Course: Social Research Methods    Semester: Fall 2017
Instructor: Dr. Bilaye Benibo    Office: B. H. 346
Time: MW 2:00-3:15 p.m.    Phone: (361) 825-5980
Classroom: ECDC 219C    Office Hrs. T. 2-4 p.m.
Course Numbers (SOCl 4445.01,4445.02)    TR. 1-3 p.m.
                                MW 1-2 p.m.

Required Text:


Course Description and Objectives
Social Research Methods is the use of pre-established “principles, guidelines, and procedures for investigating aspects of the social universe that are not completely understood or understood at all. This involves the systematic observation, collection, organization, analyses and interpretation of empirical data so as to better understand and explain why and how two or more events in the social universe are related in the manner that they do.

The two equally important objectives of this course are: (1) to expose students to the conceptual issues surrounding social research, which includes a brief excursion into the ontology, epistemology, and methodology of scientific inquiry in the social universe, (2) to develop in students the hands-on capability of collecting, analyzing and interpreting empirical data. Since this is an introductory course, my approach will be panoramic: some depth will be sacrificed for comprehensiveness.
**Student Learning Outcomes**

At the end of this course, students are expected to be able to:

1. Explain the origin, development and logics of social-scientific inquiries;
2. Observe, collect, organize, analyze and interpret empirical data.
3. Write a short paper, that includes a clearly formulated question, a relevant literature review, an appropriate methodology, an effective data analysis, and a meaningful interpretation of research findings.

**Course Format**

**Lecture:**
The first 50 minutes of each class will be spent on straight lectures. The remaining 25 will be spent on questions and/or discussion. The reason for this format is to ensure that students are sufficiently exposed to the topic of day before they ask questions. When appropriate and possible, films and/or slides will be used to buttress class lectures. I will also invite some guest lecturers to share with us some of their expertise on specific social issues.

**Course Requirement**

Your final grade for this course will be based on the following.

First Examination........................................................................................................20%
Second Examination....................................................................................................20%
Third Examination.....................................................................................................20%
Lab Assignments.........................................................................................................20%
Term Paper..................................................................................................................20%
Total..........................................................................................................................100%

**Letter Equivalents**

90-100% = A  
80-89 = B  
70-79 = C  
60-69 = D  
<60 = F
All three exams will require long essay answers. Exams must be taken at the scheduled times and place. Make-up exams are allowed only for validly supported medical and/or personal emergencies. The instructor reserves the right to determine the merits of each request for a make-up examination. Extra credit is not allowed.

**Class Attendance**

Class attendance is important and required. There is, however, a maximum of three penalty-free absences allowed for personal/family emergencies. Every other non-officially excused absence will be penalized with a three percentage-point deduction from final grade. Regardless of the reason(s) for one’s absence, students are personally responsible for recovering materials taught during their absence from class. It is recommended, therefore, that students develop responsible, professional relationships with two or more other students for class lecture notes taken on the day(s) that they are absent.

**Academic Advising**

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information, please call 361-825 3466.

**Disability Services**

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116.
If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services Office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Grade Appeals Process**

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost.

**Course Outline: Lecture**

08/28 Introductions: Students, Course and Instructor.

08/31 An Introduction to Inquiry (EB:1)

09/04 LABOR DAY - NO CLASS

09/06-11 Paradigms, Theory and Research (EB:2)

09/13 Ethics and Politics of Social Research (EB:3)

09/18-20 Research Design (EB:4)

09/27-10/02 Conceptualizations and Measurement (EB:5)


10/09-11 Indexes, Scales and Typologies (EB: 6)
10/16-18  Logic of Sampling (EB: 7)
10/23   Experiments (EB: 8)
10/25   Survey Research (EB: 9)
10/30   Qualitative Field Research (EB: 10)
11/01   Unobtrusive Research (EB: 11)

11/06   **Second Exam**
11/08   Evaluation Research (EB: 12)
11/13   Qualitative Data Analysis (EB: 13)
11/15   Quantitative Data Analysis (EB: 14)
11/20-12/04   Multivariate Analysis (EB: 15&16)
12/06   DEAD DAY - NO CLASS

12/11   **Final Exam**

*** EB (Earl Babbie)***
# STATISTICAL PACKAGE FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES (SPSS) LAB EXERCISES

(Wednesday 3:30-4:30 in ENGR 111)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LAB/TOPIC EXERCISES</th>
<th>RELEVANT CHAPTERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08/23</td>
<td>Logging onto and accessing data set</td>
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<tr>
<td>08/30</td>
<td>Some Basics: The tricycle experience</td>
<td>(BWZ: 3&amp;4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/06</td>
<td>Theory and Research/Logic of Measurement</td>
<td>(BWZ: 1&amp;2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/13</td>
<td>Describing Data</td>
<td>(BWZ: 5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/20</td>
<td>Presenting Data</td>
<td>(BWZ: 6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/27</td>
<td>Recoding Data</td>
<td>(BWZ: 7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/04</td>
<td>Composite Measures</td>
<td>(BWZ: 8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/11</td>
<td>Sampling</td>
<td>(BWZ: 9)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/18</td>
<td>Bivariate Analysis</td>
<td>(BWZ: 10&amp;11)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/25</td>
<td>Measures of Association</td>
<td>(BWZ: 13&amp;14)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/01</td>
<td>Tests of Significance</td>
<td>(BWZ: 15)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/08</td>
<td>Work on individual Projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/15</td>
<td>Work on Individual Projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/22</td>
<td>READING DAY (NO CLASS MEETING)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/29</td>
<td>Final Research Paper Due</td>
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*** BWZ: Babbie, Wagner and Zaino (Workbook)

**** This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to accommodate students' and/or instructional needs.