

Doing Sociology
SOC 2015-090
Spring 2019

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The Rationale Behind This Course:

We live in an increasingly data-centric world. Everything from television commercials (“...four out of five dentists recommend using Colgate!”) to news reports (“...10 percent of Americans incorrectly believe that ‘HTML’ is a sexually transmitted disease...”) and research findings (“...a recent study found that raising the cost of a pack of cigarettes by just \$1.00 would make smokers 20 percent more likely to quit...”) reference some form of data analysis, though it's been my experience that the average person is woefully unequipped to evaluate such claims. This course and its accompanying text seek to change that by providing you with the background necessary to think critically about some of the more common forms of data analysis. Additionally, this course is designed to help you succeed in your future academic pursuits, including Social Statistics (SOC 3112) and Research Methods (SOC 3111).

Required Materials:

All students are required to purchase access to an e-text called *Doing Sociology* (creative, I know). This e-text is available through the publisher's [website](#) or by purchasing an access card at the campus bookstore. To purchase the text online, click on the button labeled “Click Here to Purchase,” which is located in the “First Time User (Without Access Code)” box on the right side of your screen. From there, select “University of Utah” from the “Institution” drop-down menu, and “Doing Sociology - Quinn” from the “Online Publication” drop-down menu.

If you have any issues with the text, I recommend you contact the publisher directly, either by clicking on the link labeled “WebSupport” at the bottom of every page or via email (websupport@greatriverlearning.com). You can also reach someone 24/7 at 800-344-9051.

Grading:

There are two different types of activities that will be used to assess student learning:

- *E-Text Chapters:* Each week, students will be required to read one chapter in the e-text and complete the various activities contained therein. Quizzes for the corresponding chapters are accessible through the **quizzes tab** on our Canvas page. Your performance on these questions will account for 75 percent of your final grade.
 - *Chapter quizzes can be found on our Canvas page are identical to those found within the text. **Students are required to complete the quizzes via canvas.** Completing them through the text is optional.*
- *Online Discussions:* Students will be required to participate in approximately 10 online discussions over the course of the semester. These discussions, which generally center on current events, will account for the remaining 25 percent of your final grade.
- There are no exams (or final exams, for that matter).

General Grading Policies:

- Instructor will post all assignment and exam grades to the course Canvas website and the e-text grade center within 7 days of submission
- It is the student's responsibility to report and discuss grade discrepancies with the instructor
- The instructor will entertain grade change requests, but such discussions should occur at least 24 hours after the assignment/exam was handed back. (i.e., take a day to reflect on the comments provided and review answer keys prior to disputing a grade)
- No late assignments are accepted.
- No extra credit is available.

Grading Scale

94-100%: A	87-89%: B+	77-79%: C+	67-69%: D+	<60%: F
90-93%: A-	83-86%: B	73-76%: C	63-66%: D	
	80-82%: B-	70-72%: C-	60-62%: D-	

Grades will not be curved.

Expectations:

Spend Time Online.

Regular participation and engagement with the online material (via Canvas) is required. Students are expected to log-in and interact with our course webpage on Canvas regularly and frequently. Be sure to check "Announcements" – this is where all course-related announcements will be posted and archived.

Be Respectful.

In order to maintain a positive, civil environment for learning, students shall strive to meet the goals described in the University of Utah's Student Code, which states *"the mission of the University of Utah is to educate the individual and to discover, refine and disseminate knowledge. The University supports the intellectual, personal, social and ethical development of members of the University community. These goals can best be achieved in an open and supportive environment that encourages reasoned discourse, honesty, and respect for the rights of all individuals. Students at the University of Utah are encouraged to exercise personal responsibility and self-discipline and engage in the rigors of discovery and scholarship."* Students are also expected to follow general "netiquette" guidelines to create a supportive online community.

Don't Cheat.

It is assumed that all work submitted to the instructor is your own work. When you have used ideas of others, you must properly indicate that you have done so. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on an individual assignment, failure in the course, and/or expulsion from the university. Academic misconduct, according to the University of Utah Student Code, *"includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one's work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information...It also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct."* For detailed definitions and possible academic sanctions please see: <http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html>. As far as this class is concerned, the first occurrence of academic misconduct will result in a failing grade on the assignment in question; the second will result in a failing grade for the course as a whole.

Keep an Open Mind.

Some of the readings, lectures, films, or presentations in this course may include material that conflicts with the core beliefs of some students. Please review the syllabus carefully to see if the course is one that you are committed to taking.

What weird, idiosyncratic policies do you have as an instructor?

I'm so glad you asked! Here's what you need to be aware of:

- I am aware that this course is not the center of your universe and that unforeseen life events will occasionally cause you to miss a deadline or a due date. It is your responsibility, however, to communicate with the instructor about any challenges you are facing. In general, students are expected to speak with instructor ASAP if there is any issue or concern that may impede your ability to fully participate and complete the requirements of the course.
- I do my absolute best to respond to emails within 24 hours, though additional time may be required if your query requires considerable thought and/or a lengthy explanation. Or if you email me on a Friday night. Also, I've been doing this thing lately where I only respond to student emails when I'm in a good mood. You might have to wait a little longer for a response, but you're much, much more likely to get what you want.
- With the previous point in mind, I do not respond to emails within 24 hours of exam or assignment due dates. Any questions or requests for clarification should be made well in advance. In other words, you can be the kind of student who requires a lot of help from the instructor (and that's totally fine), or you can be the kind of student who leaves everything until the last minute (and that's also fine), but you cannot be both simultaneously.
- I do not accept late work without prior approval (I know I already mentioned that, but it's worth repeating).
- I reserve the right to amend this document at any time and for any reason.

Where can I go for help and/or support?

Here are the resources available at the University of Utah to support students with specific circumstances:

Wellness Statement: Personal health and wellness are essential to your success as a student. Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive in this course and at the University of Utah. Please speak with the instructors before issues become problems. And, for helpful resources, contact the course-assigned SSA or the Center for Student Wellness at www.wellness.utah.edu or 801-581-7776.

Americans with Disabilities Act. The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Drop/Withdrawal. Students may drop a course within the first two weeks of a given semester without any penalties. Students may officially withdraw (W) from a class or all classes after the drop deadline through the midpoint of a course. A "W" grade is recorded on the transcript and appropriate

tuition/fees are assessed. The grade “W” is not used in calculating the student’s GPA. See the [Academic Calendar](#) for the last day to withdraw from term, first and second session classes.

- *Deadlines for courses with irregular start and end dates policy.*
<https://registrar.utah.edu/handbook/miscellaneous.php>

Sexual Misconduct. Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran’s status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

LGBT Resource Center: The U of Utah has an LGBT Resource Center on campus. They are located in Room 409 in the Olpin Union Building. Hours: M-F 8-5pm. You can visit their website to find more information about the support they can offer, a list of events through the center and links to additional resources: <http://lgbt.utah.edu/>. Please also let us know if there is any additional support you need in this class.

Veterans Support Center. The Veterans Support Center is a “one stop shop” for student veterans to find services, support, advocacy, and camaraderie. They are located in the Park Building Room 201. You can visit their website for more information about their services and support at <http://veteranscenter.utah.edu>.

Learners of English as an Additional/Second Language. If you are an English language learner, please be aware of several resources on campus that will support you with your language and writing development. These resources include the Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.utah.edu/>); the Writing Program (<http://writing-program.utah.edu/>); the English Language Institute (<http://continue.utah.edu/eli/>). Please let us know if there is any additional support you would like to discuss for this class.

Note: The syllabus is subject to change. Proper notice will be made on Canvas if any necessary changes occur. Students are responsible for staying updated on Canvas announcements or emails.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings	Homework
01/07 – 01/13	Welcome/Introductions		Discussion 1
01/14 – 01/20	Chapter 1: Sociological Imagination	Ch. 1	Mid-Chapter Questions End of Chapter Assessment
01/21 – 01/27	Chapter 2: Visualization of Statistics	Ch. 2	Mid-Chapter Questions End of Chapter Assessment Discussion 2
01/28 – 02/03	Chapter 3: Bivariate Analysis	Ch. 3	Mid-Chapter Questions End of Chapter Assessment
02/04 – 02/10	Chapter 4: Descriptive Statistics	Ch. 4	End of Chapter Assessment Discussion 3
02/11 – 02/17	Chapter 5: Basic Principles of Probability	Ch. 5	Mid-Chapter Questions End of Chapter Assessment Discussion 4
02/18 – 02/24	Chapter 6: Statistical Significance	Ch. 6	Mid-Chapter Questions End of Chapter Assessment Discussion 5
02/25 – 03/03	Chapter 7: Central Limit Theorem	Ch. 7	Mid-Chapter Questions End of Chapter Assessment
03/10 – 03/16	SPRING BREAK		
03/04 – 03/17	Chapter 8: Statistical Inference	Ch. 8	Mid-Chapter Questions End of Chapter Assessment Discussion 6
03/18 – 03/24	Chapter 9: Correlation and Causation	Ch. 9	Mid-Chapter Questions End of Chapter Assessment
03/25 – 03/31	Chapter 10: Linear Regression	Ch. 10	Mid-Chapter Questions End of Chapter Assessment
04/01 – 04/07	Chapter 11: The importance of Research	Ch. 11	End of Chapter Assessment
04/08 – 04/14	Chapter 12: Get the most out of Journal Articles	Ch. 12	Mid-Chapter Questions End of Chapter Assessment
04/15 – 04/21	Chapter 13: Writing Advise	Ch. 13	Mid-Chapter Questions End of Chapter Assessment
04/21 – 04/28	Chapter 14: Undergraduate Research	Ch. 14	End of Chapter Assessment

CSBS Emergency Action Plan



BUILDING EVACUATION

EAP (Emergency Assembly Point) – When you receive a notification to evacuate the building either by campus text alert system or by building fire alarm, please follow your instructor in an orderly fashion to the EAP marked on the map below. Once everyone is at the EAP, you will receive further instructions from Emergency Management personnel. You can also look up the EAP for any building you may be in on campus at

<http://emergencymanagement.utah.edu/eap>



CAMPUS RESOURCES

U Heads Up App: There's an app for that. Download the app on your smartphone at <http://alert.utah.edu/headsup> to access the following resources:

- **Emergency Response Guide:** Provides instructions on how to handle any type of emergency, such as earthquake, utility failure, fire, active shooter, etc. Flip charts with this information are also available around campus.
- **See Something, Say Something:** Report unsafe or hazardous conditions on campus if you see a life threatening or emergency situation, please call 911!
- **Safety Escorts:** For students who are on campus at night or passed business hours and would like an escort to your care, please call 801-585-2677. You can call 24/7 and a security officer will be sent to walk with you or give you a ride to your desired on-campus location.