

Sociology 3111 (001) – Fall 2011  
**Introduction to Research Methods**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES**

This course is an introduction to the theory and practice of social science research. Objectives include:

- (1) Familiarize students with the different types of methods that are used to accumulate evidence in the social sciences. Examples include survey research, intensive interviewing, participant-observation.
- (2) Expose students to the logic of data collection and analysis, and
- (3) Give students an opportunity to conduct their own research and to critique existing social research.

Group discussions, in-class exercises, and traditional lectures will be used to achieve these learning objectives. The course will culminate in a student-organized conference in which students will present and discuss the results of their research project. *We learn how to do research, by doing it.*

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Web-CT:**

All course materials, including lecture notes and assignment sheets, will be posted on Web-CT. All students are expected to check the course website frequently.

**Readings**

Two texts are *recommended* for this course. Additional readings will be made available on Web-CT.

1. Russel Schutt's Investigating the Social World (6<sup>th</sup> edition, Pine Forge Press)
2. Wayne Booth, Gregory Colomb, and Joseph Williams' The Craft of Research (3<sup>rd</sup> edition, University of Chicago Press).

**Attendance & Participation:**

Given the "hands-on" nature of this course, regular attendance and active participation is expected.

**Exams & Quizzes**

None.

**Assignments**

There will be a series of assignments throughout the term, many of them serving as building blocks for your final research project.

**Final Research Project:**

Students will complete a research project throughout the semester, which includes choosing a unique research topic, designing an appropriate study, collecting and analyzing data, and presenting findings in both a written and oral format. This project will be done in groups.

## GRADING

Course grades will be calculated as a weighted average of assignments (45%), final research project (45%), and attendance/participation (10%).

<b>B +</b> (89-87 points)	<b>A</b> (100-93 points)	<b>A -</b> (90-92 points)
<b>C +</b> (79-77 points)	<b>B</b> (86-83 points)	<b>B -</b> (80-82 points)
<b>D +</b> (69-67 points)	<b>C</b> (76-73 points)	<b>C -</b> (70-72 points)
<b>E</b> (< 60 points)	<b>D</b> (66-63 points)	<b>D -</b> (60-62 points)

## THE FINE PRINT

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

On the first day of class, students and instructors will discuss faculty and student responsibilities.

## SCHEDULE

WEEK	
<b>1</b>	What is “Social Science”?
<b>2</b>	<i>The Research Process ~ Research Ethics</i>
<b>3</b>	Questions, Theories, Hypotheses ~ Causality & Research Design <b>Assignment #1: Research Ethics Certification</b>
<b>4</b>	Literature Review ~ The Research Report <b>Assignment #2: Topic Approval</b>
<b>5</b>	Measurement <b>Assignment #3: Lit Review Assignment</b>
<b>6</b>	Sampling ~ A Focus on Writing <b>Assignment #4: Draft of “Intro”</b>
<b>7-8</b>	Survey Research
<b>9</b>	Qualitative Methods <b>Assignment #5: Survey Assignment</b>
<b>10</b>	Other Research Designs & Data Collection Methods <b>Assignment #6: Qualitative Assignment</b>
<b>11</b>	Quantitative Data Analyses
<b>12-13</b>	Data Analysis <b>Assignment #7: Draft of “Methods”</b>
<b>14</b>	Presenting, Writing, Revising <b>Assignment #8: Draft of “Results”</b>
<b>15-16</b>	Student Research Forum <b>Assignment #9: Self-Evaluation</b>
<b>EXAM WEEK</b>	<b>Final Research Report is due</b>

***MORE DETAILED SYLLABUS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ON FIRST DAY OF CLASS***