

**Sociology 310**  
**Introduction to Social Research**  
Fall 2008, University of Kansas  
Tue Thu 11:00-12:15 FRA 106

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| Professor: Elif Andaç<br>Office: 751 Fraser Hall<br>E-mail: andac@ku.edu<br>Office Hours: Wed 2:00-4:00 and by appointment |
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### Course Objectives

This course is an introduction to social research methods used in sociology. It is primarily designed for sociology majors and minors, but will be useful for anybody interested in social research. Its main goal is to make you informed, sophisticated, critical readers of social research, and introduce you to actually doing research. You will start by learning how to recognize and pose researchable sociological questions and explore the relationship between theory and research; you will learn how to critically evaluate and apply different research designs that may be used to answer those questions; see a variety of examples of social research as it occurs in real-world settings; learn how to do some basic analysis in SPSS; and develop a research proposal.

### Readings

We will use the following textbook during the semester. It is required, and available for purchase at the University Bookstore:

Schutt, Russel K. 2009. *Investigating the Social World: The Process and Practice of Research, 6<sup>th</sup> edition, with SPSS Student Version 16.0*. Thousand Oaks: Pine Forge Press.

In addition to your textbook, there will be 3-5 articles per chapter connected to each topic we study: most of these articles will be linked from the book's study website, others will be available on Blackboard, and it is your responsibility to check the Blackboard site on a regular basis. You are also expected to come to class having completed the assigned readings and/or exercises for that particular day.

### Attendance

One of the most important requirements to be successful in this class is regular attendance. In order to keep up with the assignments and lectures and get the maximum out of this class, you will need to attend all of our meetings. I will take attendance on random days, and I will take them into consideration when I assign your participation grade.

### Examinations

There will be three examinations for this course. All three exams will have multiple-choice, and/or true/false questions. Each exam will focus on the material since the

previous exam; however, you will still be responsible of the material that is pertinent to the current topics.

The first exam will be on **Sep 24<sup>th</sup>**, the second on **Nov 3<sup>th</sup>**, and the third exam on **Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>**. More details regarding the exams will be discussed later in class.

No make-up exams will be given (unless you have an **official** excuse with proof- i.e. a doctor's note detailing your visit, or a note from your academic advisor). **If you miss any of these three exams, you will automatically fail the class, even if you total a passing score with other assignments.**

### In-class and homework assignments

On several weeks, we will go over the major concepts and tools we have learned, and we will complete a set of in-class assignments in groups. Those assignments you complete are due at the end of that class period, and will be part of your attendance and participation grade.

In addition, there will be 3-5 homework assignments. You are not allowed to skip any of the assignments; however, you are allowed to turn them in early.

**Please remember that your responses to all homework assignments should always be typed.**

### Reactions to Readings and Discussion Questions

At the beginning of the semester, I'll ask you to sign up to write a brief reaction essay to three of the chapters from the book, and to the articles associated with those particular chapters. Your essay should be about 400-500 words, focus on explaining how the articles connect to the issues we study in that chapter, and ask a few discussion questions about the methods used in these studies.

### Research Proposal

During the first couple weeks of the semester, I will ask you to form a research group, which can have a minimum of two and a maximum of four people in it. The project is intended to give you "hands on" experience developing, implementing and reporting on social research. The aim of your group will be to come up with a research proposal by the end of the semester. In order to do that, on specified due dates, you will answer the questions under the "developing a research proposal" section of each chapter in your book, and submit one response sheet per group. During the last couple of weeks of the semester, each group will have an opportunity to present their work, and get feedback from their classmates. Each group will present one research proposal, however, each member of the group will fill out an evaluation form in which they will talk about their group members' as well as their own contribution to the project.

Further information regarding your research proposal will be provided in class.

## Course Grade

Your final grade for this class will be based on the following distribution:

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Exam I                        | 10% |
| Exam II                       | 15% |
| Exam III                      | 15% |
| Homework assignments          | 15% |
| Research Proposal             | 20% |
| Reaction Essays               | 15% |
| Attendance +<br>Participation | 10% |

## Grading Scale

I use the new KU CLAS standard grading scale (a minus/plus system shown below):

|           |     |              |
|-----------|-----|--------------|
| <b>A</b>  | 4.0 | 93-100       |
| <b>A-</b> | 3.7 | 90-92        |
| <b>B+</b> | 3.3 | 87-89        |
| <b>B</b>  | 3.0 | 83-86        |
| <b>B-</b> | 2.7 | 80-82        |
| <b>C+</b> | 2.3 | 77-79        |
| <b>C</b>  | 2.0 | 73-76        |
| <b>C-</b> | 1.7 | 70-72        |
| <b>D+</b> | 1.3 | 67-69        |
| <b>D</b>  | 1.0 | 63-66        |
| <b>D-</b> | 0.7 | 60-62        |
| <b>F</b>  | 0.0 | 59 and below |

## Academic Misconduct

You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with the University of Kansas Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures, as well as consequences with regard to this course.

*The following is Article II, Section 6 of the Rules and Regulations of the University Senate, revised as of August 2006:*

Academic misconduct by a student shall include, but not be limited to, disruption of classes; threatening an instructor or fellow student in an academic setting; giving or receiving of unauthorized aid on examinations or in the preparation of notebooks, themes, reports or other assignments; **knowingly misrepresenting the source of any academic work**; unauthorized changing of grades; unauthorized use of University approvals or forging of signatures; falsification of research results; **plagiarizing of another's work**;

violation of regulations or ethical codes for the treatment of human and animal subjects; or otherwise acting dishonestly in research.

For more on this issue, please check :

[http://www.writing.ku.edu/~writing/instructors/guides/academic\\_misconduct.shtml](http://www.writing.ku.edu/~writing/instructors/guides/academic_misconduct.shtml)

### Other issues

- I. It is your responsibility to educate yourself regarding important deadlines, college policies, and academic requirements. Please note the following important deadlines regarding add/drop for courses at KU:
  - Last day to drop online is **September 10**.
  - Last day to add, swap or change sections is **September 17**.
  - Last day to drop/withdraw is **November 11**. It is your responsibility to maintain awareness of your grade and status in this course, and to collect the necessary paperwork and signatures should you need to use this policy. ***I will not vary office hours to accommodate last minute requests for signature. Please plan accordingly.***

If you have further questions about these deadlines and policies, I urge you to contact Owen Marciano, Advising Specialist, at [ohmarciano@ku.edu](mailto:ohmarciano@ku.edu) or call 864-9425.

- II. If you have a condition that requires special attention or resources, please inform me as soon as possible, so that I may take appropriate measures. Please remember that I will need a documentation from “Services for Students with Disabilities” when appropriate.
- III. If any class-related activity, including exams, conflict with religious observances of a generally recognized nature that you are under obligation to participate in, you may complete the activity at an alternate time that is mutually agreed upon. In such cases you must contact me at least one week in advance to arrange for an alternate date. Students are expected to complete any work assigned for any class missed due to a religious holiday.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

**(Note: This is a tentative schedule and the instructor reserves the right to make changes on the syllabus and/or schedule if needed)**

| Week   | Topics   | Readings   |
|--|--|--|
| Week 1<br><i>Aug 20</i>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction</li> </ul>   | None   |
| Week 2<br><i>Aug 25-27</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Science, Society and Social Research</li> <li>• Theories and Philosophies of Social Research</li> </ul> | Schutt Chapter 1<br><br>Schutt Chapter 2                     |
| Week 3<br><i>Sep 1-3</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Process and Problems of Social Research</li> <li>• Conceptualization and Measurement</li> </ul>     | Schutt Chapter 3<br>Appendices B,C,D<br><br>Schutt Chapter 4 |
| Week 4<br><i>Sep 8-10</i>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conceptualization and Measurement</li> <li>• Sampling</li> </ul>  | Schutt Chapter 4<br><br>Schutt Chapter 5                     |
| Week 5<br><i>Sep 15-17</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sampling</li> <li>• Causation and Research Design</li> </ul>  | Schutt Chapter 5<br><br>Schutt Chapter 6                     |
| Week 6<br><i>Sep 22-24</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Causation and Research Design</li> <li>• <b>Sep 24<sup>th</sup>: Exam 1</b></li> </ul>                  | Schutt Chapter 6   |
| Week 7<br><i>Sep 29-Oct 1</i>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experiments</li> </ul>  | Schutt Chapter 7   |
| Week 8<br><i>Oct 6-8</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey Research</li> </ul>  | Schutt Chapter 8   |
| Week 9<br><i>Oct 13</i><br><b><i>Oct 15 Fall Break: No class</i></b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qualitative Methods</li> </ul>  | Schutt Chapter 9   |
| Week 10<br><i>Oct 20-22</i>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qualitative Methods</li> <li>• Qualitative Data Analysis</li> </ul>                                     | Schutt Chapter 9<br><br>Schutt Chapter 10                    |
| Week 11<br><i>Oct 27-29</i>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comparative Historical Research</li> </ul>  | Schutt Chapter 12  |

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| Week 12<br><i>Nov 3-5</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nov 3: Exam 2</b></li> <li>• Secondary Data Analysis and Content Analysis</li> </ul> | Schutt Chapter 13 |
| Week 13<br><i>Nov 10</i><br><b><i>Nov 12: Professor Andac is out of town for a Conference -No Class</i></b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quantitative Data Analysis</li> </ul>   | Schutt Chapter 14 |
| Week 14<br><i>Nov 17-19</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quantitative Data Analysis</li> </ul>   | Schutt Chapter 14 |
| Week 15<br><i>Nov 24</i><br><b><i>Nov 26: Thanksgiving-No Class</i></b>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quantitative Data Analysis</li> </ul>   | Schutt Chapter 14 |
| Week 16<br><i>Dec 1-3</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting Research</li> <li>• <b>Dec 3: Exam 3</b></li> </ul>                           | Schutt Chapter 15 |
| Week 17<br><i>Dec 8-10</i>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentations</li> </ul>  |                   |
| <b>Friday, Dec 18<sup>th</sup></b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Group Proposals Due by 1pm in my office</b></li> </ul>                               |                   |