

Soc 102B: Research Methods Fall, 1999

Instructor:	Dr. Qiaoming Amy Liu	Phone:	278-7572
Class:	TR 3:00 - 4:50pm	Office Hours:	TR 2 -3:00pm
Office:	455D AMD Building		Tues 5:00-6:00pm or by appointment

Course Objectives

This course is designed to give students a systematic introduction to research methods in social sciences, especially in sociology. More specifically, it is designed around the following steps or skills in doing research, which can be applied to the study of a wide range of substantive areas:

1. Formulate research questions
2. Design (Plan) research
3. Gather data or use existing data
4. Analyze and interpret data
5. Report research findings

With the help of this course, students are expected to better understand steps and skills involved in doing research. They are also expected to develop skills for critical reading of research reports, for designing research, and for participating actively in social research. This set of skills are not only necessary for those who want to do research in graduate schools or job settings, but also useful for those who want to interpret and evaluate research products in any setting.

Skills are developed through **practice and use**, thus, this class will emphasize your ability to apply these skills. This class will combine lectures with in-class exercises and outside-class research activities. This class will use computer labs extensively.

Course Requirement and Grading for Soc 102B

The course evaluation is based on projects and class activities. Thus, student's attitude and efforts for the class are very important.

1. The Projects. Students are expected to finish two projects in this class. Project # 3 is the data collection and data entry. In this project, you are supposed to finish collecting and entering the data in the computer. Project # 4 is the final project. This project is an extension or modification of Project 1 and /or Project 2 in Soc. 102A plus the result and conclusion sections. Detailed requirement for project # 4 will be provided in class. Late paper will significantly affect your grade. Late paper may not be accepted unless **prior written arrangement** has been made with Professor Liu.

2. Exam: There will be many in-class activities. Each of these exercises is to help you finish the projects. The emphasis of these activities is on how to use SPSS to do data management (recode, compute, and account), data analysis and interpretation. These exercises will help you with your paper. The exam is based on these exercises.

3. Paper presentation: Presentation of your paper at the end of the semester should be clear and interesting.

3. Students' Attitude and Efforts for the Class: Students' attitude and efforts for the class (both inside and outside this class) are **extremely important for their success in this class.** Students are more likely to be successful in this class if they

1). **Work hard and enjoy the class**

2). Try to understand class materials on a daily or weekly basis.

- attend the class **regularly and on time** (Professor Liu will take class attendance)
- make arrangements with other students for lecture materials and class-handouts, in case of absence.
- take responsibility for all the information communicated in class, including changes in dates and assignments
- **participate actively in class (bring two blue books with you)**
- ask Professor Liu and other students questions (inside or outside the class) if students do not understand class materials
- bring the text book and/or the computer output to the class

3). Be considerate and tolerant inside and outside the class. Respect each other' views and opinions regarding class content.

4). Help each other after the class. Form a study group is a great idea.

5). Hand in your assignment **on time**

6). Please contact me **directly** and **as soon as possible** if you have any problems, comments or suggestions for the course. I am looking forward to working with you so that you can successfully pass this course and have a better understanding and appreciation of social research.

4. Sum-up: Each of the course requirements will make up the following proportion of the final grade.

Assignments	Grade
Project # 3 (Data Collection and Data Entry)	10%
Project # 4 (The Whole Paper)	60%
First Draft	
Final Draft	

Exam	20%
Students' Attitude and Efforts	5%
Presentation (clear and interesting)	5%
Total	100%

Required Textbooks for Soc 102

Babbie, Earl, and Fred Halley. 1998. *Adventures in Social Research: Data Analysis Using SPSS for Windows*. Thousand Oaks, California: Pine Forge Press.

Allison, Paul. 1998. *Regression: A Primer*. Thousand Oaks, California: Pine Forge Press.

Schutt, Russell K. 1999. *Investigating the Social World: The Process and Practice of Research*. 2nd Edition, Thousand Oaks, California: Pine Forge Press.

Course Outline and Reading Assignment (Tentative)

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
1	8/30-9/5	Course Introduction and Review	Schutt: Ch. 1 & 2
		Data Collection	Schutt: Ch. 4
2	9/6-9/12	Data Analysis and Interpretation (in class)	Babbie and Halley
		Questionnaire Pretesting	Schutt: Ch. 7
3	9/13-9/19	Data Analysis and Interpretation (in class)	Babbie and Halley Schutt: Ch. 11
		Data Collection (outside class)	Allison
4	9/20-2/26	Data Analysis and Interpretation (in class)	Babbie and Halley
		Data Collection (outside class)	Allison
			Schutt: Ch. 11
5	9/27-10/3	Data Coding and Entry	Babbie and Halley
		Data Analysis and Interpretation	Allison
		Data Collection (outside class)	

6	10/4-10/10	Data Collection	Babbie and Halley Allison
		Data Analysis and Interpretation	Schutt: Ch. 11
		Project # 3	
7	10/11-10/17	Data Analysis and Interpretation	Babbie and Halley Allison
		How to Write Research Report	Schutt: Ch. 11 & 12
8	10/18-10/24	Report Writing	Schutt: Ch. 12
		Exam	
9	10/25- 10/31	Report Writing	Schutt: Ch. 12
10	11/1-11/7	Report Writing	Schutt: Ch. 12
11	11/8-11/14	Report Writing	Schutt: Ch. 12
		First Draft Due	
12	11/15-11/21	How to Present Papers Effectively	
13	11/22-11/28	Presentation (Thanksgiving Break)	
14	11/29-12/5	Presentation	
15	12/6-12/12	Presentation	
		Last Draft Due	
16	12/13-12/19	Course Review	
