General Course Information

The main purpose of this course is for you to develop a better understanding of the theoretical principles on which scientific research is based, and how those principles are reflected in the established techniques for doing social science research.

Instructor: Prof. Jessie Fan, 242 AEB
Telephone/E-Mail: 581-4170. E-Mail via the course WebCT site
Office Hours: TBA


Course Outline

Week 1/2 (8/23-9/2): Chapter 1. Human Inquiry and Science
Week 3 (9/3-9/9): Chapter 2. Theory and Research and
Chapter 3. The Ethics and Politics of Social Research
Week 4 (9/10-9/16): Chapter 4. Research Design
Week 5 (9/17-9/23): Chapter 5 Conceptualization, Operationalization, and Measurement
Week 6 (9/24-9/30): Chapter 6. Indexes, Scales, and Typologies
Week 7 (10/1-10/7): Chapter 7. The Logic of Sampling

Week 8 (10/8-10/14): First Exam (Paper-based. Please register with U-Online)

Week 9 (10/15-10/21): Chapter 8. Experiments
Week 10 (10/22-10/28): Chapter 9. Survey Research
Week 12 (11/5-11/11): Chapter 11. Unobtrusive Research
Week 13 (11/12-11/18): Chapter 12. Evaluation Research
Week 14/15 (11/19-12/2): How to Use Library Resources to Do Research

Week 16 (12/3-12/9): Second Exam (Paper-based. Please register with U-Online)

Holidays: Monday, September 4; Fall break Thurs.-Fri., October 5-6; Thanksgiving break Thurs.-Fri., November 23-24

In order to provide an easy-to-follow weekly structure, I have taken Thanksgiving holiday into consideration (so weeks 14 and 15 are combined with one quiz only), but not the fall break. Please keep in mind that you can always do the lessons, assignments, and quizzes early (but not late). For the week when fall break is involved, you are especially encouraged to do so.
Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

11 Quizzes 20% (2% each. The lowest score will be dropped)
Quiz for learning library research: 8%
Midterm 36%
Final 36%

The final letter grade will be determined using the following criteria:

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<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90% or higher</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>85%-89.9%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82.5%-84.9%</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>75%-82.4%</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>70%-72.4%</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>62.5%-69.9%</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<td>57.5%-59.9%</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>50%-57.4%</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<td>47.4% or lower</td>
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The instructor reserves the right to curve the grades upward if she feels it is warranted.

Things to Note

(1) Withdrawal:
For information regarding withdrawal policy and related tuition and fees, please contact the Register's Office (581-5808).

(2) Learning Disabilities:
Those who need special accommodations due to learning disabilities should contact me during the first two weeks of the semester. I will then work with the Center of Disabled Students Services to make sure that the disability is properly defined and accommodated.

(3) Quizzes
Please note that the lowest quiz score will be dropped. I understand that you sometimes may face extraordinary situations in your life so you cannot take all the quizzes in a timely manner. The dropping of the lowest score is to allow this kind of extraordinary situations. Thus, please don't ask me to extend the time for you to take quizzes because of extraordinary situations as these situations are already taken into consideration with this method.

(4) Extra Credit:
It not my practice to offer extra credit. Extra credit assignments are unfair unless all students are permitted to do them; then extra credit assignments become just one more requirement for all students to complete.

(5) Disagreement about Grades:
If you disagree with the grading of a particular quiz or exam, you need to submit a written statement to me explaining why you think you deserve more or less points. I will then regrade your quiz or exam.

(6) Make-Up Exams:
Make-up exams will be given only if you have a very good reason and have notified the instructor before the exam. Otherwise, no credit will be given for the exam. All make-up exams will be arranged through either UOnline or University Testing Center. The Testing Center charges $5.00 for each exam processed.

(7) Incomplete:
An incomplete will only be granted if you can justify to the instructor that you cannot finish the course because of circumstances beyond your control and if the majority of course work (80%) is already completed.