Sociology SOC:2170:0003, Research Methods
Spring 2022, Tu/Th 12:30-1:45pm, W268CB

Administrative Home:	Department of Sociology & Criminology College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS)
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COURSE DELIVERY

This is an in-person course.

Zoom information for Office Hours will be posted on ICON.

MEETING TIMES

Class Meetings
Tuesday & Thursday 12:30-1:45pm, in W268 Chemistry Building.

Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday, 2:30-4:00pm.

Students are invited to drop by during these hours to discuss questions about the course material or concerns. I will make myself available by Zoom during Office Hours.

I am also available by appointment if you are unable to attend my office hours.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students in this course will:

1. Learn about research design principles.
2. Read and evaluate the research of others.
3. Think critically about when conclusions drawn from the research are justified.
4. Apply research methods knowledge by writing sections of research proposals.

The major topics of this course include:

- Research questions and research design
- Conceptualization and measurement
- Causal inference
- Sampling
- Research designs:
    - Quantitative methods: observational, experimental
    - Qualitative methods: interviews, ethnography, focus groups, content analyses, case studies, historical & comparative analyses
    - Mixed methods studies
- Research ethics

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, successful students will have:

1. Learned about the theory and practice of designing and conducting research.
2. Improved their abilities to read, understand, analyze, synthesize, and criticize sociological research and scholarship.
3. Written the major sections of a research study.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required

Johnson, Steven. *Ghost Map.* Penguin (ISBN: 9781594482694).

The above book will be available at the University Book Store. A complete e-Book version is available from the library. It is fairly inexpensive on Amazon, if you prefer that, but no purchase is required.

Articles

We will read, analyze, and discuss a number of articles, both methodological and substantive in nature. These articles will all be listed in the course schedule and available through the library.

All reading materials will be posted to ICON (https://icon.uiowa.edu/) alongside the date you must read them. While the daily readings are summarized below, ICON will be the official record for what you are to read each day.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADE BREAKDOWN

Grades in this course will be based upon three types of assignments:

1. **Practice Assignments: 20%**

   There will be several assignments where you will practice asking questions and applying concepts in this class. These will be small, low-stakes activities designed to help you gain familiarity with concepts and ideas through application and experimentation.

   Practice assignments to be completed at home will be posted to ICON. In class assignments missed by students without an university-approved reason for absence will receive zeros unless it can reasonably be made up at home.

2. **Research Proposal Sections: 45%**

   You will write three separate sections of a research proposal: 1) Literature Review, 2) Measurement and Data Collection, 3) Analytic Procedures. Each are worth 15% of your final grade.

   For each assignment, you will need to state a research question that serves as the basis of the proposal section. You can re-use these research questions across proposal section assignments or switch to new ones if you wish.

   Several weeks before each assignment, students will be able to opt in to writing these sections with a partner. Students can choose a partner or ask to be paired with one. Students may work alone if preferred. The expectations for partnered assignments will be slightly higher than for students working alone.

   Detailed assignment sheets will be posted on ICON several weeks before the assignment is due.

3. **Exams: 35%**

   There will be a mid-term and final exam. The mid-term will take place during class time. The final will take place during the university-provided time, which will be announced during the semester.

These exams are designed to measure knowledge of basic concepts. Each will be of roughly equal length (the final will not be substantially longer, even though you have 2 hours to complete it). These exams are *not* cumulative.

The higher score of the two exams will be weighted as 20% in the gradebook. The lower score will be weighted at 15%.

GRADING SCALE

Grading scale:

A+	99-100	B+	88-89.49	C+	78-79.49	D+	68-69.49	F	≤ 59.99
A	92-98.99	B	82-87.99	C	72-77.99	D	62-67.99		
A-	89.5-91.99	B-	79.5-81.99	C-	69.5-71.99	D-	60-61.99		

This scale already rounds up marginal letter grades. Grades falling slightly below the cut off will not be rounded up.

COURSE POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Attendance

While attendance will not count as a formal part of your grade, it is important that you attend all class sessions. Missed practice assignments that cannot be reasonably made up at home will count as zeros. Moreover, attending in person allows you to ask questions and participate in group activities.

Students are responsible for material when they miss class. Please contact me or other students to get notes.

Digital Recordings

Recordings of lectures may not be shared without instructor permission. When permission is granted, recordings should be shared with only students who are registered for the class. These precautions are necessary to protect the privacy of class participants.

Collaboration & Proposal

If you opt to write sections of the proposal with a partner, you and your partner should contribute equally. You should not get outside help on the proposal from anyone outside your group.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. If you are unsure about how to cite the work of others, please contact me.

Course Announcements
I will use email to send out announcements, provide helpful information, etc. You are responsible for checking your email and ICON on a regular basis.

Accommodations
Students requiring academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet privately with me to discuss necessary arrangements.

LATE WORK

Late work is accepted up to one week after the due date but will receive only half credit. Students are encouraged to communicate with the instructor about late work; often short extensions can be granted when circumstances warrant it.

CLASS SCHEDULE

The following schedule is tentative and may be changed in response to the needs of the class. New versions will be posted and dated on ICON and will be accompanied by an announcement in class and through email.

Work that must be submitted is in bold. All submissions will have a location on ICON with directions. There will be other assignments requiring submission that are not listed here and will be announced in class on ICON.

Week	Day	Topics/Questions/Activities	Reading/Assignments Due
1	1/18	Introduction	
	1/20	Basic Concepts, 1: Causal Inference	Read Ghost Map, Preface, Ch. 1
2	1/25	Basic Concepts, 2: Sampling & Measurement	Read Ghost Map, Preface, Chs. 2-5
	1/27	Basic Concepts, 3: Data & Analysis	Read Ghost Map, Chs. 4-6
3	2/1	Ghost Map Discussion	Finish Ghost Map, Chs. 7-Epilogue
	2/3	Design, 1: Observational studies	Sampson & Raudenbush, Systematic Social Observation (603-617)
4	2/8	Design, 2: Experiments	Chetty, How Does Your Kindergarten Classroom Affect Your Earnings (pp. 1-12)
	2/10	Design, 3: Quasi-experiments	Sharkey, Acute Effects of Local Homicide
5	2/15	Design, 4: Historical & Qualitative studies	Karabel, The Chosen, Selection Lareau, Unequal Childhoods, Selection

	2/17	Research Questions, 1: Asking researchable questions	**Submit two researchable questions**
6	2/22	Research Questions, 2: Conceptualizing research	Re-read Sampson & Raudenbush, Systematic Social Observation (603-617)
	2/24	Introduce Proposal Part 1 Lit Reviews, 1: Introduction	Pager, The Sociology of Discrimination (pp. 182-192)
7	3/1	Lit Reviews, 2: Writing & Structure Hands on workshop: bring your laptop if possible	**Submit potential research question for Part 1**
	3/3	Part 1 Question & Workshop Day	**Submit revised research questions for Part 1**
8	3/8	Review Research Ethics	Lewis-Kraus, The Trials of Alice Goffman
	3/10	Mid-term	
9	3/15	Spring Break	
	3/17	Spring Break	
10	3/22	Introduce Proposal Part 2	**Proposal Part 1 due**
	3/24	Sampling, 1: Concepts, Quantitative Studies	Alexander, Entwisle, & Olsen, Lasting Consequences
11	3/29	Sampling, 2: Review, Qualitative Studies	Edin & Lein (253-255) Small, How Many Cases?
	3/31	Measurement, 1: Survey design & questionnaires	**Submit example survey questions** Schutt, Ch. 8 selections
12	4/5	Measurement, 2: Questionnaires Review	
	4/7	Measurement, 3: Review, Interview design	Royster, Race & The Invisible Hand, Embedded Transitions
13	4/12	Part 2 Question & Workshop Day	
	4/14	Introduce Proposal Part 3	**Proposal Part 2 Due**
14	4/19	Analysis, 1: Statistics and research design	Aschwanden, Not Even Scientists Can Easily Explain P-values
	4/21	Analysis, 2: Secondary data analysis	Espenshade, Admission Preferences for Minority Students, Athletes, and Legacies at Elite Universities
15	4/26	Analysis, 3: Qualitative data & coding	DeLuca et al. Coming of Age in the Other America: Methodological appendix
	4/28	Part 3 Question & Workshop Day	
16	5/3	Flex day	

5/5	Review	
5/6		**Proposal Part 3 Due**

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES
Information for CLAS Undergraduates
Spring 2022

ATTENDANCE AND CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS
Students are responsible for attending class and for knowing an instructor's attendance policies, which vary by course and content area. All students are expected to attend class and to contribute to its learning environment in part by complying with University policies and directives regarding appropriate classroom behavior or other matters.

ABSENCES
Students are responsible for communicating with instructors as soon they know that an absence might occur or as soon as possible in the case of an illness or an unavoidable circumstance. Students can use the CLAS absence form to help communicate with instructors who will decide if the absence is excused or unexcused; the form is located on ICON within the top banner under "Student Tools." Delays by students in communication with an instructor could result in a forfeit of what otherwise might be an excused absence (https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/attendance-absences).

ABSENCES: ILLNESS, UNAVOIDABLE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND UNIVERSITY SPONSORED ACTIVITIES
Students who are ill, in an unavoidable circumstance affecting academic work, or who miss class because of a University-sponsored activity are allowed by UI policy to make up a missed exam. Documentation is required by the instructor except in the case of a brief illness. Students are responsible for communicating with instructors as soon as the absence is known (https://opsmanual.uiowa.edu/students/absences-class#8.1).

ABSENCES: HOLY DAYS
The University is prepared to make reasonable accommodations for students whose religious holy days coincide with their classroom assignments, test schedules, and classroom attendance expectations. Students must notify their instructors in writing of any such Religious Holy Day conflicts or absences within the first few days of the semester or session, and no later than the third week of the semester. If the conflict or absence will occur within the first three weeks of the semester, the student should notify the instructor as soon as possible. See Operations Manual 8.2 Absences for Religious Holy Days for additional information.

ABSENCES: MILITARY SERVICE OBLIGATIONS
Students absent from class due to U.S. veteran or U.S. military service obligations (including military service-related medical appointments, military orders, and National Guard Service obligations) must be excused without penalty. Instructors must make reasonable accommodations to allow students to make-up exams or other work. Students must communicate with their instructors about the expected possibility of missing class as soon as possible. (For more information, see https://opsmanual.uiowa.edu/iv-8-absences-class%C2%A0-0).

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT
All undergraduates enrolled in courses offered by CLAS have in essence agreed to the College's Code of Academic Honesty. Academic misconduct affects a student's grade and is reported to the College which applies an additional sanction, such as suspension. Outcomes about misconduct are communicated through UI email (https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/academic-fraud-honor-code).

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
The University is committed to providing an educational experience that is accessible to all students. If a student has a diagnosed disability or other disabling condition that may impact the student's ability to complete the course requirements as stated in the syllabus, the student may seek accommodations through Student Disability Services (SDS). SDS is responsible for making Letters of Accommodation (LOA) available to the student. The student must provide a LOA to the instructor as early in the semester as possible, but requests not made at least two weeks prior to the scheduled activity for which an accommodation is sought may not be accommodated. The LOA will specify what reasonable course accommodations the student is eligible for and those the instructor should provide. Note that accommodations are not granted retroactively but from the time of the student's request to the instructor onward. Additional information can be found on the SDS website.

CLASS RECORDINGS: PRIVACY AND SHARING
Course lectures and discussions are sometimes recorded or live-streamed. These are only available to students registered for the course and the intellectual property of the faculty member. These materials may not be shared or reproduced without the explicit written consent of the instructors. Students may not share these recordings with those who are not enrolled in the course; likewise, students may not upload recordings to any other online environment. Doing so is a breach of the Code of Student Conduct and could be a violation of the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA); also see https://dos.uiowa.edu/policies/code-of-student-life/.

COMMUNICATION: UI EMAIL
Students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their UI email address (uiowa.edu) and must use this address for any communication with instructors or staff in the UI community (Operations Manual, III.15.2). Emails should be respectful and brief, with complex matters addressed during the instructor's drop-in hours, for example. Faculty are not expected to answer email after business hours or during the weekends.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT ACADEMIC MATTERS
Students with a complaint about a grade or a related academic issue should first visit with the instructor and then with the course supervisor (if one is assigned), and next with the Chair of the department or program offering the course. If not resolved, students may bring their concerns to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/student-rights-responsibilities.

FINAL EXAMINATION POLICIES
The final exam schedule is published during the fifth week of the fall and spring semesters or on the first day of summer classes; *students are responsible for knowing the date, time, and place of their final exams*. Students should not make travel plans until knowing this information. A student with exams scheduled on the same day and time or who have more than two final exams on the same day should visit this page for how to resolve these problems by the given deadline: https://registrar.uiowa.edu/makeup-final-examination-policies. No exams may be scheduled the week before finals; some exception, however, have been made for labs, language courses, and off-cycle courses (https://registrar.uiowa.edu/final-examination-scheduling-policies).

FREE SPEECH AND EXPRESSION The University of Iowa supports and upholds the First Amendment protection of freedom of speech and the principles of academic and artistic freedom. We are committed to open inquiry, vigorous debate, and creative expression inside and outside of the classroom. Visit Free

Speech at Iowa for more information on the University's policies on free speech and academic freedom (https://freespeech.uiowa.edu/).

HOME OF THE COURSE The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) is the home of this course, and CLAS governs the course's add and drop deadlines, the "second-grade only" option (SGO), and other undergraduate policies and procedures. Different UI colleges may have other policies or deadlines. See https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook. Questions? Contact CLAS at clasps@uiowa.edu or 319-335-2633.

MENTAL HEALTH
Students are encouraged to be mindful of their mental health and seek help as a preventive measure or if feeling overwhelmed and/or struggling to meet course expectations. Students are encouraged to talk to their instructor for assistance with specific class-related concerns. For additional support and counseling, students are encouraged to contact University Counseling Service (UCS). Information about UCS, including resources and how to schedule an appointment, can be found at counseling.uiowa.edu. Find out more about UI mental health services at: mentalhealth.uiowa.edu. Student Health can also address related concerns (https://studenthealth.uiowa.edu/). These visits are free to students. After hours, students are encouraged to call the Johnson County Community Crisis Line at (319) 351-0140 or dial 911 in an emergency.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT
The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination in employment, educational programs, and activities on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, disability, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, service in the U.S. military, sexual orientation, gender identity, associational preferences, or any other classification that deprives the person of consideration as an individual. The university also affirms its commitment to providing equal opportunities and equal access to university facilities. For additional information on nondiscrimination policies, contact the Director, Office of Institutional Equity, the University of Iowa, 202 Jessup Hall, Iowa City, IA 52242-1316, 319-335-0705, oie-ui@uiowa.edu. Students may share their pronouns and chosen/preferred names in MyUI, which is accessible to instructors and advisors.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT
The University of Iowa prohibits all forms of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and related retaliation. The Policy on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct governs actions by students, faculty, staff and visitors. Incidents of sexual harassment or sexual misconduct can be reported to the Title IX and Gender Equity Office or to the Department of Public Safety. Students impacted by sexual harassment or sexual misconduct may be eligible for academic supportive measures and can learn more by contacting the Title IX and Gender Equity Office. Information about confidential resources can be found here. Watch the video for an explanation of these resources.