

Sociology 312 (001)
Spring 2009

Class Time and Place: Parkinson 108; Mondays/Wednesdays 8:00-9:40 am

Instructor: Jessica Abbott

Instructor's Office: Faner 3427

Contact info for Instructor: Phone 453-7624; Email ab1227@siu.edu

Instructor's Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 9:00-12:00, or by appointment

Course Description/Objectives:

Have you ever seen a newspaper heading starting with "A new study shows...?" In this class, we will learn how this new study shows whatever it shows. Particularly, you will be introduced to the various methods used to conduct social research. Upon completion of the course, you should be able to present the link between theory and research, outline various techniques of collecting, analyzing, and presenting research, and finally, propose your own study.

Required Text:

Patten, Mildred L. *Understanding Research Methods: An Overview of the Essentials*, 7th edition. Pyrczak Publishing.

Course Requirements:

TEXTBOOK EXERCISES

Within the textbook, you will notice various exercises after each topic. Specified later in the schedule, you will be responsible for correctly completing 15 of these. Each is worth 10 points, for a combined total of 150 points.

ASSIGNMENTS CULMINATING THE FINAL PROPOSAL

At various times throughout the semester, you will turn in various assignments which work toward the final research proposal. For example, early in the semester, you will turn in research questions, followed by hypotheses, and so on. There are a total of five assignments, worth 10 points each (total=50 points). After I have read each assignment, I will provide you with feedback which you should take into account before turning in the final proposal.

FINAL PROPOSAL

The final proposal (we'll discuss this more thoroughly mid-semester) builds on the assignments mentioned above. The proposal will mimic a typical academic article, though it will be shorter and will not include an analysis/results and discussion section. Overall, the proposal should span approximately 12-15 pages and be comprised of the following sections: Abstract, Introduction/Literature Review, and Methods.

Grading:

Textbook Exercises: 150 points
Other Assignments: 50 points
Final Proposal: 200 points
Total: 400 points

GRADE SCALE:

360-400 = A
320-359 = B
280-319 = C
240-279 = D
Below 240 = F

Attendance and Participation:

It is necessary to attend class and participate. Though attendance is not taken in this class, you will have many assignments to turn in, which requires being present. Also, discussion/interaction is key in understanding research methods. I will often ask you to have examples ready to aid in the understanding of some of the concepts we will discuss.

Classroom Respect:

Please turn off cell phones upon entering the classroom. Also, to ensure a conducive learning environment, refrain from speaking to your neighbor, text messaging, etc.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is taking someone else's work and using it as if it were your own. This is unacceptable in this course. If you believe you have mistakenly plagiarized on an assignment or the final proposal, please see me.

Tentative Schedule

Week 1: Jan. 12-14

Introduction to the Course

Week 2:

Jan 19—No class (MLK holiday)

Jan 21—Topics 1, 2, 4, and 5 (textbook)

Week 3:

Jan 26—Topics 7-13

Jan 28—Exercises for topics 7 & 8 due; discussion: research questions

Week 4:

Feb 2—Research Questions due; Topics 14-16

Feb 4—Hypotheses due; Exercises for Topic 16 due; Topics 17-19

Week 5:

Feb 9—Exercises for Topic 18 due; Topics 20-23

Feb 11—Topics 24-26

Week 6:

Feb 16—Topics 27, 28, 31

Feb 18—Exercises for Topics 27 and 31 due; Topics 32-33

Week 7:

Feb 23—Review/Discussion: Introduction/Literature Review

Feb 25—Introduction Due

Week 8:

Mar 2—Literature Review Due; Exercises for Topic 32 due

Mar 4—Topics 43-44

Mar 7-15: Spring Break!

Week 9:

Mar 16—Topics 45-48

Mar 18—Exercise for Topic 47 due; Topics 49-52

Week 10:

Mar 23—Exercises for Topics 50-51 due; Topics 54-57

Mar 25—Exercise for Topic 54 due; Topics 58-60

Week 11:

Mar 30—Topics 61-63; Exercise for Topic 58 due

Apr 1—Topics 64-67

Week 12:

Apr 6—Exercises for Topics 64 and 66 due; Topics 68-70

Apr 8—Exercise for Topics 69 due; Discussion: Methods Section

Week 13:

Apr 13—Methods section due

Apr 15—Topics 71-74

Week 14:

Apr 20—Discussion: Abstract and Final Proposal

Apr 22—No class: work on final proposal

Week 15:

April 27: First round of presentations

Apr 29: Second round of presentations

Final Exam week: May 4-May 8

**Final proposals are due by our slated final exam time (TBA)

Emergency Procedures. Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and health environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT's website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Safety's website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down), and in Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.