

Doing Sociology: Intro to Social Research

Sociology 2015-001 Online: Fall 2024

Salt Lake Community College

August 20 – December 12

3 Credit Hours – (SS) Social Science

CRN: 42337

Social and Behavioral Sciences Department:

Course website - SLCC Canvas: <https://slcc.instructure.com/>

Course Content and Organization:

This course is an introduction to basic forms of data collection techniques utilized by sociologists. By *data*, we mean all sorts of empirical observations that we use to support or oppose an argument. The course will expose you to some basic research concepts including sampling, causation, as well as independent and dependent variables. The main goal of the course is to introduce you to basic tools of data analysis and presentation, as well as helping you to understand the underlying logic.

It is important to begin with the understanding that data analysis is not just for so-called “experts.” The tools and concepts taught in this class are not just for those “producing” the data, but also for the “consumers” of data. We all are consumers of data at some level. We are constantly made aware of data within our worlds, from the trivial to the essential: “4 out of 5 dentists recommend” and “less than two out of five Americans support...” It is important to be able to process and think critically about the information we encounter every day – be it as students in a sociology class, consumers at the shopping mall, or as citizens in a democracy. This class is designed to help you become better “consumers” of data. It is also designed to create a solid foundation for the subsequent courses taught in the social sciences. It should also provide a useful base for those of you who will eventually go on to become producers of data in the form of your own research.

Prerequisite: None (Introduction to Sociology would be helpful but is not required as a prerequisite.)

Course Location: Online

Required Text:

The Art and Science of Social Research by, Deborah Carr 2nd edition December 2020

- ISBN-10: 0393537528
- ISBN-13: 978-0393537529
- <https://wnorton.com/books/9780393537529>Links to an external site.

(Note: we will not be using “Inquisitive” so you can look around for cheaper versions if you’d like. I’ve been told there is a PDF of the book floating around the internet. I can neither confirm nor deny that.)

SLCC College-Wide Student Learning Outcomes

1. Acquire substantive knowledge
2. Communicate effectively
3. Develop quantitative literacies
4. Think critically & creatively
5. Become a community engaged learner
6. Work in a professional & constructive manner
7. Develop computer & information literacy
8. Develop lifelong wellness

Course Related Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course, student will be able to:

Communicate Effectively

Students will learn to comprehend and discuss social science data and research findings. Part of this communication skill will come from the ability to interpret and critically evaluate quantitative research results including tables, graphs, charts, and other specific research output including correlation matrices, scatterplots, and regression lines. By providing written analysis of analytical output, students will learn not only sociological vocabulary, but also gain a sense of effective scientific communication skills.

Develop Quantitative Literacies

Students in this course will develop the ability to interpret and understand basic sociological research. They will be able to apply foundational methods and theories that drive empirical research in sociology.

Think Critically and Creatively

Students will be challenged to understand how data can be manipulated, and how information can be used inaccurately to support any given agenda. It will be necessary to think critically about how and why data are presented in the manner that they are to interpret the validity of such presentation.

Course Requirements:

The course is set up in Canvas using modules. Everything that you need to work on each week will be posted in that week's module. Most weeks you will have a discussion, an open notes/open book quiz and a short assignment to complete.

LATE WORK will not be accepted. Please contact me directly if you have issues. Please do not wait to do this!

Research Project

We have an exciting opportunity to engage in a meaningful research project this semester. We will have an opportunity to work with the local non-profit organization, Understanding Us. This organization is currently doing work with individuals experiencing homelessness in Salt Lake City. You will have the opportunity to design a research project, collect and analyze data, and create a paper and poster to display your results. You will be encouraged to submit your research for consideration to present at an academic conference. Specific details will be discussed on Canvas.

Grading Criteria:

Chapter Assignments	200 points	28%
Discussions:	100 points	16%
Quizzes:	200 points	28%
Research Assignments:	100 points	

Final Research Project: 100 points 28%

Total: 700 points 100% Total Overall

A	93% and above	C	73% to 76.9%
A-	90% to 92.9%	C-	70% to 72.9%
B+	87% to 89.9%	D+	67% to 69.9%
B	83% to 86.9%	D	63% to 66.9%
B-	80% to 82.9%	D-	60% to 62.9%
C+	77% to 79.9%	F	below 60%

Important Dates:

- **Last Day to Add: Aug. 28**
- **Tuition Due: Sept. 4**
- **Last day to drop with 100% refund: Sept. 10**
- **Last Day to Withdraw (with no refunds): Oct. 22**
- **Holidays when classes are not in session:**
 - **Labor Day: Sept. 2**

- Thanksgiving Holiday: Nov. 27-30
- Fall Break (No Classes): Oct. 17-18
- Last day of classes: Dec. 5
- Reading Day: Dec. 6
- Final Exams: Dec. 7 - 12 (submit final project)
- Grades Available: Dec. 19

Course Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction

Discussion: Introduction

Syllabus Quiz

Week 2: Chapter 1: The Art and Science of Social Research: An Introduction

Discussion: Chapter 1

Quiz: Chapter 1

Assignment: Chapter 1

Week 3: Chapter 2: Research Foundations: Linking Sociological Theory to Research

Discussion: Chapter 2

Quiz: Chapter 2

Assignment: Chapter 2

Week 4: Chapter 3: Ethical Issues in Social Science Research

Discussion: Chapter 3

Quiz: Chapter 3

Assignment: Chapter 3

Week 5: Chapter 4: From Concepts to Models: Hypotheses, Operationalization, and Measurement

Discussion: Chapter 4

Quiz: Chapter 4

Assignment: Chapter 4

Week 6: Chapter 5: Evaluating Research: Reliability and Validity

Discussion: Chapter 5

Quiz: Chapter 5

Assignment: Chapter 5

Week 7: Chapter 6: Sampling Strategies

Discussion: Chapter 6

Quiz: Chapter 6

Assignment: Chapter 6

Week 8: Chapter 7: Survey Research

Discussion: Chapter 7

Quiz: Chapter 7

Assignment: Research Assignment: Annotated Bibliography

Week 9: Fall Break!

Week 10: Chapter 8: Experimental Research

Discussion: Chapter 8

Quiz: Chapter 8

Assignment: Chapter 8

Week 11: Chapter 9: Evaluation Research

Discussion: Chapter 9

Quiz: Chapter 9

Assignment: Chapter 9

Research Assignment: Hypothesis/Research Question

Week 12: Chapter 11: In-Depth Interviewing

Discussion: Chapter 11

Quiz: Chapter 11

Assignment: Chapter 11

Research Assignment: Literature Review

Week 13: Chapter 13: Univariate and Bivariate Analysis of Quantitative Data

Discussion: Chapter 13

Quiz: Chapter 13

Assignment: Chapter 13

Research Assignment: Data and Data Collection

Week 14: Catch Up Week. Work On Research

Discussion:

Assignment:

Week 15: Chapter 14: Communicating Social Science Research Findings

Discussion: Chapter 14

Quiz: Chapter 14

Assignment: Chapter 14

Week 16: Finals Week: Submit Your Research.

Important Information for Students

DRC STATEMENT

SLCC values inclusive learning environments and strives to make all aspects of the College accessible to our students. If you have a disability and believe you need accommodations to improve access to learning materials or the learning environment, please contact the Disability Resource Center: Phone: 801-957-4659; Email: drc@slcc.edu; [DRC Website](#).

CODE OF STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

The student is expected to follow the SLCC Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

GENERAL EDUCATION STATEMENTS (IF APPLICABLE)

General Education

This course fulfills the [category] requirement for the General Education Program at Salt Lake Community College. It is designed not only to teach the information and skills required by the discipline, but also to develop vital workplace skills and to teach strategies and skills that can be used for life-long learning. General Education courses teach basic skills as well as broaden a student's knowledge of a wide range of subjects. Education is much more than the acquisition of facts; it is being able to use information in meaningful ways in order to enrich one's life.

While the subject of each course is important and useful, we become truly educated through making connections of such varied information with the different methods of organizing human experience that are practiced by different disciplines. Therefore, this course, when combined with other General Education courses, will enable you to develop broader perspectives and deeper understandings of your community and the world, as well as challenge previously held assumptions about the world and its inhabitants.

Eportfolio

Each student in General Education courses at SLCC maintains a General Education ePortfolio. Instructors in every Gen Ed course will ask you to put at least one assignment from the course into your ePortfolio, and accompany it with reflective writing. It is a requirement in this class for you to add to your ePortfolio, and this syllabus details the assignments and reflections you are to include. Your ePortfolio will allow you to include your educational goals, describe your extracurricular activities, and post your resume. When you finish your time at SLCC, your ePortfolio will then be a multi-media showcase of your educational experience. For detailed information visit:

<https://www.slcc.edu/eportfolio>

Starting Fall 2016, all students new to SLCC will use Digication as their ePortfolio platform. Any students who have created ePortfolios prior to Fall

2016 on other platforms will be allowed to continue using those sites. For Digication tutorials, please go to the following site:

<https://slcc.digication.com/slccnewdigicationhelpsite/beginning-tutorials>

If you would like in-person help with your ePortfolio please visit an ePortfolio Lab on the Taylorsville-Redwood, Jordan, or South City Campus during business hours, and staff will help you. No appointment necessary. You can also make an online or phone appointment with a lab specialist. For lab hours, locations, and appointments please look at the following site:

<https://www.slcc.edu/eportfolio/remote.aspx>

Questions regarding the ePortfolio can be directed to Emily.Thompson@slcc.edu.

TITLE IX STATEMENT FOR SLCC FACULTY

Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination based on sex in any educational institution that receives federal funding. Salt Lake Community College does not tolerate sex discrimination of any kind including: sexual misconduct; sexual harassment; relationship/sexual violence and stalking. These incidents may interfere with or limit an individual's ability to benefit from or participate in the College's educational programs or activities. If you have questions or concerns regarding your rights or responsibilities, or if you would like to file a Title IX complaint please contact:

David E. Jensen, J.D.

Director EEO/Title IX

Taylorsville Redwood Campus

Academic Administration Building, Room 201D

4600 So. Redwood Road, SLC UT 84123

801-957-4561

david.jensen@slcc.edu

[Online Reporting Form](#)

Students may also report incidents to an SLCC faculty or staff member, who are required by law to notify the Title IX Coordinator. If a student wishes to keep the information confidential, the student may speak with staff members of the Center for Health and Counseling, (801) 957-4268.

For more information about Title IX

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

GENERAL EDUCATION

Regardless of your major, General Education courses build a foundation of broad knowledge and skills that help you in your further career and life.

GENERAL LEARNING SUPPORT & TUTORING SERVICES

General Learning Support & Tutoring Services provide support for SLCC students enrolled in any class at the College. All resources are provided free-of-charge. Ask your instructor about discipline-specific learning support and tutoring services.

- **Tutoring:** index of all tutoring resources.
- **STEM Learning Centers:** provide free assistance in Math, Science, Accounting, CSIS and Allied Health Classes at 6 campus locations.
- **Student Writing Center:** provides in-person and online feedback on all writing assignments.
- **Library Services:** provides research help, print and online resources, computers and study space.
- **ePortfolio Lab:** provides drop-in assistance for all ePortfolio questions.
- **eLearning Support:** provides support for navigating online and hybrid classes.
- **Business Resource and Innovation Center:** provides tutors and a study space for students in Business and CSIS courses. Located in BB 226 on Taylorsville-Redwood Campus.

ADVISING AND COUNSELING SUPPORT SERVICES

Advising and Counseling Support Services provide support for students enrolled in any class at the college.

- **Center for Health and Counseling:** provides health care, mental health counseling, massage therapy services and healthy lifestyle programs.
- **Veterans' Services:** assists hundreds of students in using their VA education benefits each semester.
- **Academic and Career Advising:** helps students plan, explore, make decisions, access resources and evaluate their academic and career goals.
- **Academic Achievement Center:** helps students achieve GPA requirements for graduation.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION not listed above please see **Institutional Syllabus** in Canvas.

*This syllabus is subject to change at any time. Please refer to the modules in Canvas for the most accurate schedule. Updates will be sent via email and/or announcements in Canvas and will be considered as obligatory as the information in the original syllabus.

Learning in the online environment can create unique challenges. I am here to help and happy to do so. Please contact me with any questions!
