

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

Spring Semester 09

SOCI 303 Research Methods M & W 9:00-10:15am NORD 206

Instructor: Christine Schneider Cms80@case.edu

Office hours: 7 days a week via email, in person from 8:30-9am Mon/Wed, and/or by appointment.

Required Textbook: The Practice of Social Research (2007) by Earl Babbie, 11th edition

I. Course Description:

This course will allow you to understand the principles of making causal inferences about human behavior; problem formulation and research design; measurement of sociological concepts; data collection and analysis methods; evaluation of research findings.

What I expect from you:

- To be on time AND come to class
- To be prepared with assignments read in advance (homework will be collected BEFORE class on the day it is due)
- To be willing to give and receive constructive criticism to/from your classmates
- To ask for help (from me or fellow classmates) if you ever feel confused, lost, or frustrated
- To contribute to discussions and listen respectfully to others
- Integrity and honest work

What you can expect from me:

- To be on time
- To be available via email 7 days a week (or face-to-face by appointment)
- There will be no surprises in this course. Any deviations from the syllabus will be discussed in advance and approved by the class
- I will take attendance and participation into account when giving out midterm/final grades

II. Course Content

- A. Human Inquiry and Science
- B. Paradigms, theory and Social Research
- C. Ethics and politics of social research
- D. Research Design
- E. Conceptualization, Operationalization and measurement
- F. Index, scales and typologies
- G. The logic of sampling
- H. Experiments
- I. Survey Research
- J. Qualitative Field research
- K. Unobtrusive research
- L. Evaluation Research
- M. Qualitative data analysis
- N. Quantitative data analysis
- O. Statistical analysis
- P. Reading and writing social research

III. Student evaluation

COURSEWORK FOR GRADING:

Attendance	10%
Homeworks	50%
Final Project	40%

****Tentative schedule****

Week 1

1/12- Intro

1/14- Chapter 1

Week 2-

1/19 & 1/21- Chapter 2

Week 3

1/26-Chapter 3

1/28-Group Work

Week 4

2/2 & 2/4 –Chapter 4

Week 5

2/9 & 2/11-Chapter 5

Week 6

2/16- Chapter 6

2/18- Group work

Week 7

2/23- Chapter 7

2/25- Midterm

Week 8

3/2- Chapter 8

3/4 –Chapter 9

Week 9

3/9-Chapter 10

3/11- Chapter 11

Week 10

3/16- Chapter 12

3/18: - Group work

Week 11

3/23 & 3/25- Reading and Research

Week 12

3/30 Chapter 13

4/1 group work

Week 13

4/6 Chapter 14

4/8- Group work

Week 14

4/13 & 4/15 –Chapter 17

Week 15

4/20 & 4/22- Reading and Research

Week 16

4/27-Chapter 16

4/29-TBD

FINAL Project due

Intellectual Dishonesty:

To plagiarize is defined by *The American Heritage College Dictionary* as “to use and pass off as one’s own work (the ideas or writings of another).” This means that you must do your own original work in this class. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the assignment in accordance with CWRU policy. Copies of the official college plagiarism policy are available upon request.

Disabilities Act:

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.