Instructor: Dr. Heather Flynn  
Contact Information: heather.flynn@sonoma.edu  
General Education: No  
Method: Statistics; Secondary Analysis of Quantitative Data

Prerequisites:  
Completion of SOCI 201, SOCI 300, SOCI 375, SOCI 301 or MATH 165, each with a minimum grade of C-, and 12 additional sociology units; sociology major; approved graduation application.

SSU Writing Requirement: Meets WIC/GWAR requirement for students earning a minimum grade of C.

Course Catalog Description  
Capstone course for the major that requires advanced sociological research. Several different topics are offered each semester.

Course Description and Objectives  
The theme of the course is Sports in Society; research projects will be based upon this subject. Weekly topics as they relate to sports include sport research and theory, socialization, children/youth sports, deviance, violence, gender, race, social class, the economy, media, politics, and high school & college sports. This course will introduce students to statistics using secondary analysis of quantitative data. Secondary analysis is (1) the use of data collected by someone other than the researcher and (2) is one of the primary analytical methods used in quantitative Sociology. In this course, students will not collect their own data, but will analyze quantitative data collected from a nationally representative sample and write an original research paper (20 pages minimum).

The course will explore the following topics: research design; operationalization and measurement; establishing causality; statistical inference; and basic and intermediate statistics, including probability, cross-tabulations, z-scores, t-tests, correlation, chi-square, and multiple regression. A major component of the course will be using SPSS, a statistics software program, to analyze the data.

This course is highly recommended for students planning to attend graduate school in Sociology and for students interested in research careers.

Required TEXTS & TOOLS  
- Additional readings on Moodle
- Handheld calculator

Course Requirements and Grading (Subject to Change)  
Students will be required to complete weekly statistics homework and several statistics SPSS lab assignments in addition to the following research assignments: research question, literature review, research proposal, hypotheses, final presentation, and final research paper (minimum 20 pages).

- Exams: 30%
- Research Project/Paper & Lab Assignments: 60%
• Attendance and Statistics Homework: 10%