

Notice: The ingredients of this syllabus can change without notice

SOCI 103M - Computer Appl/Data Management

Instructor: Kevin Kilpatrick

Days & Time: Tue 5:00-7:50

Room: CH217A

Office: SSB 417

SOCI 103M Office Hours – F-10:00-12:00, or by ZOOM Appointment

Sociology Office – SSB401

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Course Description

SOCI 103M is designed to introduce students to advanced concepts of research methodology, and to help students better understand the process of survey project execution at the professional level.

SOCI 103M leads students through the process of preparing GIS mapping imagery, writing syntax code, executing efficient and readable output files, and writing research reports using the accumulation of the before mentioned abilities. Students will learn advanced MS Word and Powerpoint (which doesn't mean anything because you all use Google Docs 😊) methods that will lift their report writing and presentation skills far above their peers.

There are no exams in SOCI 103M. The grade will be comprised of writing ability on a number of paper assignments, syntax code and mapping, the elements of report generation, and presentation of results. Weekly assignments will also contribute to the final grade.

Students should contact the professor promptly with *any* difficulties.

Required Text:

There is no required or recommended text. The course will be conducted entirely through Canvas.

Student Learning Outcomes:

This course contains elements of the following student learning outcomes:

1. Analyze the merits of competing theoretical approaches to formulate empirically researchable questions about social life. SOCI 103M introduces the primary sociological theories and challenges students to focus their general research question around a specific sociological premise.
2. Locate, analyze, assess, and communicate sociological scholarship. SOCI 103M is a steppingstone to graduate studies in sociological practice. It exposes frailties in political polling and the release of incomplete or skewed data by the media. It also introduces students to a diverse number of employment possibilities, including but not limited to civic, clinical, academic, funded project, and market research.

3. Understand and employ a range of quantitative research strategies - and their applicability to particular research questions, theoretical orientations and social contexts. SOCI 103M focuses on quantitative research strategies only, however, there are numerous research question possibilities and social contexts to which the data can be applied. Theoretical orientations are introduced to students at the onset of the semester and can be included in their general research questions and final research projects.

4. Construct informed theories of social behavior from systematic observation of social life. SOCI 103M uses secondary data analysis to form general and specific research questions. The data represent genuine answers to questions dealing with a diverse range of CSUSM experience and social media topics. Behavioral observations can range from how content an individual is in general, how uncomfortable one is when deprived of their ability to use social media, how much their life at CSUSM affects their overall life, and many other topics.

5. Understand the ethical and social justice implications of sociological inquiry. SOCI 103M contains a section specifically targeting the ethics of quantitative research. Examples of biased reporting based on purposely skewed datasets will be presented. Social justice implications are reinforced with specific examples throughout the semester.

6. Apply sociological theory and empirical research to advocate for positive social change. SOCI 103M highlights examples of both reliable and suspect research outcomes. This gives students a critical awareness about the type of data and results available to an innocent populace.

7. Analyze and interpret the diversity of social experience associated with criminology and social justice issues, especially as they relate to race, class, gender, age, sexualities, religion and nationality.

8. Locate, analyze, assess, and communicate criminology and social justice scholarship.

9. Articulate the applicability of and demonstrate ability to employ a range of research strategies to particular research questions, theoretical orientations, and social contexts.

Students who graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology will be able to:

1. Analyze and interpret the diversity of social experience using a sociological perspective, especially in relation to race, class, gender, age, sexual preference, religion and nationality.

2. Assess competing theoretical approaches to societal problems of publics with differing and multiple interests; specify structural or institutional sources of these social problems; and propose and assess policies, interventions and/or modes of advocacy that will enact positive change.

3. Locate, analyze, assess, and communicate sociological scholarship.

4. Apply quantitative or qualitative strategies to research questions, theoretical orientations, and/or social contexts.

5. Articulate the ethical and social justice implications of sociological inquiry.

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Academic Honesty and Integrity:

Students will be expected to adhere to standards of academic honesty and integrity, as outlined in the Student Academic Honesty Policy. All assignments must be original work, clear and error-free. All ideas/material that are borrowed from other sources must have appropriate references to the original sources. Any quoted material should give credit to the source and be punctuated accordingly.

Students are responsible for honest completion and representation of their work. Your course catalog details the ethical standards and penalties for infractions. There will be zero tolerance for infractions. If you believe there has been an infraction by someone in the class, please bring it to the instructor's attention. The instructor reserves the right to discipline any student for academic dishonesty, in accordance with the general rules and regulations of the university. Disciplinary action may include the lowering of grades and/or the assignment of a failing grade for an exam, assignment, or the class as a whole.

Incidents of Academic Dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students. Sanctions at the University level may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

Civil Campus Campaign, and how its principles apply to this class. Anyone challenging civility in my classes will feel my wrath.

Care- Consideration of others

Respect- Esteem for others

Empathy- Recognize and share feelings of others

Culture- Experiences from others different than ourselves

Humanity- Our world population / diversity

X/C - Attend an on or off in-person or virtual campus function - 5 pts. (you can attend up to five events)

Course Requirements

Commitment:

If you want an 'A', and we all do, please come to class. Do your assignments well. Ask Kilpatrick any question you like, anytime.

Computers:

Students should possess a good working knowledge of computer file folder trees and the makeup of a desktop or laptop screen. A sound grasp of Word and Excel are also recommended, but not required. Experience with statistical software is not required. Students should always be aware of no less than three ways to save files. NEVER work on a file after OPENING it from an email or other electronic communication. ALWAYS use the save as command to save it as a new file and then work on it.

Course Design:

This course will cover material in Kilpatrick's lessons (MS Powerpoint), problem sets (MS Word), and various aspects of survey research projects, including GIS mapping, syntax, data manipulation, descriptive and inferential reporting, the test for significance, and other topics.

Grading

There are 400 possible points in this class. You'll need 380 to get an A. Final grades for this course will be calculated from the following requirements:

SPSS Frequency Distribution Table (30 points)

Just a quick assignment to let skool know you're here

GIS Mapping (50 points)

A very cool way to show research results by generating a diverse assortment of maps.

Syntax File (50 points)

Specific SPSS syntax computer code which executes commands to define datasets, manipulate variables, run descriptive and inferential statistical analyses.

Recoding and Select If Commands (70 points)

Data manipulation is an oft used practice in professional research settings. Students will produce frequency distribution tables based on Recode & Select If problems provided by yours truly.

Final Survey Project Paper/Questionnaire/Database – (80 points) (Must include these ingredients)

Report of Findings

Paper must show at least two types of inferential analysis

Paper must contain "Word Wrap" text around tables and/or charts.

Database built from the questionnaire.

Final Survey Project Presentation (50 points)

Powerpoint / i-Movie / Prezi / Tik Tok / Whatever / Make it dope, chill, cool?

This is a summary of your report you would show on a screen while delivering a lecture. Everyone in the audience has a copy of your paper, so make sure your presentation is uncluttered.

Student Dataset (70 points)

Defined Completely / Question by Question

Ready for Data Input

Title Case for All Labels / **Spelling** is very important

Writing Assignments

Assignment #2: Write a short, 6-8 page research report.

Assignment #3: Produce a short, 8-10 slide research presentation (summary of your paper).

Course Schedule – Consult Canvas for Turn it in Papers

10/3

Introduction & WDYGASAA

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Please download all files ending with the word "Database" into a safe folder. Take a gander at the syllabus, Shoot me an email if you have any questions.

Please go into the introduction and tell me which picture you like and why. A few sentences is all I ask.

Go into the forum this week or next and tell me WDYGASAA. Read a few of the other students' comments. Get to know each other.

10/10

Important – create an ArcGIS account this week! See Canvas.

Select If Commands

This week we get to learn how people and organizations lie through their teeth using statistics. The Select Cases command allows one to hold back any information they please before performing analyses.

10/17

Defining an SPSS Database

This week you will use the questionnaire in Canvas to define and build an SPSS database. Please see this week's Canvas for more info and videos.

10/24

ArcGIS Mapping Software Introduction & Lesson

Geographic Information Systems Maps are another way to show data to various audiences. People have different learning styles, and GIS Maps are very visual. Please see this week's Canvas for more info and videos.

10/31

Recoding Variables

This week we'll learn about recoding SPSS variables. This type of manipulation creates new variables from existing variables in data sets. You might use these functions in order to perform certain analyses you couldn't with the original variable.

11/7

Syntax Code Lesson and Assignment

This week we'll learn about syntax files, a way to save instructions to execute commands in SPSS. Defining databases with syntax commands saves tons of time when working on large databases and huge data dumps.

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11/14

Syntax Code Lesson Completion

You can use syntax to manipulate variables (Recode and Select If) and run a variety of descriptive and inferential analyses. Like all the stuff you'll do to write your paper.

11/21

Research Projects

We will at look at a diagram of how to write your research paper and four inferential analyses you'll learn in this course: Crosstabulation, Correlation, Independent Sample T-test, and Analysis of variance.

11/28

Work on final projects – report, presentation, and database

12/5

Work on final projects – report, presentation, and database

12/15 11:30 - 1:30 - Final Exam Day.

All Projects Due 12/16 11:59PM

Work on final projects – report, presentation, and database

This is your SPSS Data File

This is your Report

This is your Presentation (whichever software you prefer)