M℃KENDREE UNIVERSITY

Course Number and Course Title

SOC 496: Methods of Social Research (W)

Catolog Description

The first of two senior capstone courses in which
students are introduced to social science writing and research skills. This course is designed to cultivate the student's skills in evaluating the significance of published research findings and in designing original research. Topics include the interdependence of theory and research, hypothesis formation, research design, sampling techniques, and various methods of observation. Students will develop a research proposal. *Prerequisite: Senior standing and 12 completed hours in sociology.*

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify, extract, and apply key sociological concepts
- Identify research responsibilities and protocols in the treatment of human subjects
- Use grammar and organization appropriate to professional standards and conventions (*e.g.,* APA *or* ASA writing style)
- Evaluate sociological information based on the reliability, validity and generalizability of sources
- Construct arguments clearly and concisely using evidence-based sociological concepts and theories

Required Course Materials:

Babbie, Earl. (2014). *The Basics of Social Research.* Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

All other materials will be provided online.

How to succeed in this course:

- Sign in to Brightspace and check for announcements/updates/new material at least once a day.
- Check your email for messages from me and/or classmates at least once a day.

- Read the assigned material and watch the course videos well in advance of the date that discussion board assignments are due. Give yourself time to digest the material and get questions answered, if you have any. Do *not* try to cram everything into one day!
- Engage with your classmates!
- Stay in contact with your instructor. If you have questions about the material or an assignment – ASK!

Evaluation Methods

Syllabus Quiz (10 points)
There will be a brief syllabus quiz, designed to make sure you understand the expectations for this course. It will be given in the first week of class and will be worth 10 points of your final grade.

Module Exercises (200 points)
You will not have traditional exams in this course. Instead, you will have a short-answer exercise at the end of each module. Each of these will be worth 50 points for a total of 200 points.

Citi Training (200 points and required to pass class)
In order to pass this class, you must complete the Citi Program training module for ethics in research with human subjects (the training for "all other researchers") and upload your certificate to Brightspace. In addition to the assignment being worth 200 points, you will receive an automatic F in the course if you do not complete the required training on time. The training will take several hours, and you must score at least 80% on each part, so you should plan to work on it a little each week. You have until the last day of classes to complete the training.

Research Proposal Drafts (60 points: 20 per draft) (3)
You will be required to complete drafts of each section of your research proposal (three total). Together, these will be worth a total of 150 points of your final grade.

Research Proposal Final Draft (200 points)
The final draft of your research proposal will be worth 200 points of your final grade. It is expected that you will have addressed any concerns identified during the draft writing process, as well as meet the requirements as outlined in the grading rubric. For the final draft, you will need to upload it twice; once for grading and once for departmental assessment. You cannot pass this class without completing this research proposal.

Completing Course Evaluation (10 points)
As an instructor, I take your feedback very seriously. Therefore, you will earn credit toward your course grade simply for completing the course evaluation online. (I will only be able to see if you have completed the evaluation in order to assign these points.)

Grading Information

Assignment Title	Total points
Syllabus Quiz	10 points
Module Exercises (4)	200 points
Citi Training	200 points and required to pass the course
Research Proposal Drafts (3 sections)	60 points
Research Proposal Final Draft	200 points and required to pass the course
Completing Course Evaluation	10 points
Total	**680 points**

Grading Scale

93-100%	A	77-80%	C+
90-93%	A-	74-77%	C
87-89%	B+	70-73%	C-
84-87%	B	60-69%	D
80-83%	B-	0-59%	F

Policy on Late Work

No late assignments will be accepted. No work will be accepted after the course ends unless an incomplete has been granted. This will be at my discretion.

Academic Integrity

Any student detected of academic dishonesty will receive the appropriate sanctions, which can include a failing grade ("F") for the course. In cases of serious violations, additional sanctions (such as academic probation or suspension) are possible.

College Counseling Office:

At times during the college years, some students become overly stressed, anxious or depressed. This happens much more frequently than you might think. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, please call the campus counseling center for help. Appointments to meet with one of our qualified counselors should be made through Lesa Auten, Medical Assistant, (618) 537-6590. These services are free and confidential, so please take advantage of them.

https://www.mckendree.edu/offices/counselingservices.php

Accommodations and ADA policy

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), McKendree University provides services, auxiliary aides, and accommodations to meet the unique learning needs of students with disabilities. Students with officially documented disabilities, medical needs, legal problems, or who are the victims of crimes may qualify for educational accommodations. A student requiring assistance should contact the McKendree Student Success and Advising Center (SSAC). The SSAC provides coordination and implementation of special accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Students requiring accommodations for other issues should contact their instructor, Student Affairs, or Health Services.

For further information regarding university or course policies, please consult with your instructor and/or refer to the catalog.

Information Technology Department

Situated in the lower level of the Piper Academic Center, the Information Technology Department and HelpDesk office hours are Monday – Friday from 6:00 am to 5:00 pm. Support is also available via email at helpdesk@mckendree.edu or by phone (618)537-6445. Information Technology provides a variety of services to students. These services include login assistance, student ID cards, computer and mobile device support, e-mail assistance, on campus internet services, which includes on campus wireless access and more. Please visit support.mckendree.edu for a full list of IT services provided by the McKendree Information Technology Department.

Holman Library

Holman Library houses a collection of books, periodicals, government documents, and audiovisual equipment and materials that are available to all students for check-out or for in-library use. The library also provides ample space for students to study, including individual study carrels and group study rooms. The library also offers a Mac computer lab, scanners, and collaborative workstations. In addition to the materials available in the library, other resources can be accessed via interlibrary loan. The library is a member of the CARLI consortium, which allows you to request items through many academic libraries throughout the state of Illinois. We also offer interlibrary loan services for journal articles. The library staff is always available to assist you in locating materials, and staff members can also help you get started on research for papers and projects. Go to website https://www.mckendree.edu/offices/library/index.php for more information.

Course Schedule

Week A "week" is interpreted as Monday through Sunday	Topic	Graded Assignments

Module 1, Week 1	Chapter 1: Human Inquiry and Science	Syllabus Quiz due
Module 1, Week 2	Chapter 2: Paradigms, Theory, and Research	
Module 1, Week 3	Chapter 3: The Ethics and Politics of Social Research	Begin Citi Training First Draft of Introduction due – give feedback Module 1 Exercise due
Module 2, Week 4	Chapter 4: Research Design	
Module 2, Week 5	Chapter 5: Conceptualization, Operationalization, and Measurement	
Module 2, Week 6	Chapter 6: Indexes, Scales, and Typologies	
Module 2, Week 7	Chapter 7: The Logic of Sampling	First draft of Literature Review and Theoretical Perspective due Module 2 Exercise due
Module 3, Week 8	Chapter 8: Experiments	
Module 3, Week 9	Chapter 9: Survey Research	
Module 3, Week 10	Chapter 10: Qualitative Field Research	
Module 3, Week 11	Chapter 11: Unobtrusive Research	
Module 3, Week 12	Chapter 12: Evaluation Research	First Draft of Methodology, Abstract, and References due Module 3 Exercise due
Module 4, Week 13	Chapter 13: Qualitative Data Analysis	
Module 4, Week 14	Chapter 14: Quantitative Data Analysis	
Module 4, Week 15	Chapter 15: Reading and Writing Social Research	Final Draft of Research Proposal due Citi Training certificate due Complete Course Evaluation

If necessary, adjustments to the Grading Information and/or Course Schedule may occur.