

SOCI-190: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL RESEARCH

Effective Term

Fall 2026

CC Approval

12/05/2025

AS Approval

12/11/2025

BOT Approval

12/18/2025

COCI Approval

02/06/2026

SECTION A - Course Data Elements

CB04 Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

Discipline

Minimum Qualifications	And/Or
Sociology (Master's Degree)	

Subject Code

SOCI - Sociology

Course Number

190

Department

Sociology

Division

Social Sciences (SOCS)

Full Course Title

Introduction to Social Research

Short Title

Intro to Social Researc

CB03 TOP Code

2208.00 - Sociology

CIP Code

45.1101

CB08 Basic Skills Status

NBS - Not Basic Skills

CB09 SAM Code

E - Non-Occupational

Rationale

Updated due to common course numbering changes.

SECTION B - Course Description

Catalog Course Description

Students will examine fundamental elements of empirical research and the ways social scientists gather, evaluate, and critique social data. Includes attention to the nature of theory, hypotheses, variables, and research ethics. Qualitative and quantitative methods such as survey, experiment, field work, case study, content analysis, and comparative historical research will be applied. Computer applications will be introduced.

SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment

Open Entry/Open Exit

No

Repeatability

Not Repeatable

Grading Options

Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass

Allow Audit

Yes

Requisites

Prerequisite(s)

Completion of SOCI-C1000 and completion of a course taught at or above the level of intermediate algebra or appropriate placement with a minimum grade of C.

Requisite Justification

Requisite Description

Course Not in a Sequence

Subject

SOCI

Course

C1000

Level of Scrutiny

Content Review

Upon entering this course, students should be able to:

SOCI C1000 with a minimum grade of C or better

Requisite Description

Non-course Requisite

Level of Scrutiny

Communication/Computational Skill Required for Transfer

SECTION D - Course Standards

Is this course variable unit?

No

Units

3.00

Lecture Hours

54.00

Outside of Class Hours

108

Total Contact Hours

54

Total Student Hours

162

Distance Education Approval

Is this course offered through Distance Education?

Yes

Online Delivery Methods

DE Modalities	Permanent or Emergency Only?
Entirely Online	Permanent
Hybrid	Permanent

SECTION E - Course Content

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:	
1.	Understand the scientific method as it is applied in the social sciences.
2.	Determine appropriate research methodologies for testing various hypotheses.
3.	Demonstrate competence in conducting basic statistical analyses and creating charts using computer software.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:	
1.	Explain the basic principles of the scientific method
2.	Understand the relationship between social theory and research
3.	Critically evaluate research findings in terms of quality, credibility, and applicability
4.	Conceptualize and operationalize social variables in formulating testable hypotheses
5.	Examine various research designs and select appropriate design to test hypotheses
6.	Identify and review qualitative approaches in current use
7.	Explain the ethical treatment of human participants and the institutional requirements for conducting research
8.	Describe how social research can be used to make informed decisions
9.	Demonstrate familiarity with a social science statistical software for conducting research

Course Content

1. Scientific inquiry in the social sciences
 - a. Scientific and non-scientific approaches to knowledge
 - b. Dependent and independent variables
 - c. Validity and reliability
 - d. Causal and correlational relationships
 - i. Interpretation and limits of correlational data
 - ii. Spurious correlation
2. Paradigms, theory, and social research
 - a. Positivist
 - b. Critical
 - c. Interpretive
3. Social research ethics
 - a. Ethical standards
 - b. Human and animal subject use

4. Research design
 - a. Literature review
 - b. Selection of method
 - c. Selection of sample
5. Measurement
 - a. Conceptualizing and operationalizing
 - b. Types (nominal, ordinal, interval, ratio)
 - c. Central tendency (mean, median, mode)
 - d. Constructing instruments of measure:
 - i. Index
 - ii. Scale
6. Sampling
 - a. Population and sample
 - b. Sampling methods
 - i. Random
 - ii. Representative
 - iii. Convenience
 - iv. Snowball
 - c. Sample size
7. Observation modes
 - a. Experiment/Quasi-experiment
 - b. Survey (questionnaire and interview)
 - c. Fieldwork/Observation
 - d. Unobtrusive measures, such as:
 - i. Archival research
 - ii. Secondary analysis
 - iii. Content analysis
8. Analysis of data
 - a. Qualitative
 - b. Quantitative (using computer application)
 - i. Variance
 - ii. Statistical significance
 - iii. Statistical tests, including:
 1. chi-square
 2. correlation
 3. t-test
 4. ANOVA
 5. Constructing tables and charts
9. Reading and writing social research
 - a. Evaluating peer-reviewed literature
 - b. Scholarly writing

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
Activity	
Discussion	
Experiments	
Lecture	
Other	Projects

Online Adaptation

Types	Examples of learning activities
Activity	
Directed Study	
Discussion	

- Group Work
- Individualized Instruction
- Journal
- Lecture

Instructor-Initiated Online Contact Types

- Announcements/Bulletin Boards
- Discussion Boards
- E-mail Communication
- Video or Teleconferencing

Student-Initiated Online Contact Types

- Discussions
- Group Work

Course design is accessible

Yes

Methods of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Exams/Tests	Final Exam
Quizzes	Examine the chart provided and make an accurate, grammatically correct statement about the data it describes.
Projects	Research and Group Work in groups of 3-4 to construct a survey made of at least 8 indexes and/or scales. Each group member must find at least 12 people to take the survey. Bring the completed surveys back to class for coding, data entry, and statistical analysis.
Essays/Papers	
Oral Presentations	
Class Participation	Using the coding system provided, code and enter survey data into the SPSS program. Determine the mean, median, mode, and standard deviation for each survey item.
Homework	
Lab Activities	In-class use of statistical software

Assignments

Reading Assignments

- Read Chapter 1 of textbook.
- Read peer-reviewed journal article.

Writing Assignments

- Create an annotated bibliography in APA format.
- Write an analysis (2-3 pages) of the appropriateness of using various research methods to examine specific research questions in the social sciences. For example, "If a social scientist wants to determine if the level of violence in a video game affects a player's likelihood of acting aggressively in other social contexts, how could this be examined? What research method(s) could be used here? How could the variables involved be operationally defined?"
- Write a "mini" literature review (5-8 pages) covering a topic on which you might be interested in conducting research.

Outside-of-Class Assignments

- Construct a questionnaire containing at least two indexes, two scales, and two demographic variables.
- Properly code and enter values into a data set.
- Perform statistical tests and generate charts using software program.
- Summarize and present research using visual aids.

SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Wagner, W. and Gillespie, B.

Title

Using and Interpreting Statistics in the Social, Behavioral, and Health Sciences

Edition/Version

1st

Publisher

Sage

Year

2018

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Creswell, J

Title

Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches

Edition/Version

4th

Publisher

Sage

Year

2014

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Babbie, E

Title

Adventures in Social Research: Data analysis using IBM SPSS statistics

Edition/Version

10th

Publisher

Sage

Year

2019

SECTION G - Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity

How does your course and/or course outline of record reflect strategies for accommodating and engaging diverse student populations, advancing equitable outcomes, and fostering inclusion for all students?

Needs DEI statement.

Course Codes (Admin Only)

CB00 State ID

CCC000593471

CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

CB11 Course Classification Status

Y - Credit Course

CB13 Special Class Status

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

CB23 Funding Agency Category

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

CB24 Program Course Status

Program Applicable

Allow Pass/No Pass

Yes

Only Pass/No Pass

No