course should produce the following outcomes.

1. understanding of the basic scientific research process
2. the ability to identify components of a study and recognize 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



Evaluation

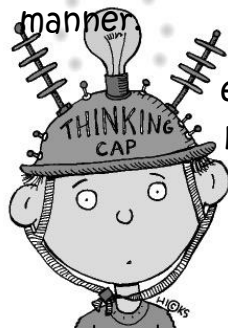
Throughout the term, students work on research projects. A topic pitch assignment and three written summaries, due at designated times throughout the semester, should demonstrate understanding of the methodological processes involved in formulating and investigating a hypothesis. Specific information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

Four non-cumulative examinations are given in this course. Each examination consists of two equally-weighted parts and is conducted over portions of two class periods.

- An open-book, open-note, cooperative laboratory practical (lab) will be begun during the last 20 minutes of class and completed as a take-home assignment, due at the BEGINNING of the following class. The labs require application of information from class and readings to various research scenarios.
- A quiz will be given during the first 30 minutes of the class during which labs are due. Quizzes consist of short-answer questions that address basic concepts discussed in class and in assigned readings.

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



examinations (12% each)	48%
project	40%
topic pitches – 4%	
phase 1 report – 12%	
phase 2 report – 12%	
phase 3 report – 12%	
Class activities/participation	12%

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%	C	72%-77.9%
A-	90%-91.9%	C-	70%-77.9%
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%-59.5%



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Please consult the Moravian College Student Handbook for description of the requirements for attaining each grade.

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 reports and labs on the scheduled dates. (See the Course Schedule.) Late reports and labs will be accepted with a five-point penalty per day (including weekends and holidays). All missed quizzes will be taken at the end of the term. Also, it is the responsibility of the student to obtain information and distributed materials from any class that he or she misses.

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact the Assistant Director of Learning Services for academic and disability support, 1st floor of Monocacy Hall, or by calling 610-861-1401. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center. Also, the Writing Center is located in a building that is not accessible to persons with mobility impairments. Those who need the services of the Writing Center should call 610-861-1392.



Please note: The calendar on the following page provides an anticipated schedule of topics and assignments. Please be aware that it may to change based upon the progression of the term.

COURSE SCHEDULE.

CLASS DATE	TOPIC(S)	ASSIGNMENTS FOR THIS WEEK
January 19	Introductions/Sociological Inquiry	Buy the book.
January 26	Research Elements	Read pages 5-6, 8-12, 16-21, and 24-28.
February 2	Research Elements/ Literature Reviews LAB 1	Read Chapter 2 (beginning with page 43) and handouts. TOPIC PITCHES DUE
February 9	Literature Reviews QUIZ 1	Read handouts.
February 16	The Research Plan LAB 2	Read Chapter 4. PHASE 1 REPORT DUE
February 23	Measurement QUIZ 2	Read Chapter 5.
March 1	Structuring Questions	Read Chapter 6
March 8	 have a good Spring Break!	
March 15	Sampling LAB 3	Read Chapter 7.
March 22	Research Ethics QUIZ 3	Read Chapter 3.
March 29	individual meetings	PHASE 2 REPORT DUE
April 5	Surveys	Read pages 243-266.
April 12	Observations	Read pages 221-227 and 239.
April 19	Experiments LAB 4	Read pages. 314-324 and 332-338.
April 26	HSIRB WORKSHOP QUIZ 4	
May 3		PHASE 3 REPORT DUE

