Course Description
Survey of the variety of methods of sociological research, both quantitative and qualitative, focusing particularly on survey and interview, field research, content analysis, secondary analysis, experimentation, and historical-comparative methods. Labs will cover the basics of quantitative analysis and computer training in SPSS and N6. Includes the examination of exemplars from the sociological literature, as well as practice of hands-on research skills and sociological writing.

Required Readings
All additional readings are available electronically through the library e-res system.

Course Requirements
1. **Read** and come to class prepared.

2. **Four quizzes** and a written **final exam**.

3. **Three data sets** based on the following methods:
   a. Participant Observation
   b. Survey
   c. Interview/Focus Group

4. A research proposal in two stages: If possible, use this as a time to brainstorm potential topics/questions for your senior thesis. If you are not that far along in thinking about your thesis, you can use any topic/question and/or one of the data sets you will be collecting for this class. The first section will be a **miniature Literature Review**. The second section will be the **IRB proposal and the Methods section** of a proposal.

5. An example of research conclusions: The **Analysis** section of a paper developed on the basis of one of the data sets: specifically, the survey data or the interview/focus group data. I recommend the survey data for this assignment, as quantitative data is often easier to analysis in a short amount of time, but if you really want to use the qualitative data, that will be fine – students have done well with either. The participant observation data is too difficult to use for this assignment – it is too brief, and the time is too short.
6. Those who have not taken SO 228, Quantitative Sociology, will meet for **afternoon labs** to cover basic statistics using SPSS. Each student will attend lab every other day, for a total of 7 labs. All lab assignments must be completed correctly in order to maintain one’s grade. Uncorrected labs and/or missing labs will reduce the overall grade by 4 points/assignment. Those who have already taken Quantitative Sociology under the old system need not attend nor complete these labs, but there will be a section on the final exam on choosing appropriate statistical tests, so you will want to review that. Feel free to get a copy of the lab workbook and work through it on your own as review, or come to lab sessions as needed. I will talk about statistics in class a bit, which will provide some review, but the labs will be the main place to go over those items.

**Grading**

Final grades will be based upon all of the requirements above, weighted as follows:

- Attendance and participation: 9%
- Four quizzes: 20%
- Literature Review: 10%
- IRB proposal and Methods section: 10%
- Three data sets: 21%
- Analysis section: 10%
- Final exam: 20%

Assignments handed in late will receive half a letter grade lower for each day late, or until all others have been graded. Once graded, no late assignment can earn more points than the lowest grade for that assignment. This is to keep me on top of the grading, as well as you on top of the assignments. In addition, all assignments must be completed in order to pass the course.

**Attendance**

Active attendance is crucial. Do not ask my permission to miss class – I will not give it. Life happens, and if you decide you have to miss class, that is your choice. You will be responsible for anything you’ve missed, so make sure you check with other students (not me) to get their notes and talk about what was covered. Also, please let me know so I can mark your absence as “excused.” Excessive excused absences and all unexcused absences will result in a lower grade.

**Academic Integrity**

I expect all students to abide by the Honor Code. Any suspected violations will be reported, which could lead to a zero on that assignment, or a failing grade in the class.

**Course Schedule**

**Monday, October 27: Introduction**

**Tuesday, October 28: Foundations and Theory**

- Neuman chs. 1-2
- Durkheim, Émile. 1897. “Social Order and Control Via Close Social Ties: The Example of Suicide”
- Mills, C. Wright. 1959. “From The Sociological Imagination”
  - Lab 1A: Entering Data and Running Frequencies

**Wednesday, October 29: Literature Reviews (class at 9:15am, library at 10am)**
- Neuman ch. 4
- MacLeod, Jay. 1995. Chapters 1-2 from Ain’t No Makin’ It
  - Lab 1B: Entering Data and Running Frequencies

**Thursday, October 30: Ethics and the IRB (Amanda Udis-Kessler, Dir. of Institutional Research)**
- Neuman ch. 3
  - Lab 2A: Histograms and Polygons

**Friday, October 31: Research Design (Alice Gallmeyer, Senior Thesis Process)**
- IN CLASS: Quiz #1
- Miller, Laura L. 1997. “Not Just Weapons of the Weak: Gender Harassment as a Form of Protest for Army Men”
  - Lab 2B: Histograms and Polygons

**Monday, November 3: Measurement and Sampling**
- DUE: Literature Review
- Neuman chs. 5-6
  - Lab 3A: Central Tendency, Variability and Z-Scores

**Tuesday, November 4: Experiments**
- Neuman ch. 8
  - Lab 3B: Central Tendency, Variability and Z-Scores
Wednesday, November 5: Surveys
- **IN CLASS: Quiz #2**
- Neuman ch. 7
- Järvinen, Margaretha. 2001. “Accounting for Trouble: Identity Negotiations in Qualitative Interviews with Alcoholics”
  - Lab 4A: Scattergrams and Correlation Coefficients

Thursday, November 6: Nonreactive Research
- Neuman ch. 9
- Doob, Anthony N. and Alan E. Gross. 1968. “Status of Frustrator as an Inhibitor of Horn-Honking Responses”
  - Lab 4B: Scattergrams and Correlation Coefficients

Friday, November 7: Field Research
- **DUE: IRB proposal and Methods section**
- Neuman, ch. 11
  - Lab 5A: T-Tests

Monday, November 10: Historical-Comparative Research
- **IN CLASS: Quiz #3**
- Neuman ch. 12
  - Lab 5B: T-Tests

Tuesday, November 11: Kitchen Stories
- Duneier, Mitchell. 1999. “Introduction” and “Appendix” from Sidewalk
  - Lab 6A: T-Tests cont. and ANOVA

Wednesday, November 12: Analysis of Quantitative Data (meet in Palmer lab)
- **DUE: Participant Observation Data**
- Neuman ch. 10
  o Lab 6B: T-Tests cont. and ANOVA

**Thursday, November 13: Analysis of Qualitative Data (meet in Barnes lab)**
- DUE: Interview/Focus Group Data
- Neuman ch. 13
  o Lab 7A: Chi-Square

**Friday, November 14: The Research Report**
- IN CLASS: Quiz #4
- Neuman ch. 14
  o Lab 7B: Chi-Square

**Monday, November 17: No Class**
- DUE by 5pm: Survey Data and Analysis Section

**Tuesday, November 18: Final Exam**

**Wednesday, November 19: No Class**
I will be out of town, but please turn in any late work via e-mail to me or by hand to Alice by noon. Work received after noon will receive no credit.