



Dixie State University

**Research Methods**

**SOC 3111-01**

**FALL TERM 2014**

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**Instructor:**

Robert H. Oxley, Ph.D.

**Course:**

SOC 3111: Research Methods  
(3.0) 3 Credit Hrs.

**Section: Meeting/Times:**

SOC 3111-01  
CRN: 46904  
(M/W/F) 10:00-10:50 AM

**Text:**

*Social Research Methods*, Bryman, Alan,  
4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Oxford University Press, 2012.

**Building/Room:**

Holland CC RM 471

**Catalog Description:**

This course examines the basic ideas about the nature of social research. An in-depth review of the specifics both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies.

**Instructors Office Hours:**

Tues/Wed.  
11 AM-12 Noon  
Thurs. 10:30-11:30 AM  
(or by appointment)

**Instructor's Office Phone:**

(435) 879-4221  
McDonald Ctr. #236

**Prerequisite: SOC 1010 or SOC 1020 is required  
Math 104 or Equivalent is required**

**Instructor's E-mail:**

roxley@dixie.edu

**Course Objectives:**

Upon successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Be aware of the choices available to social researchers.
2. Understand 'do s' and 'don'ts' when employing a particular approach to collecting or analyzing data.
3. Identify how research methods connect with research questions.
4. Understand how adopted skills from training in research methods are transferable.
5. Describe the seriousness and ramifications of social research that is incorrectly employed.

6. Identify the contrast between quantitative and qualitative research.
7. Analyze social problems using sociological theory with various forms of research.
8. Investigate research methods associated with social class, race, ethnicity, or economic issues.

**Method of Instruction:** lecture, group discussion, quizzing, group work, videos.  
(Any combination or all of the above methodologies)

**Faculty/Student Responsibilities:**

1. As a college student, you are expected to schedule at least two hours of study time outside of class for **each** hour the class meets. (minimum of 6 hours per week)
2. Each student is responsible for reading the text plus supplemental Learning Activities (CANVAS) and **not** relying entirely on the instructor presenting every detail.
3. Any dishonesty involved with quizzes, exams, or plagiarism on the discussion assignments or on the position paper will result in a grade of zero. Also, at the discretion of Dr. Oxley, removal from this course and further action as deemed by the Dean of Humanities and/or the Dixie State University Administration.
4. The Mid Term Examination, the Final Examination, the Quizzes, and the Discussion Board assignments with peer appraisals **MUST** be taken/submitted on or before the prescribed date and time. The Position Paper **MUST** be submitted on the prescribed date and time. Mini Research Projects **MUST** be submitted on or before the prescribed date and time.

**Testing/Evaluation:**

Understanding of course material will be determined by quizzes, discussion board assignments, mid-term exam, final exam, Mini Research Projects and a comprehensive Position Paper. **Extra Credit work is not available in this course.**

**Assessment:**

Quizzes, Discussion Board Assignments with Peer Appraisals (CANVAS), Mini Research Projects, Mid Term Exam, Position Paper, and the Final Exam.

**Attendance Policy:**

- Attendance is taken at every class session. Consistent class attendance is necessary to successfully complete this course.
- Be punctual!

- If the class cannot meet for some reason, students will be notified. If the College is closed because of bad weather, you need to listen to a local radio station and/or TV broadcast.
- Find a "study friend" and exchange phone numbers and/or email addresses with at least two other students for class information if you are absent.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>	<i>Email Address</i>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**Classroom Etiquette:**

For your benefit and for the benefit of your classmates-

- At all times be considerate to your classmates and to your instructor.
- **No food or beverage is allowed in any classroom.**
- Come to class “on time”, ready to ask questions about previous lessons/assignments.
- Ask pertinent questions: contribute to discussions; avoid "private" conversations that distract the instructor and other students.
- Remember that the faculty is the one to end the class-do not prepare to leave early.
- **“Turn Off “cell phones** (do not disturb your fellow classmates).

**Keys to Success:**

- **Have a positive attitude about learning and the class.**
- **Attend all class sessions and be punctual.**
- **Scan the textbook before the class and read prescribed text pages plus all supplemental CANVAS materials after the Module Topic session is completed for that specific class period.**
- **Work with your "study friends." and/or Learning Team members. Ask for help when needed.**
- **Don't expect to understand every module topic the first time it is presented; review often; spend as much time as necessary to master the material.**
- **Enjoy the class!**

**Additional Student Responsibility:**

1. The student is responsible for all announcements and material presented in class, for completion of all homework and reading assignments, and for actively participating in the learning process. Communication is the key— [roxley@dixie.edu](mailto:roxley@dixie.edu)

Important class and college information will be sent to your dmail email account. This information includes your DSU bill, financial aid/scholarship notices, notification of dropped classes, reminders of important dates and events, and other information critical to your success in this class and at DSU. ALL DSU students are automatically assigned a dmail email account. If you do not know your user name and password, then go to [www.dixie.edu](http://www.dixie.edu) and select “dmail” for complete instructions. You will be held responsible for information sent to your dmail email, so please check it often.

2. The student is responsible for informing the instructor about any health conditions which might create a classroom emergency (i.e., seizure disorders, diabetes, heart conditions). A “Student Profile Form” will be distributed, completed and submitted by each student during the first class session.
3. The student is responsible for discussing with the instructor any needs for test taking or other accommodations. The instructor must have received notification from the Disability Resource Center Coordinator for eligibility determination. THE DRC is located on the ground floor of the Financial Aid Office. Visit or call (435) 652-7516 to schedule an appointment to discuss the process. The DRC coordinator determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of services.
4. If you plan to email your professor with questions or leave a message for your instructor via phone you must identify yourself and the class you are referring to before beginning your “brief” message or question. Be sure to leave a return phone number.

#### **Missed or Late Assignments/Assessments:**

**All exams, quizzes, discussion board assignments, mini research projects, and the position paper must be completed/submitted on the date/time that they are due/presented. Late assignments (quizzes, discussion board assignments, exams, mini research projects, position paper) will NOT be accepted late and will result in a grade of “zero” for that type of assessment.**

#### **Determination of Final Grade:**

##### ***Example of Final Grade Computation:***

The grade on each of the following five components will account for the Final Course Grade:

- Mid-Term Exam Scheduled: October 15, 2014 (10:00-10:50 AM)
- Position Paper DUE: Monday, November 24, 2014 (10:00 AM)
- Quizzes Periodically throughout the Fall Term (7)
- Discussions Periodically throughout the Fall Term (5)
- Mini Research Periodically throughout the Fall Term (TBD)
- Final Exam Scheduled: December 15, 2014 (MONDAY)  
(10:30 AM-12:30 PM) (HOLLAND CC ROOM 471)\*Time Change

\*NOTE: Labor Day, Monday, (September 1, 2014) **No Classes Will Be Held**

\*\*NOTE: Semester Fall Break: (October 16-17, 2014) **No Classes Will Be Held**

\*\*\*NOTE: **Thanksgiving Holiday: (November 26-28) No Classes Will Be Held**

\*\*\*\*NOTE: **Last Class Session (pre-Final Exam Week): Friday DEC 12, 2014**

**Determination of Final Grade:** (continued)

Final grades will be transcribed on a 4.0 scale and calculated as follows:

- Discussions (seven @ 30 points each) = 187/210 points (21% of Final Grade)
- Quizzes (seven @ 30 points each) = 183/210 points (21% of Final Grade)
- Position Paper = 152/170 points (17% of Final Grade)
- Mid Term Exam = 181/200 points (20% of Final Grade)
- Final exam = 192/210 points (21% of Final Grade)

**Total = 895 divided by 1000 = 89.5% (round-up to 90.0) =  
Final Course Grade “A”**

**\*\*\*\*NOTE: There are no make-up dates for quizzes. You must be present on the day that each (in class) quiz is given.**

**\*\*\*\*NOTE: Discussion Assignments and Peer Appraisals must be submitted on CANVAS on or before the prescribed due date/time. NO MAKE-UP for Discussion Board assignments will be available.**

**\*\*\*\*NOTE: The Mid Term Examination and the Final Examination must be completed on the prescribed date & time. NO MAKE-UP will be provided.**

**Grading Scale:**

- 90 - 100 % = A
- 80 - 89% = B
- 70 - 79% = C
- 60 - 69% = D
- 59%-below = (failed the course)

**Sequence of Instruction:**

**NOTE TO STUDENTS:** The basic module topics in this course will be covered but may be presented using a modified version of the calendar found below. Supplemental information will be supplied by Dr. Oxley via email and/or CANVAS

<b>Weekly</b>	<b>COURSE MODULE TOPIC SCHEDULE (CANVAS) &amp; Lecture</b>
1	Module 1-The nature & process of Social Research
2	Module 2-Sociological Research strategies
3	Module 3-Research Project: Planning; Reviewing; Ethics & Politics in Social Research.
4	Module 4-The nature of Quantitative Research
5	Module 5-Sampling, interviewing, questionnaires, and observation.
6	Module 6-Content analysis, statistics, Quantitative data analysis.

7	Module 7-IBM SPSS: data analysis <b><u>MID TERM EXAMINATION:</u></b> (October 15, 2014; Wednesday: 10:00 AM until 10:50 AM: Holland CC RM 471)
8	Module 8-The nature of Qualitative Research
9	Module 9-Qualitative: sampling, ethnography & participant observation.
10	Module 10-Qualitative: interviewing, focus groups, and language.
11	Module 11-Qualitative: data sources, data analysis, NVivo computer-assisted qualitative software.
12	Module 12-Examine the quantitative & qualitative divide.
13	Module 13-MIXING METHODS: Quantitative/Qualitative
14	Module 14-E-Research: Internet Research Methods
15	Module 15-Writing-up Social Research
16	<b><u>FINAL EXAMINATION:</u></b> (December 15, 2014; Monday: 10:20 AM-12:30 PM <Note: <b><u>Time Change</u></b> for the Final Exam> HOLLAND CC RM 471)

**NOTE: This Social Research Methods Course pace will require that you keep pace will reading & CANVAS assignments & lecture/exercise review**

### *Final Thought*

*As a result of using the Socratic methodology it is important to participate in class. Without active participation in the class the only possible ingredients for the final grade are the raw numbers from the results of quizzes, mid-term exam, position paper, discussion board, and the final exam. If, on the other hand, you have demonstrated a further grasp of the material through class participation, then your final grade may be raised. Participation is evaluated by willingness to contribute in both small group (Learning Team) and in full class discussions through questions, insights and observations.*

**EDUCATION: That which discloses to the wise and disguises from the foolish their lack of understanding.**

*Ambrose Bierce*