SOC M120: INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS

Originator

dvieira

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College

Moorpark College

Discipline (CB01A)

SOC - Sociology

Course Number (CB01B)

M120

Course Title (CB02)

Introduction to Research Methods

Banner/Short Title

Intro to Research Methods

Credit Type

Credit

Start Term

Fall 2022

Catalog Course Description

Examines fundamental elements of empirical research and the ways in which sociologists gather, evaluate and critique social data. Includes attention to the nature of theory, hypotheses, variables, and ethics of research. Applies qualitative and quantitative analytic tools including logic and research design, such as survey, observational, experimental, case study, and comparative historical research. Focuses on data analysis using a software package.

Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) Code (CB03)

2208.00 - Sociology

Course Credit Status (CB04)

D (Credit - Degree Applicable)

Course Transfer Status (CB05) (select one only)

A (Transferable to both UC and CSU)

Course Basic Skills Status (CB08)

N - The Course is Not a Basic Skills Course

SAM Priority Code (CB09)

E - Non-Occupational

Course Cooperative Work Experience Education Status (CB10)

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

Course Classification Status (CB11)

Y - Credit Course

Educational Assistance Class Instruction (Approved Special Class) (CB13)

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

Course Prior to Transfer Level (CB21)
Y - Not Applicable

Course Noncredit Category (CB22)
Y - Credit Course

Funding Agency Category (CB23)
Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

Course Program Status (CB24)
1 - Program Applicable

General Education Status (CB25)
Y - Not Applicable

Support Course Status (CB26)
N - Course is not a support course

Field trips
Will not be required

Grading method
(L) Letter Graded

Alternate grading methods
(O) Student Option- Letter/Pass
(P) Pass/No Pass Grading

Does this course require an instructional materials fee?
No

Repeatable for Credit
No

Is this course part of a family?
No

Units and Hours

Carnegie Unit Override
No

In-Class

Lecture
Minimum Contact/In-Class Lecture Hours
52.5
Maximum Contact/In-Class Lecture Hours
52.5

Activity

Laboratory

Total in-Class

Total in-Class
Total Minimum Contact/In-Class Hours
52.5

Total Maximum Contact/In-Class Hours
52.5

Outside-of-Class

Internship/Cooperative Work Experience

Paid

Unpaid

Total Outside-of-Class

Total Outside-of-Class
Minimum Outside-of-Class Hours
105
Maximum Outside-of-Class Hours
105

Total Student Learning

Total Student Learning
Total Minimum Student Learning Hours
157.5
Total Maximum Student Learning Hours
157.5

Minimum Units (CB07)
3
Maximum Units (CB06)
3

Prerequisites
SOC M110 or SOC M110H

Advisories on Recommended Preparation
SOC M125 or MATH M15 or MATH M15H

Entrance Skills
Entrance Skills
SOC M110 or SOC M110H

Prerequisite Course Objectives
SOC M110-demonstrate their ability to think sociologically, emphasizing the importance of social forces in shaping the life course of the individual and the structure and processes of the larger society as a whole.
SOC M110-explain how sociology is a science and identify the critical elements of social research; distinguish between the use of various research methods.
SOC M110-describe the history of sociology and the importance of classical writers such as Comte, Marx, Durkheim and Weber to the development of the field.
SOC M110-compare and contrast the assumptions, questions and interpretations of the major theoretical paradigms(structural functionalism, social conflict and symbolic interactionism) in sociology and recognize in general that there are many perspectives on any given issue.
SOC M110-use a sociological perspective to define and explain the meaning and implications of key sociological concepts (including but not limited to: anomie, bureaucracy, collective behavior, community, culture, cultural relativity, deviance, discrimination, ethnicity, gender, groups, inequality, institution, interaction, identity, social mobility, norms, prejudice, race, social change, social structures, socialization, status, "social construction of reality," "sociological imagination," social stratification) for the scientific study of human society.
SOC M110-describe and explain the basic dimensions of social inequality and social change in historical and contemporary society.
SOC M110-demonstrate how culture and social structure vary across time and place and describe the effects of such variations.
SOC M110-describe how demographic and other social changes affect social structures and processes.

SOC M110-assess what social forces and organizational structures are most prominent in shaping, guiding and influencing individual and group behavior in contemporary society.
SOC M110-recognize the diversity within and between cultures around the world.
SOC M110H-demonstrate their ability to think sociologically, emphasizing the importance of social forces in shaping the life course of the individual and the structure and processes of the larger society as a whole.
SOC M110H-explain how sociology is a science and identify the critical elements of social research; distinguish between the use of various research methods.
SOC M110H-describe the history of sociology and the importance of classical writers such as Comte, Marx, Durkheim and Weber to the development of the field.
SOC M110H-critically compare and contrast the assumptions, questions and interpretations of the major theoretical paradigms (structural functionalism, social conflict, and symbolic interactionism) in sociology and recognize in general that there are many perspectives on any given issue.
SOC M110H-use a sociological perspective to examine the implications of key sociological concepts (anomie, authority, bureaucracy, collective behavior, community, culture, cultural relativity, deviance, discrimination, ethnicty, ethnocentricity, gender, groups, inequality, institution, interaction, identity, McDonaldization, minority group, social mobility, norms, power, prejudice, race, roles, social change, social processes, social structures, socialization, status, sociological imagination, social stratification) for the scientific study of human society.
SOC M110H-describe and explain the basic dimensions of social inequality and social change in historical and contemporary society.
SOC M110H-demonstrate how culture and social structure vary across time and place and describe the effects of such variations.
SOC M110H-describe how demographic and other social changes affect social structures and processes.
SOC M110H-assess what social forces and organizational structures are most prominent in shaping, guiding and influencing individual and group behavior in contemporary society.
SOC M110H-recognize the diversity within and between cultures around the world.
SOC M110H-HONORS: identify and analyze fundamental trends and patterns of human behavior (interaction, deviance, inequality), that are present on the interpersonal level and among categories (gender, race and ethnicity, class, and age), groups, organizations, community and institutions.
SOC M110H-HONORS: summarize and analyze social science data.
SOC M110H-HONORS: utilize and evaluate some of the key elements of scientific social research.

Requisite Justification

Requisite Type
Prerequisite

Requisite
SOC M110 or SOC M110H

Requisite Description
Course in a sequence

Level of Scrutiny/Justification
Required by 4 year institution

Requisite Type
Recommended Preparation

Requisite
SOC M125 or MATH M15 or MATH M15H

Requisite Description
Course not in a sequence

Level of Scrutiny/Justification
Content review

Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)	
	Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:
1	evaluate which specific methods, whether quantitative or qualitative, are most appropriate in answering particular research questions .

2	develop a scientifically sound research design to study society.
3	assess the ethical implications of sociological research .

Course Objectives

	Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:
1	describe the role that social theory plays in social research and the necessary link of theory and empiricism; explain the critical role of methods in building sociological knowledge.
2	explain the basic principles of the scientific method.
3	evaluate research findings that examine a diversity of social structure and social processes among individuals and cultures in terms of quality, credibility and applicability.
4	interpret the ethical issues involved in social research such as voluntary participation, no harm to subjects, anonymity, and confidentiality.
5	conceptualize and operationalize social variables in formulating testable hypotheses.
6	examine various research designs, the role of quantitative techniques, and data reduction in sociological analyses.
7	identify and review qualitative approaches in current use.
8	describe how social research can be used to make informed decisions.
9	demonstrate familiarity with statistical software for conducting research.
10	apply knowledge through hands-on exercises dealing with stages of the research process from planning the design to gathering, summarizing and interpreting data, and technical writing.

Course Content

Lecture/Course Content

8.00% Aims and characteristics of social research

8.00% Paradigms, theory and research; working with statistical software

8.00% The ethics and politics of social research

9.00% Research design; purposes of research; deterministic model; units of analysis; and the time dimension

8.00% Conceptualization, operationalization, and measurement

8.00% Indexes, scales and typologies

9.00% The research proposal; writing a literature review and preparing a bibliography/references list

8.00% Sampling issues; pros and cons of various sampling techniques

9.00% Experiments (classical, pre-experimental, and quasi-experimental designs)

9.00% Survey research (questionnaires and interviews)

8.00% Qualitative field research

8.00% Unobtrusive research (content analysis, analyzing existing statistics)

Laboratory or Activity Content

n/a

Methods of Evaluation

Which of these methods will students use to demonstrate proficiency in the subject matter of this course? (Check all that apply):
Written expression

Methods of Evaluation may include, but are not limited to, the following typical classroom assessment techniques/required assignments (check as many as are deemed appropriate):
Computational homework
Essay exams
Group projects
Individual projects
Objective exams
Oral analysis/critiques
Oral presentations
Quizzes
Reports/papers
Research papers

Written analyses
Written homework
Other (specify)
Classroom Discussion
Projects
Participation
Reports/Papers/Journals

Other

Inquiry-based learning requires that students will be evaluated by the research
proposal they have created

Instructional Methodology

Specify the methods of instruction that may be employed in this course

Audio-visual presentations
Case studies
Class activities
Class discussions
Collaborative group work
Computer-aided presentations
Distance Education
Group discussions
Guest speakers
Instructor-guided use of technology
Internet research
Lecture
Problem-solving examples
Small group activities
Other (specify)

Specify other method of instruction

Library Instruction Session. Inquiry-based learning where students have direct
experience in formulating a research question, a research design that addresses their question, and an opportunity to collect and
summarize the data

Describe specific examples of the methods the instructor will use:

  • class lectures with possible PowerPoint presentations and/or audio-video presentations
  • group work
  • group presentation with feed-back from the professor
  • socratic discussions
  • group quizzes
  • student-led presentations with feed-back from the professor
  • demonstration of quantitative analysis software

Representative Course Assignments

Writing Assignments

- Collect data (e.g., at the Child Development Center).

- Construct index and typology.

- Construct a survey.

- Construct theory and hypothesis.

- Write and research reviews of literature.

- Write a research proposal.

- Write a research paper using a standard format, e.g., American Sociologial Association (ASA), American Psychological Association (APA), or Modern Language Association (MLA) style.

- Write essay examinations on topics such as the ethics and politics of social research.

Critical Thinking Assignments

- Write a summary and analysis of data (e.g., General Social Science data set) report, where data is examined using a statistical software.

- Analyze a published social science research article; select one of the concepts in the article and describe the conceptualization and measurement process employed. Summarize how the researcher addresssed the reliability and valididty of the measure.
- Conceptualize and operationalize social variables such as "love," "race," "religiosity" and explain the problems of validity and reliability in measuring such concepts.
- Use the Internet and Library's online resources to access sociological articles and government documents (U.S. Census reports).

Reading Assignments

- Read and study selected chapters from the textbook as well as the accompanying lecture notes; then, answer assigned questions.
- Read a published APA or ASA style empirical article and then analyze the contents of the different sections such as Introduction, Methods, and Discussion.

Outside Assignments

Representative Outside Assignments
- Conduct a literature search using appropriate databases
- Complete assigned readings
- Identify research articles in scholarly journals that demonstrate research designs discussed in class
- Format empirical studies in APA or ASA style
- Develop research proposals
- Visit a research lab at a local institution

Articulation

C-ID Descriptor Number
SOCI 120

Status
Approved

Equivalent Courses at 4 year institutions

University	Course ID	Course Title	Units
UC Davis	SOCIOL 046A	Introduction to Social Research Methods	4
CSU, Sacramento	SOC 8	Sense-Nonsense in Social Issues and Research	3
CSU, Northridge	SOC 202	Sociological Analysis	3
UC, San Diego	SOCI 60	Practice of Social Research	4
UC, Berkeley	SOCIOL 5	Evaluation of Evidence	4
UC Los Angeles	SOCIOL 20	Introduction to Sociological Research Methods	5
Cal Poly Pomona	SOC 2205	Research Methods in Sociology	3
CSU Channel Islands	SOC 202	Introduction to Research Methods	3

Comparable Courses within the VCCCD
SOC R111 - Introduction to Social Research
SOC V07 - Sociological Analysis

District General Education

A. Natural Sciences

B. Social and Behavioral Sciences

B2. Social and Behavioral Sciences
Approved

C. Humanities

D. Language and Rationality

E. Health and Physical Education/Kinesiology

F. Ethnic Studies/Gender Studies

Course is CSU transferable
Yes

CSU Baccalaureate List effective term:
F1995

CSU GE-Breadth

Area A: English Language Communication and Critical Thinking

Area B: Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning

Area C: Arts and Humanities

Area D: Social Sciences

Area E: Lifelong Learning and Self-Development

Area F: Ethnic Studies

CSU Graduation Requirement in U.S. History, Constitution and American Ideals:

UC TCA

UC TCA
Approved

IGETC

Area 1: English Communication

Area 2A: Mathematical Concepts & Quantitative Reasoning

Area 3: Arts and Humanities

Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Approved

Area 5: Physical and Biological Sciences

Area 6: Languages Other than English (LOTE)

Textbooks and Lab Manuals
Resource Type
Textbook

Description
Babbie, Earl. *The Basics of Social Research.* 7th ed., Cengage Learning, 2017.

Resource Type
Textbook

Description
Neuman, W. Lawrence. *Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches.* 8th ed., Pearson, 2020.

Resource Type
Textbook

Description
Kenneavy, Kristin, et al. *Social Research Methods: Sociology in Action*. Sage, 2022.

Resource Type
Textbook

Description
Remler, Dahlia and Gregg Van Ryzin. *Research Methods in Practice*. 3rd ed., Sage, 2021.

Resource Type
Software

Description
SPSS Grad Pack. IBM.

Library Resources

Assignments requiring library resources
Research using the library's print and online resources.

Sufficient Library Resources exist
Yes

Example of Assignments Requiring Library Resources
Literature Reviews (utilizing the Library's electronic periodical databases such as EBSCO Social Science Full Text and JSTOR are required).(Detailed) Research Proposal with extensive bibliography/references using the Library's print and online resources.Analysis of existing/published statistics (secondary data such as U.S. Census reports, Uniform Crime Reports).

Distance Education Addendum

Definitions

Distance Education Modalities
Hybrid (1%–50% online)
100% online

Faculty Certifications

Faculty assigned to teach Hybrid or Fully Online sections of this course will receive training in how to satisfy the Federal and state regulations governing regular effective/substantive contact for distance education. The training will include common elements in the district-supported learning management system (LMS), online teaching methods, regular effective/substantive contact, and best practices.
Yes

Faculty assigned to teach Hybrid or Fully Online sections of this course will meet with the EAC Alternate Media Specialist to ensure that the course content meets the required Federal and state accessibility standards for access by students with disabilities. Common areas for discussion include accessibility of PDF files, images, captioning of videos, Power Point presentations, math and scientific notation, and ensuring the use of style mark-up in Word documents.
Yes

Regular Effective/Substantive Contact

Hybrid (1%–50% online) Modality:

Method of Instruction	Document typical activities or assignments for each method of instruction
Asynchronous Dialog (e.g., discussion board)	Regular discussion boards will be used to encourage discussions amongst students where they can compare and contrast/discuss/analyze sociological topics involving such topics as social class, race and ethnicity, sex and gender, and other sociological topics.
E-mail	Instructor-to-student and student-to-instructor contact for clarification, questions, and student progress reports
Face to Face (by student request; cannot be required)	Face-to-face meetings with students as needed by student request outside of classroom for clarification, questions, and student progress reports
Other DE (e.g., recorded lectures)	Internet websites, videos, recorded lectures, PowerPoint presentations, lecture notes
Synchronous Dialog (e.g., online chat)	Online office hours or online group discussions
Telephone	One-on-one meetings with students by request for clarification, questions, and student progress reports
Video Conferencing	One-on-one meetings with students by request, online office hours

100% online Modality:

Method of Instruction	Document typical activities or assignments for each method of instruction
Asynchronous Dialog (e.g., discussion board)	Regular discussion boards will be used to encourage discussions amongst students where they can compare and contrast/discuss/analyze sociological topics involving such topics as social class, race and ethnicity, sex and gender, and other sociological topics.
E-mail	Instructor-to-student and student-to-instructor contact for clarification, questions, and student progress reports
Face to Face (by student request; cannot be required)	Face-to-face meetings with students as needed by student request outside of classroom for clarification, questions, and student progress reports
Other DE (e.g., recorded lectures)	Internet websites, videos, recorded lectures, PowerPoint presentations, lecture notes
Synchronous Dialog (e.g., online chat)	Online office hours or online group discussions
Telephone	One-on-one meetings with students by request for clarification, questions, and student progress reports
Video Conferencing	One-on-one meetings with students by request, online office hours

Examinations

Hybrid (1%–50% online) Modality
On campus
Online

Primary Minimum Qualification
SOCIOLOGY

Review and Approval Dates

Department Chair
06/21/2021

Dean
01/31/2022

Technical Review
02/03/2022

Curriculum Committee
02/15/2022

DTRW-I
MM/DD/YYYY

Curriculum Committee
MM/DD/YYYY

Board
MM/DD/YYYY

CCCCO
MM/DD/YYYY

Control Number
CCC000426426

DOE/accreditation approval date
MM/DD/YYYY