SYLLABUS

SOC 4111: Methods of Sociological Research 1
Tues/Thurs, 4:00-5:50pm, MI 4115
Winter Quarter 2017

Professor: Dr. Duke Austin, PhD
“Dr. Duke”
Office: Meiklejohn Hall 3066
Office Hours: Tuesdays: 3-3:50pm, Thursdays: 12-12:50pm and 6-6:50pm, and by appointment
Email: duke.austin@csueastbay.edu
Office Phone: 510-885-4127 (Call during office hours.)
Faculty Website: http://www.csueastbay.edu/directory/profiles/soc/austinduke.html

COURSE GOALS

The aim of this course is to provide you with the tools to be a critical consumer of knowledge by teaching you the basic methods of sociological research. This is a hands-on course that takes you through the process of conceptualizing, planning, and executing a research project. Your final research paper will be a valuable writing sample that can be submitted with graduate school applications, and the skills you gain will be valuable in any number of careers. Most important, you will be better equipped to evaluate knowledge about the world in which we live.

This course helps develop mastery of the following Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) specific to the Sociology Program:

- PLO1: Students will demonstrate an ability to evaluate “knowledge claims” of sociological analyses by critically assessing their 1) analytical framework, 2) data collection techniques, 3) sampling techniques, and 4) data analyses used in empirical research projects.

- PLO2: Students will demonstrate oral and written abilities to effectively communicate and engage in educated, open-minded discussions of diverse sociocultural beliefs, perspectives, and norms.

- PLO6: Students will demonstrate an ability to critically read, interpret and synthesize abstract sociological arguments and theories, and use sociological theories and models to develop research questions

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

- Punch, Keith F. 2014. Introduction to Social Research: Quantitative & Qualitative Approaches. Los Angeles, CA: Sage Publications. Note that this book is not at the bookstore. However, I
have provided an electronic copy via Blackboard, and one hardcopy on reserve at the library. It can also be purchased for approximately $40 online.

- A computer with access to CSUEB Online/Blackboard (bb.csueastbay.edu).
- Microsoft Word. As a CSUEB student, you may download Microsoft Office for free by following the links on the following website: http://www.csueastbay.edu/news/2015/06/06102015.html

**CSUEB Online/ BLACKBOARD**

**bb.csueastbay.edu**

Course materials can be found on CSUEB Online (also known as Blackboard). You can access Blackboard at bb.csueastbay.edu. Take the time to familiarize yourself with the resources the professor has posted to the course site.

**ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES**

Your final grade will reflect your success in demonstrating your critical comprehension of the material. To do well in this class, most students will need to work hard and apply sustained effort throughout the course. That said, working hard does not guarantee an “A.” The final grade is based on the grades you have earned throughout the course. Grades will not be curved. Your grade will be composed of the following weighted components:

- **Daily Assignments and Attendance**
  - Daily Assignments: 10%
  - Attendance: 5%
  - At Least One Scheduled Office Hour Visit: 5%

- **Sections of Research Proposal**
  - Topic Summary and Research Question: 5%
  - Literature Review: 5%
  - Revised Research Question and Qualitative Research Design: 5%
  - Qualitative, Exploratory Questions and Interview Guide: 5%
  - Revised Research Question and Quantitative Research Design: 5%
  - Quantitative Hypothesis and Variables: 5%
  - Revised and Combined Research Design and Sampling Strategy: 5%
  - Ethical Considerations and Consent Form: 5%

- **Completed Research Proposal**
  - Final Draft of Research Proposal: 40%
**Daily Assignments**

The daily reading assignments help students complete, comprehend, and assess the general content of the readings. In addition, they allow the professor to gauge students’ progress in those areas. Complete instructions for the daily assignments can be found on Blackboard in the Course Materials tab.

Submit the daily assignments in person at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Late assignments are not accepted for any reason. Your lowest daily assignment grade will be dropped.

If you did not complete the assignment, you may earn half credit by attending class and submitting an honesty statement stating that you did not complete the assignment.

**Attendance**

If you arrive to class 0 to 9 minutes late or leave 0 to 9 minutes early, you will forfeit 2 out of 10 points on your daily attendance grade. If you arrive ten or more minutes late or leave 10 or more minutes early, you will receive a 0 for the day. Your lowest 2 attendance grades will be dropped.

**Research Proposal**

Conducting research is an important learning process. It helps students understand how research is produced, and it helps students to better understand other peoples’ research. If you plan to attend graduate school in a social science field, your research project can be an excellent addition to your graduate school application. Even if you don’t plan to attend graduate school, your research project will help you become a more critical and active participant in society because you will have a stronger ability to evaluate knowledge claims.

In SOC 4111, you will write a research proposal. In SOC 4112, you will conduct the research and write the results. Complete instructions for the research proposal can be found on Blackboard in the Course Materials tab.

**Extra-Credit**

In addition to helping students earn their desired grade, the extra-credit for this course is meant to help students apply course material to current events. The professor will announce current events that pertain to course themes via Blackboard. Students may also suggest events or articles for professor approval as possibilities for extra-credit.

Students may complete up to 2 extra-credit assignments, each of which has the potential to earn up to 2 percentage points of the overall course grade. Instructions for extra credit assignments can be found on Blackboard.

**ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES**

**Appealing Your Grade**

If you feel that you have been given an unfair or incorrect grade on an assignment or exam, you may submit a written appeal within 10 days of receiving the grade. You are responsible for keeping all materials that have been graded and returned to you. If you cannot provide these materials, your grades cannot be appealed.

**Missing Class**

See the sections above for penalties for arriving to class late or leaving early. If you must miss class, contact a fellow student for class notes or read the class notes posted to the discussion
board. Students who receive a 0 for 8 more class periods, regardless of the reason, will automatically fail the course.

**Discussion Board**

Use the discussion board to ask general course questions. For example, if you cannot find the location for the readings, ask your question on the discussion board. If you know the answer to someone else’s question, please answer it.

Also, please post articles, videos, etc. that pertain to class topics to the discussion board, and feel free to post responses to other peoples’ posts.

If you have been given permission to use your laptop to take notes, you must post your lecture notes to the discussion board for the benefit of everyone.

Take a moment to subscribe to discussion board email notifications. That way you will be informed when a post has been made to the discussion board. Perhaps someone else has already answered that question that you have been trying to solve!

**Email**

Email is the official means of communication for the university. You need to check your CSUEB email account every business day. Only email your professors using your CSUEB account, not your personal account. Keep in mind that the professor may not be able to respond to email for up to 2 business days. The professor does not respond to email on the weekends.

**Laptops and Other Electronic Devices**

Laptops, cell phones, and similar electronic devices must be silenced and placed in your bag (not on your desk or lap) except when they are needed for specific class-related activities. If you need to leave your phone on for emergency reasons, please notify me at the beginning of class.

To receive permission for using your laptop to take notes, you must email the professor with an explanation of how your laptop-generated notes will improve your performance in the course. You must also promise not to check email, social media, or other non-course related material during the class. If granted permission, you must post your lecture notes to the discussion board each and every class period in which you use your laptop.

Students who must be asked more than once to put away their phone or other electronic device will be asked to leave the classroom and will receive a zero on their daily reading journal grade.

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

You are responsible for the university policies listed in the University Policies and Syllabus tabs on Blackboard.
## COURSE CALENDAR, WEEKS 1-5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading - Due Before Class on the Day Assigned</th>
<th>Assignment - Due Before Class on the Day Assigned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tue, Jan 3</td>
<td>No Reading Due</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tue, Jan 10</td>
<td>Ch. 4: Research Questions (16 pages), Research Proposal by Farooqi</td>
<td>Daily Assignment: Exercises and Study Questions for Chapter 4 and Summary of Research Proposal due in Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thur, Jan 12</td>
<td>Ch. 5 From Research Questions to Data (20 pages), Read Research Proposal by Estacio</td>
<td>Daily Assignment: Exercises and Study Questions for Chapter 5 and Summary of Research Proposal due in Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tue, Jan 17</td>
<td>No Reading Due</td>
<td><strong>Topic Summary and Research Question due to Blackboard</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thur, Jan 19</td>
<td>Ch. 6: Literature Searching and Reviewing (20 pages), Research Proposal by Goleman</td>
<td>Daily Assignment: Exercises and Study Questions for Chapter 6 and Summary of Research Proposal due in Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tue, Jan 24</td>
<td>No Reading Due</td>
<td><strong>Literature Review due to Blackboard</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thur, Jan 26</td>
<td>Ch. 7: Qualitative Research Design pages), Research Proposal by Mora</td>
<td>Daily Assignment: Exercises and Study Questions for Chapter 7 and Summary of Research Proposal due in Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tue, Jan 31</td>
<td>No Reading Due</td>
<td><strong>Revised Research Topic and Questions Due</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thur, Feb 2</td>
<td>Ch. 8: Collecting Qualitative Data (24 pages), Research Proposal by Degnan</td>
<td>Daily Assignment: Exercises and Study Questions for Chapter 8 and Summary of Research Proposal due in Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Reading - Due Before Class on the Day Assigned</td>
<td>Assignment - Due Before Class on the Day Assigned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Tue, Feb 7</td>
<td>No Reading Due</td>
<td>Qualitative Research Design, Exploratory Questions, and Interview Guide due to Blackboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thur, Feb 9</td>
<td>Ch. 10: Quantitative Research Design (22 pages), Research Proposal by Uzum</td>
<td>Daily Assignment: Exercises and Study Questions for Chapter 10 and Summary of Research Proposal due in Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Tue, Feb 14</td>
<td>No Reading Due</td>
<td><strong>Revised Literature Review Due to Blackboard</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thur, Feb 16</td>
<td>Ch. 11: Collecting Quantitative Data (24 pages), Research Proposal by Leonor Ballonet</td>
<td>Daily Assignment: Exercises and Study Questions for Chapter 11 and Summary of Research Proposal due in Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Tue, Feb 21</td>
<td>No Reading Due</td>
<td><strong>Quantitative Research Design, Hypotheses and Variables, and Survey due to Blackboard</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thur, Feb 23</td>
<td>Ch. 3: Ethics in Social Science Research (22 pages), Research Proposal by Gonzalez-Ruezga</td>
<td>Daily Assignment: Exercises and Study Questions for Chapter 3 and Summary of Research Proposal due in Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tue, Feb 28</td>
<td>No Reading Due</td>
<td><strong>Ethical Considerations and Consent Form due to Blackboard</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thur, Mar 2</td>
<td>Ch. 14: Mixed Methods (26 pages), Research Proposal by Gomez</td>
<td>Daily Assignment: Exercises and Study Questions for Chapter 3 and Summary of Research Proposal due in Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Tue, Mar 7</td>
<td>No Reading Due</td>
<td><strong>Sampling Strategy due to Blackboard</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thur, Mar 9</td>
<td>Ch. 15: Research Writing (20 pages), Research Proposal by Anonymous</td>
<td>Daily Assignment: Exercises and Study Questions for Chapter 15 and Summary of Research Proposal due in Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mon, Mar 13</td>
<td>No Reading Due, Optional Office Hours 4:00-5:00pm</td>
<td>No Assignment Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tue, Mar 14</td>
<td>No Reading Due</td>
<td><strong>Final Draft Research Proposal Due to Blackboard before Midnight</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>