Sociology 302
Social Research Methods Lab
Fall 2016
M 2:30 – 4:20
King 137

Dr. Christie Parris
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Office: King 305A
Office Hours: Mondays 11:00 – 1:00, Wednesdays 11:00 – 11:50, or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The focus of this lab is on skill development related to information literacy, ethnographic interviewing techniques, qualitative data coding practices and applied statistical analysis and interpretation. This course must be taken concurrently with SOCI 301: Social Research Methods.

REQUIRED TEXTS


Reading due dates are listed in the syllabus for SOCI 301

INSTRUCTOR POLICIES

Attendance: Your consistent, on-time attendance and participation are required. You have two “free” absences this semester. Additional absences will result in a lower final grade. It is not possible to pass this class with several absences. Latecomers disrupt the class. Be on time. 3 late arrivals = 1 absence. Please talk to me beforehand if you anticipate missing a class. It is your responsibility to obtain notes from your classmates if you miss a class.

Classroom Behavior: It is disruptive and unprofessional for a cell phone to go off in class. Turn them off (not on vibrate) before class starts. If your cell phone goes off in class, I reserve the right to lower your grade. Please do not engage in outside activities during class (e.g., texting, knitting).
Laptop Policy: Please ask permission if you prefer to take notes on your laptop. If I notice you navigating away from course material, I will ask that you put it away. I will also request that you send your notes to me via email so that I can verify that you are staying on task. Note: Research has found that students who take handwritten notes remember more of the material and possess a deeper understanding of the material than students who take notes via laptop. For additional information, see: [http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/)

Participation: I expect frequent, active participation from students. We will have class discussions about the readings every week, and therefore I expect you to have completed the readings before we meet each class period. Regular attendance and mindful participation will work to your advantage and will be taken into account when determining final grades.

Assignments: Assignments are due at the beginning of class the day they are due. After this, 1/3 of a letter grade (e.g. an A would be reduced to an A-) will be deducted for each day of lateness. **NO credit will be given for assignments more than 1 week late.**

Assignments are to be handed in on paper (double sided is fine). Please retain a copy of this work for yourself. Use 12pt Times New Roman font, double spaced (unless specifically instructed to use another format) and NUMBERED pages. Staple multiple pages before turning them in. **Points will be deducted for failure to comply with these standards.**

You may discuss assignments with fellow students but the work handed in must be uniquely yours. Students may NOT hand in identical assignments. Doing so is potentially a violation of the honor code.

Meeting with Me: Office Hours are listed at the top of this syllabus. Upon request, I will meet with students at times outside of my office hours. Please contact me to set up such an appointment.

Email Policy: Email is the best way to reach me, although please allow 24 hours for responses. I receive up to 30 or more e-mails per day. Please do not expect me to reply immediately to an e-mail question or request. If something is urgent, signify in the e-mail header that it is urgent. For substantial discussions, please see me during office hours.

Oberlin Honor Code: This course will follow the policies described in the Oberlin College Honor Code and Honor System. Please include the statement “I affirm that I have adhered to the Honor Code in this assignment” and your signature in all written work. Please contact me if you have any questions about citation/referencing, or the relationship of the Honor Code to your work in this course. For more information on the Honor Code, see [http://new.oberlin.edu/students/policies/academic-integrity-and-conduct-systems](http://new.oberlin.edu/students/policies/academic-integrity-and-conduct-systems).

Accommodating Disabilities: If you have or acquire any sort of condition that may require special accommodation(s), please inform me AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (i.e., not the day an
assignment is due) so that we may make the appropriate arrangements. If you need disability-related accommodations for your work in this course, please let me know. Support is available through Student Academic Services. Please contact Jane Boomer, Coordinator Office of Disability Services, (Room G27/28 Peters Hall, ext. 55588, http://www.oberlin.edu/disability) for assistance in developing a plan to address your academic needs.

**Other Issues:** If you are encountering difficulties, academic or otherwise, that are negatively impacting your performance in this class, please speak with me as soon as possible. I can only help you if I know there is a problem, and the earlier I know this, the better.

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I reserve the right to modify the syllabus as needed. I will announce any changes in class, but if you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out about any changes and to be prepared accordingly.
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GRADING CRITERIA

This course is graded Pass/No Pass

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Assignments</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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You must earn a total of 75 points to receive a passing grade in this course.

**Attendance: 40%**
12 labs = 40 pts  
11 labs = 36 pts  
10 labs = 33 pts  
9 labs = 30 pts  
8 labs = 27 pts  
7 labs = 24 pts  
6 labs = 21 pts  
5 labs = 18 pts  
4 labs = 15 pts  
3 labs = 12 pts  
2 labs = 9 pts  
1 lab = 6 pts

**Lab Assignments: 60%**
6 satisfactory lab assignments = 60 pts  
5 satisfactory lab assignments = 50 pts  
4 satisfactory lab assignments = 40 pts  
3 satisfactory lab assignments = 30 pts  
2 satisfactory lab assignments = 20 pts  
1 satisfactory lab assignments = 10 pts

A satisfactory lab assignment is one where you follow all directions and answer all questions fully.
LAB TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES

WEEK 1: 8/29 Information Research Techniques I
LAB ASSIGNMENT # 1 due 9/7 (W)

WEEK 2: 9/5 Labor Day – No Class

WEEK 3: 9/12 Information Research Techniques II
LAB ASSIGNMENT # 2 due 9/19 (M)

WEEK 4: 9/19 Writing an Annotated Bibliography and Literature Review
SOCI 301 Individual Annotated Bibliography 9/23 (F)

WEEK 5: 9/26 Accessing and Using Secondary Survey Data
LAB ASSIGNMENT # 3 due 10/3 (M)

WEEK 6: 10/3 Univariate Statistics
LAB ASSIGNMENT # 4 due 10/10 (M)
SOCI 301 Statistical Exercise 1 due 10/26 (W)

WEEK 7: 10/10 Bivariate Statistics
LAB ASSIGNMENT # 5 due 10/31 (M)
SOCI 301 Statistical Exercise 2 due 11/14 (M)

WEEK 8: 10/17 Fall Break – NO CLASS!

WEEK 9: 10/24 Hypothesis Construction and Testing
SOCI 301 Quantitative Hypothesis Testing due 11/28 (M)

WEEK 10: 10/31 Statistics, Continued

WEEK 11: 11/7 Developing an in-depth Interview Guide
LAB ASSIGNMENT # 6 due 11/9 (W)

WEEK 12: 11/14 Transcribing and Coding In-Depth Interview Data
SOCI 301 Interview Transcript due by 11/30 (W)

WEEK 13: 11/21 Coding Idiographic Interview Data
SOCI 301 Interview Coding due by 12/16 (F)

WEEK 14: 11/28 Preparing a Research Presentation with MS PowerPoint
SOCI 301 Group Presentations due 12/5 – 12/9 (M – F)

WEEK 15: 12/5 Presentations