

Fall, 2007

## SOC 366W: RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIOLOGY

TU/TH 12:30pm - 1:50pm AB4 305

**Instructor:** Dr. Jin Young Choi

**Office :** AB1, Room 311G

**Office Hours :** TU/TH 11:00am-12:30pm, 2:00pm-3:00pm or by appointment

**Phone:** 294- 3424 Dept. 294-1512

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**Required Text:** Earl Babbie. 2007. The Basics of Social Research, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition:  
ThomsonWadsworth. USA

### Course Description

This research methods class is designed to provide students with an introduction to social research. Students will be exposed to the logic and character of scientific and alternative means of social inquiry and examination of the functions of observation, concept formation, proposition arrangement and testing of theory as components of the scientific process in Sociology.

### Course Objectives

Based on lecture and hands-on experiences, students will:

1. Acquire fundamental knowledge and understanding of the concepts and techniques of social research
2. Develop the skills and competencies of social research
3. Apply their newly learned skills to practical social research.

Throughout the semester, students will experience the full process of social research including the basic components of social research, structuring social inquiry, various research designs, data collection methods, data analysis, and writing social research paper. The main goal of this class is to develop the students' insights and abilities to critically read and produce both qualitative and quantitative social research.

The class is divided into two parts: **lecture** and **hands-on**. The lecture will cover the contents of the textbook. In the hands-on sessions, students will practice what they learn in the lectures through various class activities and completion of a series of assignments for the course. This includes critics of research paper and research project, literature review, constructing of a questionnaire, sampling, data collection, computer analysis (i.e. statistical analysis), and writing findings pertinent to different research designs.

### Course Requirements

The final grade for the course will be based on three exams, four assignments, and attendance.

**(a) Exams:** The three exams will consist of multiple-choice, True/False, and short essay questions. The exams will cover the assigned chapters in the lecture and the readings. The first two exams (Exam 1 & Exam 2) will be equally weighted (50 points) and the final exam (cumulative) will be worth of 100 points. Thus, **three exams will total 200 points** in the final grade. **Make-up exams will only be given if**

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**arranged with the professor prior to the day of the scheduled exam to be missed and only if the reason for the absence is considered valid by the instructor.** The make-up exams will likely be more difficult than the regular scheduled exams.

**(b) Assignments:** There will be **FIVE assignments**. Each assignment will be worth of **20 points**. Five assignments will **total 100 points in the final grade**. Each assignment must be submitted at the beginning of class on the due date. **A late submission will be penalized 5 points per each assignment.** Since some assignments lay the foundation for the next to build upon, failing to understand and complete one assignment on time makes it quite difficult to keep up; thus “falling behind” is to be avoided by all means. If you know you are going to miss a class, inform the instructor and turn in the assignments in early to the main office of Sociology department. Make sure to ask the secretary (or student worker) to stamp the date and time on your assignment. **No late assignments will be accepted**

## Grading

**A total of 300 possible points** will be available. Final grades will be assigned as follows:

300- 270 = A  
269- 240 = B  
239- 210 = C  
209- 180 = D  
179- 0 = F

## Extra credit

At times throughout the semester, you will be given the opportunity to earn extra points on your point total for the semester. I will discuss extra credit more as the semester progresses. Earning extra credit is recommended.

## Attendance

Attendance will be an important factor to determine whether students loose their points or gain extra credit. **Students who miss more than 3 classes will receive the 2 point penalty from their total accumulated points for each class that student missed.** **The student who attends all classes will receive 5 points extra towards their total accumulated points.** Any students who show up to class 5 minutes late or more will be counted as absent.

**Instructor Evaluations:** Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

**Academic Dishonesty:** All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students caught cheating will receive an F for that assignment with more severe sanctions as appropriate.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor

shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities must register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center and then arrange a conference with the instructor in order that accommodations can be made to assure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

**Religious Holidays:** The Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. “Religious Holy Day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20 of the Tax Code. Students should contact the instructor as soon as possible regarding any missed classes due to “Religious Holy Days”.

**Classroom Rules of Conduct:** Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students shall arrive to class on time and be respectful to their other students. If a student needs to arrive to class late or leave class early the student will make the professor aware of these needs prior to class time. All cell phones, iPods, and beepers must be turned off and stowed away while in the classroom. Students who disrupt the class will be contacted by the professor to adjust their behaviors. In extreme cases students who cannot comply to these requirements can be removed and resigned from the class.

**Visitors to the Classroom:** Unannounced visitors to the class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor’s discretion whether or not the visitor is allowed to remain in the classroom.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

The class will meet in the AB4 305 except the specified days in the course schedule below. On the specified days (Hands-on sessions), the class will meet in the AB2 110.

	Tuesday	Thursday
<b>WEEK 1</b>	<b>August 21</b> Introduction	<b>August 23</b> CH1
<b>WEEK 2</b>	<b>August 28</b> CH2	<b>August 30</b> Social Research & Research Process
<b>WEEK 3</b>	<b>September 4</b> CH15 Class Activity: How to read research paper	<b>September 6</b> <b>HANDS-ON (AB2 110)</b> -Research Questions - Conducting literature search - Writing literature review  <u>Assignment I:</u> Finish library search & write 3-page lit review (follow the instruction provided in class)
<b>WEEK 4</b>	<b>September 11</b> CH3	<b>September 13</b> <b>HANDS-ON (AB2 110)</b> - Research involved human subjects: Protection of Human Subject - Getting certification & research approval of Protection of Human Subject <u>Assignment II:</u> Getting HPPERT certification
<b>WEEK 5</b>	<b>September 18</b> <b>Review for Exam I</b>	<b>September 20</b> <b>**Exam I</b>
<b>WEEK 6</b>	<b>September 25</b> CH4 <b>*DUE Assignment I</b>	<b>September 27</b> CH5 & CH6
<b>WEEK 7</b>	<b>October 2</b> - Conceptualization - Research Hypothesis -Operationalization -Measurements	<b>October 4</b> CH7 <b>*DUE Assignment II</b>
<b>WEEK 8</b>	<b>October 9</b> CH8	<b>October 11</b> <b>Review for Exam II</b>

	Tuesday	Thursday
<b>WEEK 9</b>	<b>October 16</b>  <b>**Exam II</b>	<b>October 18</b>  CH9
<b>WEEK 10</b>	<b>October 23</b>  -Research Hypothesis -Operationalization -Constructing survey questionnaire  <u>Assignment III</u> : Construct research hypotheses, operational definitions, & survey questions	<b>October 25</b>  CH14
<b>WEEK 11</b>	<b>October 30</b>  <b>HANDS-ON (AB2 110)</b> -Introduction to SPSS - Creating SPSS dataset  <u>Assignment IV</u> : Complete SPSS database, data analysis, interpretation <b>*DUE Assignment III</b>	<b>November 1</b>  <b>HANDS-ON (AB2 110)</b> Data analysis (Univariate & Bivariate) -How to interpret SPSS outputs <b>Class activity: Mock Surveys</b>
<b>WEEK 12</b>	<b>November 6</b>  CH 10	<b>November 8</b>  Example of Field Research & Discussion <b>*DUE Assignment IV</b>
<b>WEEK 13</b>	<b>November 13</b>  -Introduction to field research -Analyzing field notes  <u>Assignment V</u> : Write Field Notes of two interviews <i>(follow the instruction provided in class)</i>	<b>November 15</b>  CH13
<b>WEEK 14</b>	<b>November 20</b>  <b>Application of Research Methods</b>	<b>November 22</b>  THANKS GIVEING
<b>WEEK 15</b>	<b>November 27</b>  CH11 <b>*DUE Assignment V</b>	<b>November 29</b>  CH12
<b>WEEK 16</b>	<b>December 4</b> <b>Review for Exam III</b>	<b>December 6</b> <b>Study day</b>

\*\*\*Final Exam date is determined by university schedule (11:00am-1:00pm, December 11).

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**Student/Professor Agreement (Due September 11, 2007)**

**SOCIOLOGY 366: RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIOLOGY**

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**Class Meet Tuesday and Thursday 12:30pm - 1:50pm AB4 305/AB2 110**

I \_\_\_\_\_ have read the preceding syllabus in its entirety and agree to abide  
(print name)  
by the conditions set forth in the said document. Failure to do so will result in the  
aforementioned consequences.

X \_\_\_\_\_  
(signature) (date)