

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, EDUCATION, AND COMMERCE

WINTER, 1998.

COURSE: Sociology 3150 3(3-2) UT(3)
Introduction to Social Methodology

SO 3150 A3 M W F 11:00 - 11:50
W F 14:00 - 14:50

PREREQUISITE: SO 1000 AND PY 2110 (or equivalents)

INSTRUCTOR: Vince Salvo
Office: E 307 Phone: 539-2993 (532-0709)
Office Hours: M W F 10:00 - 11:00 by appointment,
or anytime if I'm free.

NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THE COURSE:

This course introduces the student to the excitement and pragmatics of understanding and doing social research. A critical appreciation of the research process and an awareness of the pitfalls in doing social research (essential to anyone who is attempting to use social research) will be demonstrated. Development of a basic familiarity with SPSS will also be covered in this course.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE:

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the logic and skills of social science research. The detailed learning objectives are contained as the first item in each chapter of the STUDY GUIDE which it is recommended you purchase in the College Bookstore. If you do not purchase the STUDY GUIDE it is *YOUR RESPONSIBILITY* to get a copy of these objectives. The course and the examinations will closely follow these detailed learning objectives.

EVALUATION METHODS:

There will be two examinations, several research or experience activities, and a research report in this class. We will determine, in class, which activities and tasks will be completed and the nature and subject of the research project. Each is described below.

Examinations: The examinations will be a combination of "objective", short answer and essay questions.

Research/Experience Activities: Each activity will be assigned in lab and will normally be due right after we have covered the materials in class activities. During the first two weeks, we will decide which exercises and activities will be completed. These mini-projects will normally be initiated during the lab period.

Research Paper: We will develop, during the first half of this course, a research project which we will complete during the course. Each person will be involved in all aspects of the research process from beginning to end. The product of your work will be a publishable research paper.

GRADING SYSTEM:

GRADE	INTERPRETATION	PERCENTAGE EQUIVALENT
9		90 +
8	Excellent	80-89
7		72-79
6	Good	65-71
5		57-64
4	Pass	50-56
3	Fail	45-49
2		26-44
1		0-25

MARKS:

Examinations		60%
Midterm	25%	
Final	35%	
Lab Exercises		15%
Research Report		25%

LEARNING RESOURCES:

Babbie, Earl. THE PRACTICE OF SOCIAL RESEARCH, Eighth Edition. Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1998.

Wagenaar, Theodore and Earl Babbie. PRACTICING SOCIAL RESEARCH, Eighth Edition. Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1998.

COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS(in Babbie)
Jan 7	Introduction	Prologue, Holographic Overview, and Chapter 19.
Jan 09-16	Scientific Method And Ethics	Ch 1 & 18.
Jan 19-23	Theory and Research: Cause or Correlation	Ch 2 and 3.
Jan 26-30	Research Design	Ch 4
Feb 2-9	Conceptualization, Measurement and Operationalization	Ch 5 and 6
Feb 11- 18	Indices, Scales, Typos Sampling and Quantifying	Ch 7, 8, and 14
20	<i>Midterm Exam</i>	
Mar 2-6	Experiments	Ch 9
Mar 9-13	Survey Research	Ch 10
Mar 16-20	Field and Unobtrusive Research	Ch 11 & 12
Mar 23-30	Evaluative Research	Ch 13
Apr 1-8	Elementary and Elaborated Analyses	Ch 15 and 16
Apr 13-15	Summary and Review	Prologue, Holographic Overview, Ch 1, 18, & 19.

*****Final Exam Scheduled By Registrar's Office *****

N.B.

1. Keep this outline. It will be your course reference throughout the term.
2. You are responsible for changes (additions and/or deletions) to this outline made in class.
3. Exercises to be completed and due dates will be decided in class.
4. It is your responsibility to attend class and labs. Should you be unable to attend, it is your responsibility to find out what was missed.