

**Sociology 300: Sociological Research Methods**  
**Fall 2016**

Instructor: Suzel A. Bozada-Deas

Email: adjunctssu@gmail.com

Prerequisite: Sociology majors/minors only. Suggested Prerequisite: Sociology 201  
*The following is subject to change.*

**Course Description:**

Sociology is an evidence-based discipline that relies on careful collection and analysis of data using a variety of methods both qualitatively and quantitatively. Guiding this inquiry are ethical guidelines and a logic that utilizes the scientific method. Sociology 300 is an introductory course geared to teaching students how to conduct sociological inquiry within these tenets and parameters.

Over the course of the semester students will learn: the application of the scientific method to the social sciences, the guiding principles of ethical research, how to operationalize concepts into measures of social phenomena, how to use three sociological methods that are core to sociology (observation, survey building and analysis, and interview), how to utilize basic statistical analysis, and how to produce a literature review using library resources.

**Course Goals:**

1. Give students an understanding of social inquiry from a sociological perspective.
2. Demonstrate how the scientific method is used for social inquiry in the development and testing of hypotheses both inductively and deductively
3. Give students a basic understanding of qualitative versus quantitative methodologies and how these methodologies can be used together
4. Demonstrate to students the importance and challenges of conducting research ethically using disciplinary principles of ethics
5. Expose students to 3 key methods used in sociology: interviews, observations, and surveys
6. Introduce students to basic quantitative research analysis
7. Develop library skills to conduct a review of sociologically relevant literature
8. Develop skills for writing a polished literature review using ASA style

**Course Objectives:**

1. Have students apply principles of ethics to a variety of situations that they may encounter while conducting research
2. Have students develop a literature review on a topic of their choice that utilizes the course materials and demonstrates a level of proficiency to logically set-up a sociological study within disciplinary guidelines and frameworks
3. Have students develop a survey, collect data and analyze that data with basic statistical analysis

4. Have students conduct two participant observations to demonstrate how to apply inductive reasoning for theory and hypothesis building
5. Have students conduct one interview to learn how scholarly literature can be applied to the development of an interview guide