

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2023	Instructor Name:	Barbara Reyes
Course Title & #:	SOC 120 Introduction to Research Methods	Email:	Barbara.reyes@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20803	Campus Office Hours:	T/Th 11:30 -12:30pm
Class Dates:	13 February – 9 June 2022	Online Office Hours	Zoom T/Th 12:30-1pm
Units:	3	Class Format:	Asynchronous Online

Course Description

Students will examine fundamental elements of empirical research and the ways in which sociologists gather, evaluate, and critique social data. Includes attention to the nature of theory, hypothesis, variables, and ethics of research. Application of qualitative and quantitative analytic tools including logic and research design, such as survey, observational, experimental, case study, historical research. This course is intended for students majoring in Sociology or other fields of social science. **(CSU, UC)**

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

1. Identify basic methodological approaches and describe the general role of methods in building sociological knowledge. (ILO2, ILO4, ILO5).
2. Design a research study in an area of choice and explain why various decisions were made. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO 3, ILO4)

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the basic principles of the scientific method.
2. Understand the relationship between social theory and research.
3. Critically evaluate research finding the terms of quality, credibility, and applicability.
4. Conceptualize and operationalize social variables in formulating testable hypothesis.
5. Examine various research designs, the role of quantitative techniques, and data reduction in sociological analyses.
6. Identify and review qualitative approaches in current use.
7. Describe how social research can be used to make informed decisions.
8. Demonstrate familiarity with a social science statistical software for conducting research.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Social Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Methods v2.0

By: Amy Blackstone

Published: 2019

Discipline: Sociology Textbooks

ISBN (Digital): 978-1-4533-9520-2

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

This course is asynchronous or traditional online course. All course activity occurs online; there are no required Realtime or on campus meetings. All content will be delivered in Canvas. I use different teaching methods, such as prerecorded lectures, plenty of discussions boards, videos, and many participation activities that can be completed at any time before the due date. My lectures will be available for you to review at your own pace; however, you are responsible to submit assignments and follow the due dates.

Introduction Discussion-First Day Attendance Assignment

Getting to know you is the best part of my job. I would like to learn a little bit about you. Therefore, your first “assignment” of the semester is to introduce yourself to the class. Students will have until the end of Wednesday February 16 **to submit the introduction discussion to stay in class**, please plan accordingly. It should take anywhere from 5 to 10 minutes. **No late submissions will be accepted.**

Quizzes

Canvas Quizzes will ensure that you are on top of your readings and lectures. Quizzes are multiple choices, True/False, and short responses. All quizzes will open on Thursdays and will close on Sundays at midnight. Make sure that you know how to access Canvas prior to the first quiz. Ask for help! **It is your responsibility to have Canvas set up by the first week of the semester and to follow the due dates. No make-up quizzes!**

Chapter Participation Activities

Research shows that people learn better when they are actively involved in the learning process. Participation is not just “showing up” to class. I will have weekly chapter participation activities that will involve your engagement and insight to each chapter. It is important for you to complete these activities as they are a big part of your final grade. I will not accept late participations activities (NO Excuses). More information will be provided. You must support your discussion postings and responses with evidence from course materials by citing from the textbook, reading or outside materials. You must use original thoughts--No plagiarism!

Research Proposal Project

A research proposal describes what you will investigate, why it’s important, and how you will do the research. Using what you have learned about throughout the semester about conducting research in Sociology, you will write a research proposal. The proposal will demonstrate your ability to think like a social researcher from choosing a topic of your interest, recruiting participants, creating a survey, conducting research, among other important steps in research.

Extra Credit

You will have opportunities to earn extra credit throughout the course. I will announce extra credit opportunities during class **only!** If you are absent, you will miss the announcement. You can ask your classmates for help but do not ask me, as I will not repeat it for you.

Out of Class Assignments: The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out-of-class time per week over the span of a semester. WASC has adopted a similar requirement.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Grading Based	Total
Introductions Discussion-First Assignment	25
Practice Quiz	5
Quizzes	120
Chapter Reflection Discussions	280
Final Research Proposal	100
Total Possible Points	530

Late Work/Free Pass Policy

Late work interrupts the flow of learning in this course and could cause serious problems. Discussions are designed to be interactive--the feedback you give to and get from your peers is just as valuable as any feedback you will receive from me. For this reason, late work will not be accepted!

I do understand that life may get in the way of your academic goals, therefore, I provide one "Free Pass" that may be used to submit a discussion, paper, or exam late. However, there are some conditions that need to be considered before requesting the Free Pass. Please read below:

- Students will email me to request the Free Pass. I will let you know how to go about submitting your late work.
- The Free Pass will be used for assignments, discussion, and/or exams that are no more than two weeks old. (Follow due dates)
- Students will have up to two weeks to submit the late assignment.
- The Free Pass CAN NOT be use for the Final Project.
- The Free Pass can only be use for once in the semester, NO EXCEPTIONS!

Course Policies Attendance Policy

A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See [General Catalog](#) for details.

Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absence exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped. Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

What does it mean to "attend" an online class?

Attendance is critical to student success and for IVC to use federal aid funds. Acceptable indications of attendance are:

- Student submission of an academic assignment
- Student submission of an exam
- Student participation in an instructor-led Zoom conference

- Documented student interaction with class postings, such as an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction via modules
- A posting by the student showing the student's participation in an assignment created by the instructor
- A posting by the student in a discussion forum showing the student's participation in an online discussion about academic matters
- An email from the student or other documentation showing that the student has initiated contact with a faculty member to ask a question about an academic subject studied in the course.
- **Logging onto Canvas alone is NOT adequate to demonstrate academic attendance by the student.**

Netiquette Policy

What is netiquette? Netiquette is internet manners, online etiquette, and digital etiquette all rolled into one word.

Basically, netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online.

- Students are to comply with the following rules of netiquette: (1) identify yourself, (2) include a subject line, (3) avoid sarcasm, (4) respect others' opinions and privacy, (5) acknowledge and return messages promptly, (6) copy with caution, (7) do not spam or junk mail, (8) be concise, (9) use appropriate language, (10) use appropriate emoticons (emotional icons) to help convey meaning, and (11) use appropriate intensifiers to help convey meaning [do not use ALL CAPS or multiple exclamation marks (!!!!)].
- **"R-E-S-P-E-C-T"**, find out what it means to me." Classroom discussion should remain civil. We are here to learn from each other. It is difficult to learn from someone who is yelling at you, rolling her/his eyes, grumbling under his/her breath, ignoring you, interrupting you, or engaging in other dismissive behaviors. I do not expect that any of us will be tempted to behave so rudely but it doesn't hurt to spell out that these things are out-of-bounds in the classroom.

Other Course Information Student-Instructor Communication

Good communication is essential to building a team and critical to learning. In this class, you will be encouraged to communicate with your peers and with me. The best ways to contact me:

Messages/Email: I try to answer all emails within 24 hours, Mon-Fri. Saturday and Sunday are family days for me and I do not reply to emails!

My email is barbara.reyes@imperial.edu, but the best way to send me a message is to use the Canvas "Inbox." The Inbox will send a message to my conversations within Canvas and sends a copy to my IVC email account.

Pronto is one of my favorite ways to communicate with the class. It is very similar to the Facebook Messenger application. We can have discussions and live sessions as a class. Please try to download it to your phone during the first week of the semester. You will really enjoy it!

It's important to be respectful of one another. This means learning to communicate more formally, just as you will when you graduate and begin your career. When sending emails, always include the following information:

- A salutation (Dear Professor Reyes...)
- Your full name (First and Last!) your email address does not always give enough clues about who you are.
- Class name/number (SOC 101..102..110..)
- Appropriate spelling and punctuation (no text speak, please)

IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.



Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1 February 13	Welcome and Introduction to Class	Complete Orientation Module
Week 2 February 20	Start Chapter 1 Introduction Research Methods for Everyday Life	Start Module # 1 and new students complete Orientation Module.
Week 3 Feb 27	Continue and Finish Chapter 1	Complete all assignments in Module # 1
Week 4 March 6	Chapter 2 Linking Methods with Theory	Complete all assignments in Module # 2 Quiz # 1
Week 5 March 13	Chapter 3- Research Ethics	Complete all assignments in Module # 3
Week 6 March 20	Chapter 4- Beginning a Research Project	Complete all assignments in Module # 4 Quiz # 2
Week 7 March 27	Chapter 5 –Research Design	Complete all assignments in Module # 5
Week 8 April 3	Chapter 6 Defining and Measuring Concepts	Complete all assignments in Module # 6
<i>April 10- 16 Spring Break Enjoy!</i>		
Week 9 April 17	Chapter 7 – Sampling	Complete all assignments in Module # 7 Quiz # 3
Week 10 April 24	Chapter 8 - Survey Research: A Quantitative Technique	Complete all assignments in Module # 8
Week 11 May 1	Chapter 9- Interviews: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches	Complete all Assignments in Module # 9 Quiz # 4
Week 12 May 8	Chapter 10 - Field Research: Qualitative Technique	Complete all assignments in Module # 10
Week 13 May 15	Chapter 11– Unobtrusive Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches	Complete all assignments in Module # 11 Quiz # 5
Week 14 May 22	Chapter 12- Other Methods of Data Collection and Analysis	Complete all assignments in Module # 12
Week 15 May 29	Chapter 13- Sharing Your Work	Complete all assignments in Module # 13 Quiz # 6
Week 16 June 5	Research Proposal Project Week!	Final Project Due by June 10 11:59pm

*****Subject to change without prior notice*****