

Quantitative Research Methods Section 81

SOCI 104

Fall 2024 3 Unit(s) 08/21/2024 to 12/09/2024 Modified 10/21/2024

Contact Information

Dr. Megan Thiele Strong

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Office Hours

Wednesdays 9:30-10:25 a.m. in-person DMH 224 or on Zoom

<https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/92544100827>

I am available to meet other times during the week by request.

Course Description and Requisites

Quantitative research methods including survey research design, hypothesis formulation, questionnaire and interview design, scaling, sampling and data preparation and SPSS analysis. Completion of a class research project plus individual research reports. Required for majors.

Prerequisite: SOCI 1 or equivalent, SOCI 15 or SOCI 102 or approved Statistics course from another school; SOCI 100W, SOCI 101 and upper division standing.

Letter Graded

Classroom Protocols

- Do the required reading and media viewing as many times as needed. I recommend reading and watching the material **twice**.
- Follow the student code of conduct.
- Do your own work.

- **Email correspondence: Please provide your name and course title in each email.** Emails without this information may not be responded to. I try to maintain a 24-hour email response policy, effective 9-5 p.m., Monday through Thursday; if you email me Thursday night at 4 p.m. you may not get a response until Monday at 4 p.m.

Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

- Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor-generated material for this course such as web pages, lecture notes, or assignments without instructor consent.

Program Information

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to think sociologically about the relationship between social structure, interaction, identities, and inequalities.
2. Students will be able to identify and explain major sociological theories and apply them to everyday life.
3. Students will be proficient in qualitative and quantitative research design, data collection and data analysis.
4. Students will be proficient in oral and written communication skills appropriate to the discipline.
5. Students will be able to practice sociology as educated and civically engaged persons.

Course Goals

This course will introduce you to the logic and use of quantitative research methods in social science research and provide a space for learning how to conduct this research yourself. The following quantitative research methods will be highlighted: asking research questions, identifying independent and dependent variables, hypothesis formulation, conducting a literature review, research design, survey techniques, sampling and data preparation and analysis using SPSS.

Course Materials

Textbook

Readings will be made available online via Canvas.

OTHER EQUIPMENT

Statistical Software SPSS Required. Please download SPSS. Available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/research-tools/spss/index.html>

Students are required to have an electronic device (laptop, desktop or tablet) or other way to access Canvas and SPSS.

✓ Grading Information

Module Assignments	170 pts.
Discussion Board Assignment Posts	72 pts.
Quizzes	63 pts.
Final Project Flip Grid	15 pts.
Final Project	30 pts.
TOTAL	350 pts.

Please expect the possibility of 2 extra credit points for successfully installing SPSS and up to 10 additional points that will be available throughout the semester.

Grades will be calculated as follows:

331-350+ = A
315 - 330 = A-
303 - 314 = B +
293 - 302 = B
280 - 292 = B -

268 - 279 = C +

258 - 267 = C

245 - 257 = C -

233 - 244 = D +

223 - 232 = D

209 - 222 = D -

000 - 208 = F

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

Below is the course outline. This schedule is subject to change with fair notice, which will be provided via Canvas.

Date(s)	Topics	Reminders
MODULE 1	Introductions and Course Basics	

Date(s)	Topics	Reminders
MODULE 2	Introduction to Social and Quantitative Research, Exploring Research Interests and Levels of Measurement	
MODULE 3	Introduction to Social and Quantitative Research Continued: Units of Analysis, Variables, Independent variables, Dependent Variables, and Developing a Research Question	Check: Last Day to Add Courses and Register Late
MODULE 4	Theory and Inductive and Deductive Reasoning	
MODULE 5	Conceptualization and Operationalization	
MODULE 6	Sampling and Intro to SPSS	
MODULE 7	Survey Research, Validity and Reliability and the Code Book	
MODULE 8	Research Ethics	
MODULE 9	SPSS: Descriptive Statistics and Recoding Variables	

Date(s)	Topics	Reminders
Module 10	SPSS: Graphs and Splitting Files/Comparing Subsets of Cases	
MODULE 11	SPSS: Crosstabs and the Chi- square Test	
MODULE 12	The Literature Review	
MODULE 13	The Literature Review cont.	
MODULE 14	Summarizing and Reporting Research	
MODULE 15	Thanksgiving Break	
MODULE 16	Presenting Your Research/Final Project Learning Page	