Social Science Research Methods
SOC/ANT 305 I (A) Fall 2012
Evans 207
Tu & Th 2:00-3:15 p.m.

Course Description. This course provides an introduction to research methods in the social sciences. Students will receive an overview of essential components involved in quantitative and qualitative research and the opportunity to design and implement a small research project. The main topics introduced include the linkage between theory and research, how to plan a research project, sampling, making observations, data processing, analysis, and report writing.

Teacher Information: Dr Sarah Allred. Office in Evans 221A. Phone 706-368-6998.
Office Hours: M 10-12, 1:00-4:00 p.m. , T 3:30-5, Th 3:30-5 AND by appointment
E-mail: sallred@berry.edu

Course Purpose, Promises, and Outcomes. The purpose of this course is to provide students with the core conceptual knowledge, practical skills and opportunities necessary for critiquing, designing, and implementing a simple, social science study. The course addresses all main aspects of the research process, provides students numerous active learning activities inside and outside the classroom, and concludes with the presentation of an original research project. As a result of taking this course, students will be able to use theory and insights about their social world to develop a research objective, identify ethical issues, read and interpret scholarly literature, develop a questionnaire, perform common data analyses using quantitative or narrative data, in addition to other practical research skills.

Method of Teaching. This class will involve lectures, one-on-one meetings with the professor to discuss progress on the research project, in-class discussion about ongoing student projects, interactive activities, and community engagement in support of a local research project.

Community Engagement Element. In addition to classroom learning, students will participate in a research project in conjunction with a community provider. These community partners include: 1) South Rome Redevelopment Corporation, Rome City schools, Berry College Charter School of Education, and GA NW Technical College, 2) the Bonner Center for Community Engagement, and 3) American Red Cross. Working together, students will partner with one of the three community partner options and together develop some research projects that will give students--working in small groups of 3-4 students--an opportunity to develop, implement, and summarize an original study. In addition, student projects will contribute meaningfully to the mission and data needs of the community partner. The nature of the projects with the Community partner and otherwise will be discussed and refined in the earlier weeks of the course. Engagement in a project with the Community Partner will involve a few trips to local or campus offices for purposes of consultation with the community partner and data gathering.

Course Requirements and Guidelines.
1. Class Attendance and Performance. Class attendance is expected through out the semester. Students are required to be on time for all classes. Habitual tardiness is unacceptable. Students who are unable to take a test as scheduled must contact the professor in via e-mail 24-hours or more in advance of the due date. Otherwise, you will receive a zero on the test. Late assignment receive a 10% grade reduction on the assignment for each day it is late. All quizzes, tests, community partner meetings, presentations, drafts, and the paper must be completed and submitted on time in order to be eligible to receive an A for a final grade.

2. Texts. Required text and electronic readings are listed below (A B).
   B. Doing the Right thing: Ethics In Research (see Viking Web Handouts)
   C. Other readings as assigned.

3. Final Paper (100 points). Students will complete an 8-10 page paper that summarizes an original research project. The paper guidelines will be distributed early in the semester and will list the standard components (abstract, literature review, discussion of methods, presentation of results, discussion of findings, and conclusions) of a professional research report. In keeping with the WI requirements, students will submit 1draft of their completed paper for in-class review by student colleagues. Papers will be written in APA format.

4. ORAL PRESENTATION. (50 points) Each student will present their research project to the class during the last weeks of the semester. The paper presentation will provide a brief summary of the research process
and results and must include visuals (e.g., Powerpoint slides, display board, etc.). A guide for presentation requirements and suggestions will be provided.

5. **Tests and quizzes.** There will be three tests in this class. Each test is worth 100 points. The tests will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, matching, and short answer questions. Tutorial quizzes are available online, see Bookmarks under Viking web. At the close of lecture per chapter, students are required to complete the tutorial quiz for the chapter just completed, and email quiz results (must have 85% correct or higher) to instructor before the next class. Thirteen tutorial quizzes will be completed.

7. **Academic Integrity.** Academic integrity is the foundation of college life and experience at Berry College, and the expectation in this course. As a member of the Berry College community, you are responsible for working together to establish and uphold an environment conducive to honorable academic endeavors. Please refer to the Viking Code for a complete discussion of key terms relevant to academic integrity (e.g., academic dishonesty). You are not allowed to collaborate (i.e., cheat) on the tests. The penalty for collaboration on a test is a zero for the test, a penalty applied to those receiving as well as giving test information. You are allowed to collaborate with others on the course paper, but in a manner akin to peer consultation. You may ask for or provide editorial comments from class colleagues when writing the final paper. When writing the paper, students are required to cite all works quoted (with complete bibliographic information) or referenced. Plagiarism will result in a zero for the paper. Last, any ethical violations associated with the course project (e.g., falsification of data, unprofessional conduct with subjects or community partner) may result in failure of the class or on the individual project. In sum, do your own work, don’t plagiarize, perform ethical work, and respect the property of others and the College.

8. **Special Accommodations.** Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Academic Support Center in Memorial Library, First Floor, (706.233.4080) as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

9. **Evaluations of Student Performances, Final Grades, and Final Grade Determination.**
   
   A. **Evaluations.** Student grades will reflect evaluations and performances on tutorial quizzes, completed out of class, tests, an oral presentation, paper draft, and final paper.
   
   B. **Final Grades.** Final grades will result from the total number of points earned on the required components. No extra credit projects will be given. All required items (tests, papers, and exercises) must be submitted in order to be eligible to receive an A as a final grade. In addition, research project must adhere to ethnical standards in order to be eligible to receive an A.
   
   C. **Final Grade Determination.** A student's total points received are divided by the total number of points that are possible. Next, the resulting value is multiplied by 100 and rounded the nearest hundredth. The numerical grades are translated into a final letter grade as follows:
   
   F includes scores which are 59.49 or lower,
   
   59.50 to 67.49 for a D,
   
   67.50 to 69.49 for a D+
   
   69.50 to 72.49 for a C-,
   
   72.50 to 77.49 for a C,
   
   77.50 to 79.49 for a C+
   
   79.50 to 82.49 for a B-,
   
   82.50 to 87.49 for a B,
   
   87.50 to 89.49 for a B+
   
   89.50 to 92.49 for an A-,
   
   92.50 and higher for an A.
   
   Rounding is calculated to the nearest hundredth and procedures are executed as follows. A numerical grade of 69.490 through 69.494 is rounded to 69.49. A numerical grade of 69.495 through 69.499 is rounded to a 69.50.

   
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial Quizzes: (13 chapters, 2 pts each)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests (n=3)</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper drafts (n=2)</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>50</td>
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</tbody>
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   Total Points Possible = 526
Tentative Schedule

**Week 1: August 28-30**
- **Chapter 1:** Introduction to the course and each other.
  - August 30th: visits with Community partners

**Week 2: Sept 4 - 6**
- **Tuesday:** visit with Community partner
- **Chapter 2:** Paradigms, theory, and Research
- **Thursday:** Chapter 3 (The Ethics and Politics of Social Research)

**Week 3: Sept 11 - 13**
- **Chapter 3:** Continued as needed.
- **Chapter 4:** Research Design:
  - **Tuesday:** Homework: complete the online Human subjects Training found at: [http://www.berry.edu/academics/faculty_research/humans/training/](http://www.berry.edu/academics/faculty_research/humans/training/)
  - Due "Certificate of Completion" Week 4.
- **Thursday:** Library Session, 2:45 - 3:30

**Week 4: Sept 18 - 20**
- **Chapter 5:** Conceptualization, Operationalization, and Measurement
  - **Tuesday:** Certificate of Human Subjects Training Completion Due Today

**Week 5: Sept 25 - 27**
- **Tuesday:** Finish/Review Chapter 5
- **Thursday:** Test #1: (Chapters 1-5)

**Week 6: Oct 2 - 4**
- **Chapter 6:** Indexes, Scales, and Typologies
- **Chapter 9:** Survey Research
  - **Thursday:** DUE TODAY: 1 page summary: Topic, research question, and 5 sources with full bibliographic information

**Week 7: Oct 9 - 11**
- **Chapter 10:** Qualitative Field Research
  - Special emphasis on focus groups and PAR
- **Chapter 11:** Unobtrusive Research

**Week 8: Oct 16 - 18**
- **Tuesday:** Oct 16 NO Classes: Fall Break.
- **Thursday:** Chapter 15 (Reading and writing Social Research, APA format overview)

**Week 9: Oct 23 - 25**
- **Chapter 7:** Logic of Sampling
- **Thursday:** Draft Project Proposal DUE Today (3-4 pages in length, 20 pts, in-class feedback)

**Week 10: Oct 30 - Nov 1**
- **Chapter 13:** Quantitative Data Analysis

**Week 11: Nov 6 - 8**
- **14:** Quantitative Data Analysis
  - **Thursday:** Bring Paper Draft to class. Peer critique and feedback. (4-6 pages, 30 pts)

**Week 12: Nov 13 - 15**
- **Tuesday:** No Class. Individual appointments for Project Consultation
- **Thursday:** Test #2 (Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14)

**Week 13: Nov 20 - 22**
- 20 - No Class. Project Consultations by Appointment
- 22 - No class. THANKSGIVING BREAK

**Week 14: Nov 27 - 29**
- 3 presentations PER DAY (all Papers Due today)

**Week 15: Dec 4 - 6**
- 3 presentations per day

**Week 16: Dec 12**
- Final Exam (cumulative, Wednesday 10:30 - 12:30 a.m.)
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August 30th, visits with Community partners

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Thursday, Chapter 3 (The Ethics and Politics of Social Research)

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Chapter 3: Continued as needed, Chapter 4 (Research Design):
Tuesday: Homework: complete the online Human subjects Training found at:
http://www.berry.edu/academics/faculty_research/humans/policies/
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Chapter 5 (Conceptualization, Operationalization, and Measurement)
Tuesday: Certificate of Human Subjects Training Completion Due Today

Week 5: Sept 25 - 27
Tuesday: Finish/Review Chapter 5
Thursday: Test #1: (Chapters 1-5)

Week 6: Oct 2 - 4
Chapter 6 (Indexes, Scales, and Typologies) and Chapter 9 (Survey Research)
Thursday, DUE TODAY, 1 page summary: Topic, research question, and 5 sources with full bibliographic information

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Chapter 10 Qualitative Field Research (special emphasis on focus groups and PAR)
Chapter 11 (Unobtrusive Research)

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