SOC 46A – Introduction to Social Research (Design)
University of California-Davis
Spring 2021

Lectures
Tuesdays, 12:10pm-1:30pm (via Zoom)
[No lecture on Thursdays!]

Instructor
Evan W. Lauteria (he/him/his)
ewlauteria@ucdavis.edu

Zoom Office Hours:
Wednesdays, 8:00pm-9:00pm (PDT)
Thursdays, 12:10pm-1:30pm (PDT)

Teaching Assistants
Josh Mason (he/him/his)
Discussion Sections 01 & 02
jjmason@ucdavis.edu

Enrique López López (he/him/his)
Discussion Sections 03 & 04
eqlopez@ucdavis.edu

Zoom Office Hours:
Tuesdays, 10:00am-11:00am (PDT)
Tuesdays, 2:00pm-3:00pm (PDT)

Course Description
This course covers the conceptualization, design, and practice of sociological research. In the first half of the course, students will be exposed to issues and concerns across a range of research methods, including concerns over ethics, reliability, validity, and sampling. The second half of the course will address some of the primary research methods employed in sociology, including qualitative, quantitative, and archival approaches. Students will finish this course with a broad understanding of sociological research methods and general literacy in varieties of social science research.

Course Textbook
https://wwnorton.com/books/9780393537529
This course uses The Art and Science of Social Research (2nd Edition), by Deborah Carr, Elizabeth Heger Boyle, Benjamin Cornwell, Shelly Correll, Robert Crosnoe, Jeremy Freese, and Mary C. Waters.
ISBN: 978-0-393-53749-9
If you are enrolled in the UC-Davis Bookstore’s “Equitable Access” program, you should already have access to this textbook online. If you are unfamiliar with the particulars of this program, please see the Bookstore’s website: https://ucdavisstores.com/EquitableAccess

If you have opted out of “Equitable Access” through the UC-Davis Bookstore, please be sure to purchase the online version of the textbook. Our class will be using W.W. Norton’s online “InQuizitive” features for this textbook, as well as the online-only chapter on “Social Network Analysis” (Chapter 15).

Canvas Course Site
https://canvas.ucdavis.edu/courses/554565

The Canvas system is our virtual classroom. This is where you will find the weekly instructions for readings, exercises, practicals, the midterm and final exams, and the research proposal assignment.

Assessment and Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Due (by 11:59pm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Exercises</td>
<td>15 x 8</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Each Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Practicals</td>
<td>20 x 6</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>During Section or Each Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Monday, May 3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam or Research Proposal</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Monday, June 7th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Lectures
https://ucdavis.zoom.us/j/95932769769

This course is taught as a synchronous online course. This means that we will conduct live lecture over Zoom every Tuesday, 12:10pm to 1:30pm. The link for these lectures is available above as well as on the “Zoom” page on Canvas. Students unable to attend remotely during this time can view the lecture recordings under the “Cloud Recordings” tab on the “Zoom” page on Canvas.

We will not, however, conduct live lecture on Thursdays. In lieu of these meetings, you will be assigned self-paced exercises each week, described below.

Weekly Exercises
Each week students will complete an at-home exercise, available from Monday at 8am to Thursday at 11:59pm. These exercises are offered in lieu of a second lecture each week; as such, each should take
the same amount of time as a single lecture (approximately one hour to an hour and a half). The specific requirements for these exercises are described on the Canvas course site, and they will either require use of the W.W. Norton “InQuizitive” site for the textbook or completion of downloadable worksheets from Canvas.

Take note: Students are only required to complete two of the three exercises from Weeks 7 through 9; the lowest of these three will be dropped from students’ final grades.

**Practicals (Discussion Sections)**
Discussion sections will meet each Friday for “practicals”—applied and/or experiential sessions aimed at giving you first-hand experience grappling with issues and methods described in lecture. These sessions are self-contained, group activities; you will be assessed on your performance in these practicals, but all work can be completed during discussion section.

For students unable to attend discussion section, “practicals” will be made available on Canvas on Fridays. In lieu of attendance and TA evaluation during scheduled discussion time, you will need to submit a write-up of your work from home by Sunday at 11:59pm. Guidelines and formatting for these submissions will be provided; as is the case with in-person sections, practicals should take approximately one hour to complete.

During the first week of the quarter, students will need to complete a survey to verify their availability to meet for sections (including which sections) or to select the offline, at-home option for practicals. **Students may not switch back and forth between live and asynchronous discussion week-to-week; this restriction is in place in the interest of maintaining set groups in live discussion.**

Students may skip one discussion section or exercise submission without penalty. There are no discussion sections or at-home practicals to complete during Week 01. Review weeks (Week 05 and Week 10) are fully optional; attendance and participation in discussion section during these weeks are not recorded in final grade calculations.

**Midterm Exam**
At the end of Week 05, students will complete a midterm examination, conducted online through Canvas “Quizzes”. The exam will be available from **Friday, April 30th, at 5:00pm, to Monday, May 3rd, at 11:59pm (PDT)**. There will be a time limit (TBA), and students will only have one chance to complete the exam. The midterm exam will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank questions. If you face technical issues during your exam attempt, please be sure to email the instructor and teaching assistants immediately.

**Final Exam or Research Proposal**
Students have a choice for their final assessment in this class. Only one submission will be evaluated; if students submit both a final exam and research proposal, only the exam will be graded.
The final exam will follow a similar format to the midterm examination, also conducted online through Canvas “Quizzes.” The exam will be available from Friday, June 4th, at 5:00pm, to Monday, June 7th, at 11:59pm (PDT). There will be a time limit (TBA), and students will only have one chance to complete the exam. As with the midterm, the final exam will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank questions. If you face technical issues during your exam attempt, please be sure to email the instructor and teaching assistants immediately.

As an alternative, however, students who are interested in proposing their own research project may opt instead to submit a 6-to-8 page (double-spaced, US letter) proposal by Monday, June 7th, at 11:59pm (PDT). This option is provided for students who are considering completing a senior honors thesis in sociology or pursuing graduate study in the future; it is not expected the majority of students will select this option for their final assessment. Parameters and expectations for the proposal will be made available midway through the quarter, but it is highly recommended students meet with the instructor during office hours to discuss the project early in the term to receive feedback and guidance.

**Extra Credit**

There is only one opportunity for extra credit in this class: during Week 10, in lieu of a weekly exercise, students may complete a short assignment exploring research-related career fields using the US Federal Government’s O*Net Online database. The structure of the assignment will align closely with other weekly worksheet-based (non-InQuizitive) exercises. The extra credit is worth the same as a single “Weekly Exercise” (15 points); receiving full points on the extra credit will boost a student’s final score by approximately 1/3 of a letter grade (e.g., an A will become an A+, a C+ will become a B-, etc.).

**Class Policies**

**Late Submissions:** Weekly exercises, practicals, and the final research proposal may be submitted late at the cost of a 10% grade reduction each day. Submissions will not be accepted more than one week (7 days) late.

For the midterm and final exams, there is a 10-minute “buffer” for technological problems built in to each Canvas “Quiz” timer. If you face technological issues beyond that 10-minute buffer, email the instructor and teaching assistants immediately.

**Academic Misconduct:** Academic misconduct involves behavior in which a student engages in dishonest acts, taking an action that gives them an unfair advantage over others, or engages in behavior that creates the appearance of dishonesty. It also includes behavior in which a student fails to follow course or exam rules or disrupts the educational environment. You are in violation of the UC-Davis Academic Code of Conduct if at any time you allow someone else to login and/or complete your coursework on your behalf, utilize online feedback meant for another student (including quiz answers), or submit work or assignments that are not your own. Probable cases of academic misconduct will be sent to the [Office of Student Support and Judicial Affairs](https://www.ucdavis.edu/student-affairs/office-of-student-support-and-judicial-affairs/) for review.
**Students with Disabilities and Special Accommodations:** Any student who feels that they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Student Disability Center to receive proper support and a letter of accommodation. I will aim to meet the needs of students as I best can.

**Changes to the Syllabus:** I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus during the quarter, though all changes will come with appropriate advance notification and will always be in the service of aiding and promoting student success.

### Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week*</th>
<th>Topics &amp; Readings (Tuesday)</th>
<th>Exercises (Thursday)</th>
<th>Practical (Friday)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01: March 29th- April 2nd</td>
<td><strong>Chapter 1: An Introduction</strong></td>
<td>InQuizitive: How to Use InQuizitive + Introductory Survey</td>
<td>-- [No sections Week 1]</td>
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<tr>
<td>02: April 5th- April 9th</td>
<td><strong>Chapter 3: Ethical Issues</strong> + <strong>Lecture Only</strong>: Literature Reviews</td>
<td>Canvas: Bibliography Assignment</td>
<td>Ethics Case Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>03: April 12th- April 16th</td>
<td><strong>Chapter 4: Hypotheses, Operationalization, and Measurement</strong></td>
<td>InQuizitive: Conceptualization &amp; Operationalization</td>
<td>Operationalizing and Measuring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04: April 19th- April 23rd</td>
<td><strong>Chapter 6: Sampling Strategies</strong> + <strong>Lecture Only</strong>: Bias</td>
<td>InQuizitive: Sampling Strategies</td>
<td>Bias Case Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>05: April 26th- April 30th</td>
<td><strong>Chapter 5: Reliability and Validity</strong></td>
<td>InQuizitive: Reliability &amp; Validity</td>
<td><strong>Review</strong> [Midterm Exam, due by 11:59pm on Monday]</td>
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<tr>
<td>06: May 3rd- May 7th</td>
<td><strong>Chapter 8: Experimental Research</strong> + <strong>Chapter 9: Evaluation Research</strong></td>
<td>InQuizitive: How to Read Graphs &amp; Charts</td>
<td>User Experience Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>07: May 10th- May 14th</td>
<td><strong>Chapter 7: Survey Research</strong> + <strong>Chapter 13: Quantitative Analysis</strong></td>
<td>Canvas: Finnigan Article Review</td>
<td>Survey Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>08: May 17th- May 21st</td>
<td><strong>Chapter 10: Ethnography</strong> + <strong>Chapter 11: In-Depth Interviewing</strong></td>
<td>Canvas: Grindstaff Article Review</td>
<td>Online Ethnography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09: May 24th- May 28th</td>
<td><strong>Chapter 12: Materials-Based Methods</strong></td>
<td>Canvas: U Article Review</td>
<td>Comparative Historical Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>10: May 31st- June 4th</td>
<td><strong>Chapter 15: Social Network Analysis (ebook only)</strong></td>
<td>Extra Credit: O*Net Job Search Exercise</td>
<td><strong>Review</strong> [Research Proposal <em>or</em> Final Exam, due by 11:59pm on Monday]</td>
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