

FALL 2016
SOCIOLOGY 300
SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS

Professor Cindy Stearns 664-2708 stearns@sonoma.edu

Prerequisites: Sociology major/minor or instructor consent

General Education: No

Course Description: Sociological research methods is an introduction to the fundamentals of research design in Sociology. It is the first in a sequence of methods courses for sociology majors. Students will learn how to select a research topic, formulate a research question, utilize library resources, evaluate ethical issues, design data collection instruments, and engage in preliminary analyses of original data. The course will include both qualitative and quantitative approaches to research design and data analysis. Students will gain a foundational understanding of a variety of research methods, including experiments, questionnaire surveys, observational techniques, qualitative interviewing, and content analysis. Students will gain experience in conducting research through a series of research assignments.

Course Requirements: Students will be evaluated through the completion of research exercises, at least two exams, short paper(s), a research proposal, and numerous in-class activities. Participation in activities and discussion is required in this class. If necessary, quizzes may be incorporated into the course requirements to encourage completion of readings in a timely manner.

Required Textbook: TBA

Additional Course Costs

You will have additional expenses involved in downloading and printing out required readings, transcribed interviews, surveys, and other course materials.