



Department of Sociology & Social Work
SOC 460-1 Social Research & Design
4 units

Spring 2018

“Good sociology is sociological work that produces meaningful descriptions of organizations and events, valid explanations of how they come about and persist, and realistic proposals for their improvement or removal.”

- Howard S. Becker

Meeting days: Tuesday & Thursday	Instructor title and name: Daniel Davis
Meeting times: 11:00-12:40pm	Phone: 707-362-0186 (voicemail only)
Meeting location: Rohr Hall 112	E-mail: danieldavis@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: May 3rd (Thursday) 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Office location and hours: Rohr Hall #110, after class or by apt.

PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Department Mission

As followers of Christ, our mission is to nurture servant scholars who critically evaluate social and cultural patterns, and constructively engage as agents of hope.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Catalogue Description: A study and application of the methods of social research: development of a design, collection and analysis of data, and development of a final report.

Instructor Elaboration: The study of research methodology is one of the most fundamental aspects to becoming a social scientist in general, and a sociologist in particular. Theory and methods are the foundation upon which all other areas of sociological study are built. Even if you do not intend to pursue graduate work in the social sciences, understanding social research methodology is vital for almost any career or service position that interacts with statistics, studies, reports, etc. Developing these skills will serve you in becoming a more discriminating consumer of media as well, as media outlets report on studies, polls, and more. At its essence, a methodology course is a sub-division of epistemology (“how do we know what we know”), methodology seeks to answer the related question, “how do we find out?” Students will design and carry out a research project.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- ✓ Articulate the broad range of tools used by sociologists to learn about the social world.

- ✓ Find, select, understand and use refereed journal articles when writing.
- ✓ Plan and carry out concrete steps to measure patterns in the social world in robust ways.
- ✓ More capably engage in critical thinking, deep reasoning, and use a sociological imagination.
- ✓ Hone written and oral communication skills necessary for success in more advanced study.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

Required:

Babbie, Earl. 2010. *The Basics of Social Research*, 5th Ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing. ISBN-13: 978-0495812241.

American Sociological Association Style Guide, 5th Edition. 2014. ISBN-13: 978-0912764214.

IBM SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) 25. A six-month license can be gotten for \$35 at: <https://studentdiscounts.com/ibmspssstatisticsgradpack25basedownload-winmac-6mth.aspx>

ASSIGNMENTS

Discussion Leading (3x5pts = 15pts)

Three times you will bring a 2pg outline based on the chapter or article assigned, and lead a group discussion. See the discussion-leading template on Canvas for exact requirements. The chapters are from the Babbie text.

Research Question & Data Plan (5pts)

Turn in a single typed page with a concrete research question and a strategy to collect the relevant data. Vague questions or unclear strategies will not be given full credit. Operationalize to something specific, focused, and doable.

References Page (5pts)

Turn in a single typed page with 10 peer-reviewed journal articles on it that you plan to use in your paper. They must be written in ASA style for the sociology majors, APA is an option for criminal justice and social work majors. Put the references in alphabetical order with hanging indents. No books, reports, newspapers, etc. for this, only journal articles.

Introduction & Literature Review (5pts)

Turn in a 4-5-page introduction and literature review that introduces your topic, clearly states your research question, and synthesizes the relevant literature around your topic. Please use sub-headings in the literature review to separate sections of similar literature.

Methods Section (5pts)

Turn in a 1-3-page methods section that explains what data you are gathering, details about that data, your sampling selection strategy, and procedures about how you plan to analyze the data. Sub-headings can be useful in a methods section.

Results Section (5pts)

Turn in a 4-6-page results section that reports your findings. For qualitative papers this will consist of the themes discovered and any relevant figures. For quantitative papers this will consist of your statistical findings and relevant tables and figures.

Discussion & Conclusion Section (5pts)

Turn in a 2-3-page discussion and conclusion section that explains the implications of the findings you reported on in the results section. You may also include a section about limitations to your research and suggestions for future research. If you are ending with the creation of a theory or hypothesis, explain it thoroughly here. A conclusion paragraph that summarizes the entire paper (sort of like a slightly extended abstract) is a common practice as well.

Mid-Term Quiz (10pts)

This will be a multiple choice quiz with 20 questions (.5pt each) covering the key vocabulary covered in the textbook up to this point.

Stats Quiz (10pts)

This will be a multiple choice quiz with 20 questions (.5pt each) covering key concepts as discussed in class about using statistical methods with social science data. This will include some basics on means testing, correlation, statistical terminology, and basic uses of SPSS.

First Draft (5pts)

Turn in a fully assembled version of your paper reflecting edits from all of the previous sections. Include a cover page, a running head, an abstract, keywords, and references page. Number the pages. Be sure to use ASA style in your citations and references. Full credit will only go to papers that are stapled, have appropriately labeled figures and tables, make good use of primary and secondary headings, and have minimal grammar and spelling errors.

Presentation (10pts)

An 8-minute presentation of your research, plus 2min of Q&A. Slides should not be too wordy and the presenter should not just read the slides. Two of the 10 points has to do with professional appearance and delivery, as if you were at a real conference. A presentation rubric will be given out in class.

Final Draft (20pts)

A final digital copy of your paper should be turned in by midnight on the due date at the end of the semester—emailed to ddavi1@pointloma.edu. It should be your very best paper, edited and re-edited to your highest capability. This paper may be built upon for your senior thesis, for the honors society, and/or as a writing sample to graduate school. Zero grammar or spelling mistakes should remain in this version.

Extra Credit

There is a maximum allowance of 5pts extra credit from all possible sources. Below are some options; additional options will be offered in class:

- 1pt- Join a professional association
- 1pt- Attend a relevant conference to your major or career aspirations
- 1pt- Research Assistant tasks for instructor or other students' research
- 1pt- Tutoring a student struggling with a specific part of their paper that you have mastered.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Research Paper Parts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Question/Data Plan, 5% • References Page, 5% • Intro & Lit Review, 5% • Methods, 5% • Results, 5% • Discussion/Conclusion, 5% • First Draft, 5% • Presentation, 10% • Final Research Paper, 20% 	Other Parts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Leading, 15% • Stats Quiz, 10% • Mid-Term Quiz, 10% 	A = 93-100 A- = 92-90 B+ = 87-89 B = 83-86 B- = 80-82 C+ = 77-79	C = 73-76 C- = 70-72 D+ = 67-69 D = 63-66 D- = 60-62 F = 0-59
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COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

DATE PRESENTED	CLASS CONTENT OR ASSIGNMENT	ASSIGNMENT DUE DATE
R 1/11/2018	Intro to the Course, Associations, Journals	Syllabus
T 1/16/2018	Theory, Sources of Data, Paper Strategy, SPSS	Babbie 1, SPSS Installed
R 1/18/2018	General Social Survey and SPSS Exercises	Babbie 2
T 1/23/2018	Research Ethics and IRB	Babbie 3, Research Question & Data Plan
R 1/25/2018	Research Design, ASA Style References	Babbie 4
T 1/30/2018	Conceptualization, Operationalization	Babbie 5, References Page
R 2/1/2018	Scales and Typologies, Writing a Lit Review	Babbie 6
T 2/6/2018	Sampling Logic, ASA Style Citations	Babbie 7, Stats Quiz
R 2/8/2018	Experimental Design	Babbie 8
T 2/13/2018	Survey Research, Writing a Methods Section	Babbie 9, Introduction & Lit Review
R 2/15/2018	Field Methods, Interviews & Observations	Babbie 10
T 2/20/2018	Unobtrusive Research	Babbie 11, Methods Section
R 2/22/2018	Evaluation Research	Babbie 12
T 2/27/2018	Writing a Results Section	Babbie 13
R 3/1/2018	Mid-Term Quiz	Mid-Term Quiz
T 3/6/2018	SPRING BREAK - No Class	
R 3/8/2018	SPRING BREAK - No Class	
T 3/13/2018	Qualitative Data Analysis and Coding, Dedoose	Babbie 14
R 3/15/2018	Quantitative Data Analysis, Tableau	Babbie 15
T 3/20/2018	Writing a Discussion/Conclusion Section	Results Section
R 3/22/2018	Tips for Academic Presentations	
T 3/27/2018	Writing Workshop	
R 3/29/2018	EASTER BREAK - No Class (PSA 28 th -31 st)	
T 4/3/2018	Writing Workshop	Discussion and Conclusion
R 4/5/2018	Writing Workshop	
T 4/10/2018	Writing Workshop	Complete Assembled First Draft
R 4/12/2018	Writing Workshop	
T 4/17/2018	Writing Workshop	(+1 EC for early presenters)
R 4/19/2018	Presentations	Presentations
T 4/24/2018	Presentations	Presentations
R 4/26/2018	Presentations	Presentations
R 5/3/2018	Presentations & Final Paper Due	Final Paper

FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination **on its scheduled day**. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Class Schedules](#) site. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See Academic Policies for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

If you have a diagnosed disability, please contact PLNU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) within the first two weeks of class to demonstrate need and to register for accommodation by phone at 619-849-2486 or by e-mail at DRC@pointloma.edu. See [Disability Resource Center](#) for additional information.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.