

**University of Texas at Arlington
Department of Sociology and Anthropology**

**Sociology
COURSE SYLLABUS
SOCI – 5303 Section 001
Research Design
Spring 2014**

Instructor's Name	Dr. Dorothy Kalanzi
Instructor's Office	University Hall – Room 438
E-mail Address	Kalanzi@uta.edu
Office Hours	Mondays and Fridays 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. or by Appointment
Class Days and Times	Wednesdays 3:00 p.m. to 5:50 p.m.
Meeting Location	UH 16
Faculty Profile	http://www.uta.edu/mentis/public/#profile/profile/edit/id/12848/category/1

COURSE DISCRIPTION

Seminar on the design, plan, structure, and strategies of contemporary social research. This course examines the interrelationships of theory, methods, and statistics along with problems of measurement, sampling, scaling techniques, and the presentation of statistical data. (3 credit hours)

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

TEXT: Creswell, John. W. 2014. *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches* (4th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. ISBN: 978-1-4522-2610-1.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS at UTA's Library reference desk:

Chicago Manual of Style (University of Chicago Press, 2010). Please find this book at <http://pulse.uta.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=1890709>.

Supplementary Reading materials will be distributed during the course as necessary.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate broad conceptual understanding of quantitative, qualitative, and mixed research methods
2. Demonstrate knowledge of contemporary sampling techniques
3. Measure and write testable research questions and hypotheses
4. Demonstrate knowledge of ethical concerns in research.
5. Apply critical thinking skills selecting a topic, designing a study, collecting and analyzing data.
6. Demonstrate and apply knowledge of formulating theoretical arguments
7. Design a research study in the area of interest in the field of Social Science and write a proposal for that study
8. Demonstrate knowledge of disseminating research findings to colleagues or in a publication.

EXPECTATIONS

ACADEMIC CONDUCT: This graduate level course will introduce you to and expect of you graduate level performance and behavior. The goal for all students should be to maximize benefits from taking this course. This will only be accomplished by keeping up with all reading assignments; attending all class sessions; constructively engaging in class discussions and activities; and completing all course assignments by the due dates. Every student is expected to take full responsibility for her or his own learning by completing all course requirements as scheduled, applying course material to her or his profession and society, and seeking assistance when needed.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT: Please be respectful to all members of the class. All electronic devices must be off during the class session. If you must have your cell phone active, please remember to put it on vibrate mode. In case of emergency, please quietly leave the room to answer your phone or text messages.

ASSESSMENT AND PROCEDURES

MID-TERM EXAMINATION: There will be a Mid-term examination assessing covered material from course readings, lectures, movies and related activities. The examination will be worth 100 points. Students must complete this exam to pass the course. The format for the exam will be discussed in advance.

Exam Make up Policy: All students are expected to take the Mid-term examination as scheduled. No early or late exam will be given **UNLESS** if a student has a legitimate excuse such as a written documentation of death or a serious illness, court appearance, or absence on a college sponsored function. These are the only legitimate excuses for failure to show up for the examination or class session. **Make sure you understand these policies.** Remember that it is your responsibility to contact me if you must miss the mid-term exam for any reason

RESEARCH PROPOSAL: Each student is expected to design a research study and write a research proposal for that study. The research proposal paper should not exceed 15 pages (excluding references), double spaced using a 12 point size, Times Roman font. The proposal must be proofread and it must include proper citation consistent with the Chicago Manual of Style. The title of the research study will be chosen by the student in consultation with the instructor. The weight of the research study proposal will be 25% of the final grade. Assessment will be based on the students' ability to demonstrate conceptual comprehension of research methods, data collection and analysis techniques, application of theory, etc. as will be covered in class.

ORAL PRESENTATION: Each student will give a 15 to 20 minutes (including the questions and answer session) presentation of her or his study proposal in class as scheduled. The structure of the presentation will be consistent to that of a professional conference. Proposal report presentation assessment will focus on organization, quality and clarity of content, presentation style, etc. The weight of the oral presentation will be worth 5% of the final grade.

JOURNAL ARTICLE CRITIQUE: Every student will be required to critique a recent journal article from a major social science journal or database and to write a maximum of 6 double-spaced pages (excluding references) using a 12 point size, Times Roman font. Additional instructions for this

assignment will be provided later in the course. Submitted critiques must include a copy of the article (stapled together, your critique report on top of the published article).

SHORT WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS: Students will complete eight short written assignments during the semester. The length of these short exercises will be 1-2 pages, 12 point size, Times Roman font. The major purpose for these assignments will be to assist students successfully complete their research proposal project. It is important that every student completes the written assignments as scheduled to foster and maximize learning from class discussions. Additionally, written assignments will not only assist students to acquire a deeper understanding of research methods and develop critical thinking skills, but they will help students demonstrate or apply that knowledge to real life situations. Information about the short written assignments will be provided in class.

ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION: Attendance to all class meetings is required for success in this course, it will be recorded, and it will affect your final grade. Every student is expected to express his or her opinions, thoughts, and questions during the class session. I will value everyone's input as well as contributions, and I will do my best to encourage them by working with you to create a climate that is conducive for participation. I am sure that all of you will have something to contribute at one time or another. Please do so. I will treat your contributions with respect, and I expect you to do the same. Attendance will be assessed based on the number of class sessions attended. Class participation will be assessed based on constructive/not disruptive engagement in class discussions and activities. Both attendance and class participation will constitute 15% of the final grade. I will not remind you of missed assignments, notes, handouts, or any other matter. If you must miss a class meeting, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed from fellow students.

READINGS: It is extremely important that you have enough time to devote to and complete all assigned readings as scheduled for the successful completion of this course. Being prepared for class with completed assignments will enrich the learning process via discussions and collaborative group work, all of which may have an impact on the weight of your final grade.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

FINAL REVIEW WEEK

A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations is designated as Final Review Week at UTA. The purpose of this week is to allow you sufficient time to prepare for your finals. During this week, classes are held as scheduled.

GRADING SCALE

Your course grade will be based on the number of points earned. Your responsibility is to earn as many points as possible. The best way to achieve this is to do as well as possible on the exam, do a good job on written assignments, attend all class sessions, and be active in class. To give you an idea of where you stand at any point during the semester, the following grading scale will be used:

Assignment	Point Value	% Final Grade	Outcomes Assessed	Percentage/Letter Grade
Mid-Term Exam	100	25%	1-8	A = 100-90 B = 89-80 C = 79-70 D = 69-60 F = Below 60
Research Paper Proposal	100	25%	1-8	
Oral Presentation	20	5%	1-8	
Journal Article Critique	40	10%	1-8	
8 Short Written Assignments	80	20%	1-8	
Attendance/Participation	60	15%	1-8	
Total Points	400	100%	1-8	

DROP POLICY

Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY

At the end of each term, you will be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. You are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

EMERGENCY EXIT PROCEDURES

Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, everyone should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, you should never take an elevator, use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist you in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

EEOC STATEMENT

The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, or disability in the employment or the provision of services.

E-MAIL

I will be available to you by e-mail or office hours. Please feel free to E-mail me if you have questions or concerns. I check my E-mail daily. Try to be brief and on the point to accommodate other students who may wish to communicate with me at the same time.

PROJECTED TOPICS AND READING SCHEDULE

(This schedule may change at the discretion of the instructor. “As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course.”)

Meeting Time /Week/Day	ASSIGNMENT
WEEK 01 (January 15)	Introduction to Social Research – Supplementary Material Short Written Assignment 01
WEEK 02 (January 22) Readings	Chapter 2 - Review of the Literature Guest Speaker Short Written Assignment 02
WEEK 03 (January 29) Readings	Chapter 1 - The Selection of a Research Approach Short Written Assignment 01 Due
WEEK 04 (February 05) Readings	Chapter 3 The Use of Theory Short Written Assignment 02 Due
Week 05 (February 12) Readings	Sampling Short Written Assignment 03 – <i>(Distributed on Day 1 – Reminder)</i>
WEEK 06 (February 19) Readings	Chapter 4 – Writing Strategies and Ethical Considerations Short Written Assignment 03 Due Short Written Assignment 04
WEEK 07 (February 26) Readings	Chapter 5 - The Introduction Short Written Assignment 04 Due Short Written Assignment 05
WEEK 08 (March 05)	MID-TERM
WEEK 09 (March 10-14)	HAPPY SPRING BREAK
WEEK 10 (March 19) Readings	Chapter 6 - The Purpose Statement Short Written Assignment 05 Due Short Written Assignment 06
WEEK 11 (March 26) Readings	Chapter 7 - Research Questions and Hypotheses Short Written Assignment 06 Due
WEEK 12 (April 02) Readings	Descriptive Statistics – Supplementary Material Short Written Assignment 07

WEEK 13 (April 09) Readings	Chapter 8 - Quantitative Methods Short Written Assignment 07 Due
WEEK 14 (April 16) Readings	Chapter 9 - Qualitative Methods Journal Article Critique Short Written Assignment 08
WEEK 15 (April 23) Readings	Chapter 10 - Mixed Methods Procedures Short Written Assignment 08 Due
WEEK 14 (April 30)	ORAL PRESENTATIONS Final Proposal Report Due
WEEK 15 (May 03-09)	FINALS WEEK