

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR: SO 3411 QUANTITATIVE METHODS IN SOCIOLOGY

(Updated Fall 2024)

UK LEVEL 5
UK CREDITS: 15
US CREDITS: 3/0/3

PREREQUISITES:	PS/SO Introduction to Statistical Thinking SO2441 The Craft of Sociology: Research Practice and Writing Plus 2 additional courses in Sociology above the 1000-level								
CATALOG DESCRIPTION:	Overview of social research methods. Focus on the various research designs, ethical considerations, data collection, measurement of quantitative information.								
RATIONALE:	This course introduces the student to intermediate quantitative methods of empirical inquiry in the social sciences. In connection to the abundant utilization of quantitative techniques of inquiry in a large number of fields, the skills acquired enable the student to become a sophisticated producer and practitioner of a variety of research methodologies.								
LEARNING OUTCOMES:	As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to: 1. Utilize principles and basic skills necessary to critically discuss research literature. 2. Develop proficiencies in structuring designs basic to quantitative research. 3. Make use of data collection, analysis, and presentation techniques in social research.								
METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:	In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Classes consist of lectures, and experiential learning activities involving illustrations of various issues.• Office hours: students are encouraged to make full use of the office hours of their lecturer, where they can address issues pertinent to the course material and ask questions.• Use of a blackboard site, where instructors post lecture notes, assignment instructions, timely announcements, as well as additional resources.								
ASSESSMENT:	<table><tr><td>Summative: First Assessment: Article Review (1,000 words, +/-10%). A detailed presentation of a selected research article emphasizing the critical presentation and review of the methodological approach used.</td><td>20%</td></tr><tr><td>Final Assessment; Research Study (4,000 words, +/-10%). A comprehensive project involving quantitative research tools to develop a mini research study. It focuses on hands-on practice of research and it includes all steps of the scientific method: purpose of study, significance of study, literature review & statement of hypotheses, research design, explication of measures, data collection & sampling, analysis of data, presentation of findings, conclusion, bibliography. <u>For the project to receive a grade, timely submission of all preparatory work is required. Indicatively, this includes the purpose of study and the literature review sections. Failure to submit the preparatory material and receive feedback will result in an FA grade on the project.</u></td><td>80%</td></tr><tr><td>Formative: Two take-home assignments. Short exercise-type questions, designed to reinforce concepts and help the student gain familiarity with important topics. Each assignment will consist of two exercises.</td><td>0%</td></tr></table>			Summative: First Assessment: Article Review (1,000 words, +/-10%). A detailed presentation of a selected research article emphasizing the critical presentation and review of the methodological approach used.	20%	Final Assessment; Research Study (4,000 words, +/-10%). A comprehensive project involving quantitative research tools to develop a mini research study. It focuses on hands-on practice of research and it includes all steps of the scientific method: purpose of study, significance of study, literature review & statement of hypotheses, research design, explication of measures, data collection & sampling, analysis of data, presentation of findings, conclusion, bibliography. <u>For the project to receive a grade, timely submission of all preparatory work is required. Indicatively, this includes the purpose of study and the literature review sections. Failure to submit the preparatory material and receive feedback will result in an FA grade on the project.</u>	80%	Formative: Two take-home assignments. Short exercise-type questions, designed to reinforce concepts and help the student gain familiarity with important topics. Each assignment will consist of two exercises.	0%
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	<p>The formative “Take-home assignments” aim to prepare students for the Research Study</p>		
<p>INDICATIVE READING:</p>	<p>The first assessment (Article Review) tests Learning Outcome 1 The final assessment (Research Study) tests Learning Outcomes 1, 2 & 3</p> <p><i>The final grade for this module will be determined by averaging all summative assessment grades, based on the predetermined weights for each assessment. If students pass the comprehensive assessment that tests all Learning Outcomes for this module and the average grade for the module is 40 or higher, students are not required to resit any failed assessments.</i></p> <p>REQUIRED READING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Reading: • Bryman, Alan. (2016). <u>Social Research Methods</u>. Oxford: Oxford University Press. • Additional Required Reading: • Johnson, William A., Richard P. Rettig, Gregory M. Scott and Stephen M. Garrison. (2004). <u>The Sociology Student Writer's Manual</u>. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall. <p>RECOMMENDED READING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babbie, Earl. (2001). <u>The Practice of Social Research</u>. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Thomson Learning. • Neuman, Lawrence. (2003). <u>Social Research Methods. Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches</u>. London: Pearson Education, Inc. 		
<p>INDICATIVE MATERIAL: (e.g. audiovisual, digital material, etc.)</p>	<p>REQUIRED MATERIAL: N/A</p> <p>RECOMMENDED MATERIAL: N/A</p>		
<p>COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:</p>	<p>Writing skills using academic/professional English</p>		
<p>SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:</p>	<p>Word, SPSS</p>		
<p>WWW RESOURCES:</p>	<p>http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/. The Research Methods Knowledge Base web site</p> <p>www.sonic.net/~markbl/socioweb: One of the most complete and accurate sociological sites on the Internet</p>		
<p>INDICATIVE CONTENT:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Context of Quantitative Research 2. Ethics and Research 3. An Overview of Empirical Methods 4. Reviewing the Literature and Forming Hypotheses 5. Data Collection 6. Sampling 7. Quantitative Measurement 8. Basic Issues in Research Design 9. Analysis of Data, descriptive statistics, fundamental inferential statistics 10. Presentation of Findings, bivariate tables 		