

Quantitative Research Methods Section 01

SOCI 104

Spring 2025 In Person 3 Unit(s) 01/23/2025 to 05/12/2025 Modified 01/15/2025

Contact Information

Instructor:	Carlos E. Garcia
Office Location:	DMH 212
Telephone:	(408) 924-5804
Email:	carlos.e.garcia@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	MW 10:45-11:30 and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	TTh 10:30-11:45
Classroom:	DMH 241

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

Classroom Protocol

1. It is the expectation that everyone in the class behave with courtesy and grace toward one another.
2. You are expected to attend all classes.
3. Students are expected to take exams at the time and date scheduled.
4. I will hold and store all exams.
5. Academic misconduct will not be tolerated.
6. No late assignments will be accepted.
7. Students are encouraged to take notes by hand, if you choose to use a computer or tablet it is expected that you will only use it for class purposes.
8. Students are expected to remove headphones, earbuds, etc. during class
9. A note on emails and grades: I will not discuss grades in any way using email. This includes giving out grades or discussions on point totals or final grades. If you would like to talk about your grades please make an appointment to meet with me.
10. Incompletes will only be given in exceptional cases.
11. I reserve the right to amend the syllabus as necessary. Any such changes will be announced to the class.
12. If circumstances arise that will affect your performance in this class please communicate them to me as soon as possible so that we can plan accordingly.

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 Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Course Goals and Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. CLO1 – Students will develop basic proficiency using SPSS. This includes learning to perform basic analysis and variable manipulation. Proficiency will be assessed through course assignments and the final research report.
2. CLO2 – Students will learn the language used in research methods during class lectures and assigned readings. Proficiency will be assessed in exams.

3. CLO 3 – Students will develop proficiency in the process of conceptualization and operationalization that involves the conversion of abstract concepts into measurable forms. Students will develop this skill through course lecture and small group work. Proficiency will be assessed in exams.
4. CLO4 – Students will develop proficiency in the creation of indexes. Students will learn this skill in lecture and develop it with small group work and homework. Proficiency will be assessed in exams, the research report, and the homework.
5. CLO5 – Students will develop proficiency in the creation of survey questions and the design of questionnaires. Material will be introduced in lecture and practiced in small group work. Assessment of this CLO will occur during exams.
6. CLO6 – Students will develop basic proficiency in performing basic data analysis and presentation of data. Material will be introduced in class lecture and reinforced in small group work and homework. Proficiency will be assessed in homework, exams, and the research report.

Course Materials

Textbook

Babbie, Earl. *The Basics of Social Research*. Belmont CA. Thomson Wadsworth. (Any edition will do and I encourage you to find an inexpensive copy online.)

Other technology requirements / equipment / material

1. The most recent version of SPSS available [here](#).
2. A calculator for the final exam and class exercises.
3. Computers can be checked out at [King library \(https://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services\)](https://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services)

Course Requirements and Assignments

Course Requirements and Assignments

In-Class Exercises (2 points each, 20 points total)

Regularly during class we will have in-class exercises aimed at reinforcing lecture material. These exercises can only be completed in class and they cannot be made up. There will be at least 15 such exercises of which the 10 highest will be used toward your final grade.

SPSS Assignments (10 points each, 70 points total)

One of the main goals of this course is to give students basic competence using the Statistical Packet for the Social Sciences (SPSS). As such students will be required to complete several assignments throughout the semester using this program. Each assignment is worth 10 points for a total of 70 points when all assignments are completed. Keep in mind that while the assignments are not worth very many points individually, they are still very important because future assignments (and ultimately the SPSS Research Report) depend on successfully completing even the smallest assignment. **You are very strongly encouraged to keep an archive of these assignments so that you can reference them in the future.**

SPSS Research Report (50 points)

Students will be assigned to complete a research report that combines class lecture skills with SPSS skills. The goal of the assignment is to test your ability to use SPSS. This assignment is worth 50 points.

Final Examination or Evaluation (30 points each 90 points total)

Three 30 point exams are scheduled for this course. Exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions including analysis of tables and some hand calculations.

✓ Grading Information

Grading Information

There are 230 points possible in this course. Points will be earned through the following activities:

- 3 exams worth 30 points each, 150 points total.
- In-Class Exercises worth 2 points each, 20 points total
- 7 SPSS assignments worth 10 points each, 70 points total
- 1 research report worth 50 points

Note, unless otherwise specified, all late assignments will be penalized -10% of total point value per day late.

Determination of Grades

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>96 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>93 to 95%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>86 to 89 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>83 to 85%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>76 to 79%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>73 to 75%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>70 to 72%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>66 to 69%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>63 to 65%</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>60 to 62%</i>

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

	Topic	Reading	Notes
Thursday January 23 2025	Course Introduction		
Tuesday January 28 2025	Lecture 1 Introduction to Sociology	No Reading	SPSS EX1 Directions Discussed
Thursday January 30 2025	Lecture 1 Continued		Teaching Demo
Tuesday February 4 2025	Lecture 2 Human Inquiry and Science	Chapter 1	

Thursday February 6 2025	Lecture 2 Continued		SPSS EX1 Due
Tuesday February 11 2025	Lecture 9 Quantitative Analysis	Chapter 14	SPSS EX2 Directions Discussed
Thursday February 13 2025	Lecture 9 Continued		
Tuesday February 18 2025	Lecture 3 Paradigms, Theory, and Research	Chapter 2	SPSS EX2 Due
Thursday February 20 2025	Lecture 3 Continued		SPSS EX3 Directions Discussed
Tuesday February 25 2025	Exam 1 Review		
Thursday February 27 2025	EXAM 1		
Tuesday March 4 2025	Lecture 4 Causation	No Reading	SPSS EX3 DUE
Thursday March 6 2025	Lecture 5 Research Design	Chapter 4	SPSS EX4 Directions Distributed
Tuesday March 11 2025	Lecture 5 Continued		
Thursday March 13 2025	Lecture 7 Indexes, Scales, and Typologies	Chapter 6	SPSS EX4 Due. SPSS EX5 Directions Discussed
Tuesday March 18 2025	Lecture 7 Continued		
Thursday March 20 2025	Lecture 6 Conceptualization, Operationalization, and Measurement	Chapter 5	
Tuesday March 25 2025	Lecture 6 Continued		SPSS EX5 Due

Thursday March 27 2025	Review for Exam 2		SPSS EX6 Directions Discussed
Tuesday April 1 2025			
Thursday April 3 2025			
Tuesday April 8 2025	EXAM 2		
Thursday April 10 2025	Lecture 8 Survey Research	Chapter 9	SPSS EX7 Directions Discussed
Tuesday April 15 2025	Lecture 8 Continued		SPSS EX6 Due
Thursday April 17 2025	Lecture 10 Sampling	Chapter 7	
Tuesday April 22 2025	Lecture 10 Continued		SPSS EX 7 Due Research Report Directions Discussed
Thursday April 24 2025	SPSS in class lab		
Tuesday April 29 2025	Lecture 11 Ethics and Politics of Research	Chapter 3	
Thursday May 1 2025	Lecture 12 Other Methods of Social Research	Chapter 8 and 12	
Tuesday May 6 2025	SPSS in class lab		
Thursday May 8 2025	Review for Final Exam		SPSS Research Report Due
Monday May 19 2025	EXAM 3		