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**SOCL 201**

**SOCIAL RESEARCH**

**Lecture:** T/Th 9:30 am-10:45am; Smartclass: E040

Instructor: Dr. Sara Rizvi Jafree;

Email: [sarajafree@fccollege.edu.pk](mailto:sarajafree@fccollege.edu.pk); Office- E123;

Office Hours: **MWF** 12:00-1:00pm; Room E123;

**TTh** 10:45-1:00 (upon email request)

Prerequisite: SOCL 100

**Course Description**

Research methods for sociology, and other social sciences, is a technical course aimed at describing and developing skills for quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods social research. The course entails practical research work in developing an independent quantitative research project, and experiencing each stage of the research process (selection of a topic, literature review, survey development, sampling, data collection, and data analysis through SPSS). The objective of this course also include discussing and experiencing research challenges such as ensuring ethics of research, and validity, reliability and replication. Students will be required to prepare a poster presentation of their research project and present their findings to the class.

**Course requirements**

Classes will be conducted in an interactive method with a learning environment aimed to invite discourse and discussion. Attendance for all the lab sessions is compulsory.

PPT presentations for the lectures will be provided on Moodle, summarizing the topic being covered. However detailed pre-reading of the assigned chapters is compulsory before the week starts so that we may continue on schedule with the research assignments.

Each research assignment is compulsory and is due before the end of the week (for example Assignment #1 is due on/ before Friday of the week ending). Late assignments will not be accepted.

**Attendance**- 10% of the final grade reserved for overall attendance. Above 80% attendance is mandatory for eligibility to give the final exam. After three consecutive absences a formal application (hard copy or email) is required to continue with the course.

**Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy**

Students must write their assignments in their own words after a careful academic literature review. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing through APA citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence and for the Department of Sociology FCCU, is defined as:

“Plagiarism, or literary theft, is defined as appropriating the literary composition of another person, including parts, passages, or language of the writing, and passing off the appropriate material as one’s own. Plagiarism is the failure to give proper credit or citation to one’s sources of information. It includes the failure to use conventional methods of documentation for material quoted or paraphrased. Additionally, plagiarism includes allowing someone else to compose or rewrite an assignment for a student.”

Please refer to university policy for more information. If plagiarism is observed disciplinary action will be taken.

**Essay Guidelines (APA formatting)**

One class will be dedicated and material will be provided/ uploaded on Moodle early in the semester for guidance on how to:

- Conduct an academic literature review

- Avoid plagiarism

- Follow APA guidelines for formatting of paper, in-text citation and end of paper referencing

All essays submitted from home and the final course paper must follow APA standards of academic writing and include academic references. For a quick guide to APA formatting, please visit: <http://www.lib.usm.edu/index.php?id=81>

Templates will be provided to students for:

- Undergraduate Academic Essays

- Literature Review

- Research Project/ SOCL 201 Thesis

**The research project components, weekly targets, and grading breakdown are as follows:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Component** | **Time-line** (2019) | **Grade** (%) |
| 1 | Topic | Week 1 | 05 |
| 2 | Background & Significance of Research | Week 3 | 05 |
| 3 | Literature Review including  Theory for Research | Week 4-5 | 10 |
| 4 | Research Questions and Hypotheses | Week 6-7 | 05 |
|  | Ethics of Research | Week 8 | 05 |
| 5 | Sample and selection criteria | Week 9 | 05 |
| 6 | Survey | Week 10 | 10 |
| 7 | Data Collection Method | Week 11 | 05 |
| 9 | Data Analysis | Week 12-13 | 10 |
| 10 | Results | Week 14-15 | 05 |
| 11 | Concluding Recommendation | Week 16 | 05 |
|  | Poster Presentation | During Final Exam week | 10 |
| 12 | References |  | 05 |
| 13 | Appendix |  | 05 |
|  | Final Submission of Project | Week before classes end | 10 |
|  |  |  | ***100*** |

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- Conducting an academic literature review

- Avoiding plagiarism

- Following APA guidelines for formatting of paper, in-text citation and end of paper referencing

All essays submitted from home and the final course paper must follow APA standards of academic writing and include academic references. For a quick guide to APA formatting, please visit: <http://www.lib.usm.edu/index.php?id=81>

Templates will be provided to students for:

- Research Paper

- Literature Review

**Policies for Assignment Deadlines, Absences for Quizzes/ Exams, &**

Students must submit all their work on the given time. A mandatory written explanation is needed for acceptance of late submission or request for repeat quizzes/ exams.

Students are responsible for staying up to date with all assignments and lectures. As all material will be uploaded on Moodle, students are accepted to catch up on their own when they are absent for a class and also to visit the instructor during office hours for assistance as early as possible.

Students are also expected to spend time for study of this course outside class equivalent to the in-class time.

**Student Learning Objectives:**

At the end of the course, student will gain in:

1. Analytical Skills: Assess the limitations and strengths of qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods research

2. Critical Analysis: Select research questions of relevance to sociology and of value to society, with use of a sociological theoretical framework. Use skills to evaluate academic scholarship and pick gaps in literature review to formulate hypotheses.

4. Thesis Preparation: Prepare a research proposal and design a methodology for quantitative or mixed-methods research

5. Learn and practice key steps of quantitative research: Assess their personal experience of hypothesis development, random sampling, selection criteria for sampling, survey preparation and administration, data collection.

6. Data Analysis: Learn how to use SPSS for univariate and bivariate analysis

**Guidelines for research topic, data collection and sampling**

The students must pick a research question with the target population in mind. We must consider the following: (i) we only have 1 week for data collection, (ii) it takes time to get permission and access population outside of FCC, and (iii) we are targeting probability sampling/ random selection. Thus, the target population, for this course will be limited to:

1. FCC faculty (list found on website)

2. FCC staff (list found on website)

3. FCC Societies (list of members available from society heads)

4. We will randomly select a sample and have the option of interviewing or emailing the respondent

**Assigned Text**

* The course pack, with notes, reading material and weekly PPT presentations, will be provided electronically through FCC Moodle
* The course book will be:

Bryman, A. (2016). Social research methods. Oxford university press.

- Additional reading may be assigned from:

Babbie, E. R. (1998). The practice of social research (Vol. 112). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth publishing company.

**The sequence of study will be as follows:**

* Monday Class = Lecture and Discussion about Social Research Methods topic-wise as elaborated below
* Wednesday Class = SPSS training
* Friday Class= Review of Research Project

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Weekly Topic** | **Time-line** (2019) |
| 1 | Nature and process of research | Week 1 |
| 2 | Linking Theory and Research | Week 2 |
| 3 | Research Design | Week 3 |
| 4 | Ethics of Research and Sampling | Week 4 |
|  | Ethics review and approval (Instructor) |  |
|  | Quantitative Survey Development | Week 5 |
| 5 | Quantitative Data Analysis | Week 6 |
| 7 | Data Collection Method | Week 7 |
| 9 | Data Analysis | Week 8-9 |
| 10 | Results | Week 10-11 |
| 11 | Concluding Recommendation | Week 12 |
|  | Poster Presentation | During Final Exam Week |
|  | Final Submission of Project | 1 week before classes end for semester |

FCCU faculty and the courses you study are committed to promoting FCCU essential core values, which exemplify the FCCU motto, “By love, serve one another.” You are advised to read the core values (1. Integrity; 2. Excellence; 3. Respect; 4. Discipline & Accountability; 5. Fairness and Justice; 6. Service; and 7. Community) and other rules and policies of your university in detail for strict adherence:

<https://www.fccollege.edu.pk/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Final-intermediate-handbook-2012-1.pdf>