SOCI 190 - Introduction to Social Research Course Outline

Approval Date: 03/11/2021
Effective Date: 08/12/2022

SECTION A

Unique ID Number	CCC000593471
Discipline(s)	Sociology
Division	Social Sciences
Subject Area	Sociology
Subject Code	SOCI
Course Number	190
Course Title	Introduction to Social Research
TOP Code/SAM Code	2208.00 - Sociology / E - Non-Occupational
Rationale for adding this course to the curriculum	Add recommended preparation (to conform to Title 5 requirements) and seek reinstatement of D2 designation in the local GE pattern. This course serves many different students in a variety of transfer majors to 23 CSU campuses, and since it is approved by CSU for transfer, it should also meet local requirements. SOCI-190 will not reduce the sections for MATH-232 as the Business Administration and Nursing transfer majors (top two impacted majors) require MATH-232, as well as many other transfer majors. Almost all graduate school programs require Math-232 too for admission, therefore, SOCI-190 is not in direct competition with Math-232 sections. In fact, all sections of Math-232 were full/waitlisted in Fall 2019.
Units	3
Cross List	*N/A*
Typical Course Weeks	18
Total Instructional Hours	

Contact Hours

Lecture	54.00
Lab	0.00
Activity	0.00
Work Experience	0.00
Outside of Class Hours	108.00

Total Contact Hours	54
Total Student Hours	162
Open Entry/Open Exit	No
Maximum Enrollment	25

Grading Option	Letter Grade or P/NP
Distance Education Mode of Instruction	On-Campus Hybrid Entirely Online

SECTION B

General Education Information:

SECTION C

Course Description

Repeatability	May be repeated 0 times
Catalog Description	Students will examine fundamental elements of of empirical research and the ways social scientists gather, evaluate, and critique social data. Includes attention to the nature of theory, hypotheses, variables, and research ethics. Qualitative and quantitative methods such as survey, experiment, field work, case study, content analysis, and comparative historical research will be applied. Computer applications will be introduced.
Schedule Description	

SECTION D

Condition on Enrollment

1a. Prerequisite(s)

- SOCI 120 with a minimum grade of C or better and
- MATH 93 with a minimum grade of C or better Elementary Algebra, or equivalent

1b. Corequisite(s): *None*

1c. Recommended: *None*

1d. Limitation on Enrollment: *None*

SECTION E

Course Outline Information

1. Student Learning Outcomes:

- A. Understand the scientific method as it is applied in the social sciences.
- B. Determine appropriate research methodologies for testing various hypotheses.
- C. Demonstrate competence in conducting basic statistical analyses and creating charts using computer software.

2. Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Explain the basic principles of the scientific method
- B. Understand the relationship between social theory and research
- C. Critically evaluate research findings in terms of quality, credibility, and applicability
- D. Conceptualize and operationalize social variables in formulating testable hypotheses
- E. Examine various research designs and select appropriate design to test hypotheses
- F. Identify and review qualitative approaches in current use
- G. Explain the ethical treatment of human participants and the institutional requirements for conducting research
- H. Describe how social research can be used to make informed decisions
- I. Demonstrate familiarity with a social science statistical software for conducting research
- J.

3. Course Content

A. Scientific inquiry in the social sciences
   a. Scientific and non-scientific approaches to knowledge
   b. Dependent and independent variables
   c. Validity and reliability
   d. Causal and correlational relationships
      a. Interpretation and limits of correlational data
      b. Spurious correlation
B. Paradigms, theory, and social research
   a. Positivist
   b. Critical
   c. Interpretive
C. Social research ethics
   a. Ethical standards
   b. Human and animal subject use
D. Research design
   a. Literature review
   b. Selection of method
   c. Selection of sample
E. Measurement
   a. Conceptualizing and operationalizing
   b. Types (nominal, ordinal, interval, ratio)
   c. Central tendency (mean, median, mode)
   d. Constructing instruments of measure:
      a. Index
      b. Scale
F. Sampling
   a. Population and sample
   b. Sampling methods
      a. Random
      b. Representative
      c. Convenience
      d. Snowball
   c. Sample size
G. Observation modes
   a. Experiment/Quasi-experiment
   b. Survey (questionnaire and interview)
   c. Fieldwork/Observation
   d. Unobtrusive measures, such as:
      a. Archival research
      b. Secondary analysis
      c. Content analysis
H. Analysis of data
   a. Qualitative
   b. Quantitative (using computer application)
      a. Variance
      b. Statistical significance
      c. Statistical tests, including:
         a. chi-square
         b. correlation
         c. t-test
         d. ANOVA

          d.   Constructing tables and charts
   I.   Reading and writing social research
         a. Evaluating peer-reviewed literature
         b. Scholarly writing
         c.

4. Methods of Instruction:

Activity:
Discussion:
Experiments:
Lecture:
Projects:

5. Methods of Evaluation: Describe the general types of evaluations for this course and provide at least two, specific examples.

Typical classroom assessment techniques
   Exams/Tests --
   Quizzes -- Examine the chart provided and make an accurate, grammatically-correct statement about the data it describes.
   Research Projects --
   Papers --
   Oral Presentation --
   Group Projects -- Work in groups of 3-4 to construct a survey made of at least 8 indexes and/or scales. Each group member must find at least 12 people to take the survey. Bring the completed surveys back to class for coding, data entry, and statistical analysis.
   Class Participation --
   Class Work -- Using the coding system provided, code and enter survey data into the SPSS program. Determine the mean, median, mode, and standard deviation for each survey item.
   Home Work --
   Lab Activities -- in-class use of statistical software
   Final Exam --

   Letter Grade or P/NP

6. Assignments: State the general types of assignments for this course under the following categories and provide at least two specific examples for each section.
   A. Reading Assignments
      Read Chapter 1 of textbook.
      Read peer-reviewed journal article.
   B. Writing Assignments
      Create an annotated bibliography in APA format.

      Write an analysis (2-3 pages) of the appropriateness of using various research methods to examine specific research questions in the social sciences. For example, "If a social scientist wants to determine if the level of violence in a video game affects a player's likelihood of acting aggressively in other social contexts, how could this be examined? What research method(s) could be used here? How could the variables involved be operationally defined?"

      Write a "mini" literature review (5-8 pages) covering a topic on which you might be interested in conducting research.
   C. Other Assignments

Construct a questionnaire containing at least two indexes, two scales, and two demographic variables.

Properly code and enter values into a data set.

Perform statistical tests and generate charts using software program.

Summarize and present research using visual aids.

7. Required Materials

A. EXAMPLES of typical college-level textbooks (for degree-applicable courses) or other print materials.

Book #1:

Author:	Wagner, W. and Gillespie, B.
Title:	Using and Interpreting Statistics in the Social, Behavioral, and Health Sciences
Publisher:	Sage
Date of Publication:	2018
Edition:	1

Book #2:

Author:	Creswell, J
Title:	Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches
Publisher:	Sage
Date of Publication:	2014
Edition:	4th

Book #3:

Author:	Babbie, E
Title:	Adventures in Social Research: Data analysis using IBM SPSS statistics
Publisher:	Sage
Date of Publication:	2019
Edition:	10

B. Other required materials/supplies.