
Important Stuff

- **Academic Etiquette:** Class begins on time. Please contact me if you must be late. Please resist the temptation to pack up before the end of class. If you must leave early please let me know before class and cause as little disruption as possible when you leave. Academic etiquette also includes treating all class members with respect and resisting the desire to have private conversations with the people sitting near you. Even whispering is distracting to others-- including the instructor.
- **Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in failing the course. In addition to failing the course it is possible there will be other disciplinary action as I will report the incident. Cheating is a serious offense and will not be tolerated. Forms of cheating include, but are not limited to, turning in a paper written for another course, having another student write your assignment, copying another student's assignment, and plagiarizing. Plagiarism comes in a lot of forms. The most common form of plagiarism used by students is failure to correctly cite *in the body of the paper* whose ideas and/or words you have used. If the ideas or words you use have been taken from the work of someone else, you must give that person(s) credit by citing them in the body of your paper and listing them on a reference page. **This includes ideas and quotations from your textbook!** Remember I expect your work to be your own. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism it is essential that you talk to me. Please become familiar with the Student Conduct Code
<http://life.umt.edu/SA/documents/fromWeb/StudentConductCode1.pdf>.

If you have any questions regarding plagiarism see the following.

- <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>
<http://sja.ucdavis.edu/files/plagiarism.pdf>
- **Getting Help:** Most of us could use a little help at various times in our academic lives. If you find yourself needing some extra help in this course please let me know. If you need help with the course material, we can meet during office hours or I can help you form a study group with others in the class.
- **Late Homework:** Mark your calendars NOW with the due dates of ALL assignments (this includes homework). **All homework-- including study guides – are due in class**, unless otherwise specified. To be fair to those who turn in their work on time, late work will be penalized for each partial or full day (including Saturdays and Sundays) they are late. The penalty for late portfolio assignments will be 10 points for each late day.
- **About You:** If you have needs that may affect your performance in this class, please let me know in person or on your written information sheet. By working together we will be able to make this class a positive experience for you. Such needs might include sitting in the front of the class or tape recording class sessions.
- **Attendance:** Please note the format for this class is discussion. Thus your attendance is very important. In fact, because this is a discussion rather than a lecture course each of us must be active participants, both as learners and as teachers. Please note that active participation **REQUIRES** attendance **AND** advance preparation. I will be taking attendance on a regular basis. .
- **Electronic Devices** It is distracting when students carry on private conversations on a cell phone, use their headphones, read the paper, or *text message*. Cell phones, palm pilots, and music listening devices (iPods, etc.) must be left in your bags, **NOT ON THE TABLE AND NOT IN YOUR LAP**. To date I have been unable to deter students' texting or playing on their computers. Thus, I have adopted a rigid and punitive policy. The following policy is based on Dr. Carmen Lugo Lugo's (WSU) syllabi. Cellular Phones and other Communication/Electronic Devices: Turn your cell phones and communication devices off before coming to class (**this includes laptop computers--even if your computer lacks an internet connection-- blackberries and any other electronic device utilized to communicate with the world outside our classroom**). Of course, iPods and other gadgets used for entertainment are also prohibited. The world can survive without getting a hold of you 110 minutes. And you will also survive without knowing what's going on outside the classroom for a few minutes. Trust me, it will be ok. If, for any reason you forget to neutralize your communication device, and it does go off during class please turn it off immediately. Note: If I catch you "texting" during class, you will be required to stand up and share with your classmates why you were texting and who you were texting. You will also be awarded "horrible participation" for that day.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

PREPARE FOR CLASS (i.e., do and think about the readings before class.)

Most of the in class time will be devoted to class discussions and exercises. For these to be productive and for them to facilitate the learning process everyone must have completed the reading. Therefore, the first requirement for this class is that everyone read the assignments **BEFORE** class.

Earn Points	Maximum
Experiment Study Guide	100 points
Pop Quizzes	100 points
Research Assignments	550 points
Participation and Attendance	<u>100 points</u>
Total Points	850points

The semester grades will be distributed this way: 90% & above an A; 80% to 89% a B; 70%- 79 % a C; 60 to 69% a D, and anything below 60% an F.

PARTICIPATION. (Participation in class discussions and research exercises)

The class participation grade will be, in part, based on your direct contributions to class discussions (e.g. asking and answering questions and general contributions to discussions such as being an active listener). This portion of your participation grade will **NOT** be based on how much you talk but rather on the quality of your contributions to the class. I will call on people who do not voluntarily join in the discussions. This will give students who find it difficult to jump into class discussions an opportunity to participate. It is perfectly acceptable to come with written questions or comments that you can make either when you think it is relevant or when you are called on. Part of the participation grade will also be based on punctuality, respecting fellow students, staying in the class room the whole class period, and attendance.

Please note: I will NOT be just "giving" everyone an "A" for class participation. Expect to earn your grade. Additionally, please note that I consider it impossible for you to be an active class participant if you are seldom in class. Thus, if you are seldom in class you can expect a zero for participation.

POP QUIZZES To encourage thoughtful reading of the text we will have regular pop quizzes. Each quiz will be worth 20 points. There will be at least 6 quizzes. I will drop your lowest quiz score.

STUDY GUIDES Through out the semester you will receive study guide type questions, thought questions, research exercises, and library work. The **ONLY** study guide that is worth any points(i.e., required to be handed in) is study guide 8. That study guide is worth 100 points and is due Thurs. June, 16th.

RESEARCH ASSIGNMENTS Over the semester you will be preparing a research project portfolio. Keep the assignments in a three ring binder and turn in the binder with **all prior assignments on each due date**.

- 1. ASSIGNMENT 1:** 50 points Research Topic. Write a 2-4 page essay describing a social science topic under the general topic “the sociology of education” that interests you. This will be the topic on which you’ll work the remainder of the semester. Ask yourself and write on: Why does the topic interest me? What do I already know about it? How do I know this? What is my basic research question? What are some subtopics I am interested in? What type of research questions might I ask about these subtopics? What relevant literature have I identified to help research the question? (Include at least six sources). **Four of the sources must be from sociology journals.**
- 2. ASSIGNMENT 2:** 100 points Annotated Bibliography. You will receive a handout regarding the annotated bibliography.
- 3. ASSIGNMENT 3:** Field study [**100 points**] Instructions will follow at a later date.
- 4. ASSIGNMENT 4:** Qualitative Interview Study. [**100 points**].
- 5. ASSIGNMENT 5:** **100 points** Survey proposal including a questionnaire. Pretest questionnaire in class on Monday, June 13th.

Class Calendar

The following class schedule is tentative and subject to change. It is your responsibility to be in class to find out about the changes.

Mon. and Tues. May 16 th & 17 th What is Social Science Research? Reading: Neuman: Chapter 1
Wed. and Thursday. May 18 th and 19 th Orienting Strategy & Topic Selection Reading: Neuman: Chapters 1 and 2 Study Guide #1 Assign. #1 Due Thursday the 19th
Mon. and Tues. May 23 rd and 24 th Reviewing the Literature (Library Workshops) Reading: Neuman: Chapter 4
Wed. and Thurs. May 25 th and 26 th Research Ethics & Protecting Your Subjects Study Guide# 2 Reading: Neuman: Chapter 3 & Humphreys: <i>Tearoom Trade</i> - Chapters 1 and 2 (soc page) Research ethics exam: Certificate of Completion due Thursday the 26th http://www.umt.edu/research/complianceinfo/IRB/_Select Option 3: University On Line Ethics Course.
Week ⁵ Tuesday – Thursday May 31 st – June 2 nd Qualitative Research: Design and Measurement, Field Research and Interviews Reading: Neuman:Chap. 4 (pgs. 88-91 & 105-106); Chap. 5, Chap. 6 (pgs. 141-145),: Chap.11 & 13 Ain't No Makin It (soc page) and Boswell and Spade (soc page) Reading: Review 11, 13, 14, & MacLeod, & and Read Johnson pgs 219-234 Study Guides 3 & 4 Assign.# 2— Annotated Bib Due Tuesday, May 31st
Monday – Thursday, June 6 th – 9 th Quantitative Research: Survey Research and Sampling Study Guides 5, 6 and 7 Assignment 3 Due Monday, June 6th, Assignment 4 Due Wednesday June 8th Reading: Neuman Chap. 4, (pages 91-106), Chapter 5, 6, 7 and 11 and Hadaway et al.: "What the Polls Don't Show." (soc page)
Week ¹² Monday and Tuesday: June 13 th and 14 th Experimental & Quasi Experimental Designs Pretest Questionnaires Monday, June 13th Reading: Neuman Chapter 8
Wed., June 15 th Unobtrusive Methods/Content Analysis Reading: Neuman Chapter 9 Assignment 5 Due Wed., April 15th
Thursday, June 16 th Study Guide 8 due at my office by 3:00