

## **SOC 455: SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS**

Instructor: Grace E. Young, Ph.D.  
Email: [geyoung@adams.edu](mailto:geyoung@adams.edu)  
Phone: (719) 587-7142  
FAX: (719) 587-7176  
Address: Adams State College, 208 Edgemont Blvd, Alamosa, CO 81102

COURSE CREDIT: Four Credit Hours

PREREQUISITES: Soc 311 Social Statistics Minimum Grade: C  
AND Junior Status

### **REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:**

To order textbooks or obtain information about book titles, you may go to [www.exstudies.adams.edu](http://www.exstudies.adams.edu) and click on the “ASC Bookstore” icon.

Use **Section Number: 1033** to order books from Bookstore site.

The attached schedule indicates the reading assignments for each class period.

The books are available at the college bookstore and are required for the class.  
Frankfort-Nachmias, Chava and Anna Leon-Guerrero. 2009. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. Social Statistics for a Diverse Society. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press. ISBN: 978-1-4129-6883-6 (hardcover with CD).

Babbie, Earl. The Basics of Social Research. 2008. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thompson Learning. ISBN-10: 0495094684 ISBN-13: 9780495094685

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Many sociology students across the U.S. look upon the Methods course with disdain, dread, fear and/or loathing. You needn't! This is a step-by-step course in which you learn about research methods by actually doing a research project. First, students will be instructed in the fundamentals of research design and implementation, including ethical considerations. Students will read and study the research projects of selected sociologists. Then students will engage in hands-on projects to practice research methods. Finally, students will design and design a research project. During the computer lab segment of the course, students will learn and practice analyzing data from the General Social Survey and from the International Social Survey Programme data using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences. By the end of the class, you will have a clearer understanding of the complexities and joys of doing sociological research.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. explain the fundamentals of the sociological research process

2. outline the components of ethical research
3. identify the qualities of a sound research instrument
4. find patterns in quantitative data and build and/or test theories.
5. critically assess the theoretical assertions and empirical research of others
6. design and clearly describe in writing a research project for sociology

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

There are four sets of requirements for this class. The first set consists of five computer lab, statistical assignments. These assignments review statistics so that you are ready and able to conduct your own research project. The second set of assignments involves reading the textbook *The Basics of Social Research*, and answering chapter review questions. Both of these two sets of requirements prepare you to design a research project in which you pose a research question that can be answered by manipulating and analyzing the data found in your CD Rom that accompanies your statistics book. This research project is the third component required for the class. Finally, the last component of the course requirements is a final exam.

NOTE: If you plagiarize someone's work (i.e., turn in the same paper that someone else has turned in, quote without using quotation marks and properly citing your source or turn in an assignment that is not your individual, independent work), you will receive an automatic ZERO for that portion of the grade. If you do it again, you will FAIL the course.

### **GRADING:**

### **POINT SCALE**

#### **Computer Lab Assignments ~13% of Grade**

Assignments 1 through 5 (10 points each)

50 points

#### **Learning the Basics of Research ~ 28% of Grade**

Assignments 1 through 10 (10 points each)

100 points

#### **Research Project~28% of Grade**

Worksheet: Designing a Research Question

20 points

Introduction and Bibliography

20 points

Literature Review

20 points

Methods

20 points

Findings and Conclusion

20 points

TOTAL:

100 points

#### **Final Exam ~ 28% of Grade**

100 points

### **TOTAL:**

**350 points**

### **GRADING SCALE**

315-350 = A

280-314 = B

245-279 = C

210-244 = D  
Below 210 = F