Introduction to Social Research
920:311:06 & 07

Instructor: Anna Harewood
Email: aharewood@sociology.rutgers.edu
Office Hours: Thursdays, 10-11am at the College Ave Student Center, downstairs
I am also available to meet with students immediately after class.

Schedule: Mondays and Thursdays, 8:10-9:30am (MTH1)
Location: Room 212, Murray Hall, CAC
Dates: Thursday, September 1 – Monday, December 19, 2011
Section 06: Mondays, 9:45-10:40am (M2*) in Scott Hall, Room 201
Section 07: Thursdays, 10:05-11:00am (TH2*) in Scott Hall, Room 203

TA
Yu-Sheng Lin
Email: ylin@sociology.rutgers.edu
Office Hours: Mondays, 10:50-11:50am, CAC Student Center, or by appointment

Course Description
This course deals with the logic of the research process in social science. We will cover various types of research design, different ways of gathering data, causality, analysis and interpretation, basic quantitative analysis, sampling, measurement, and ethical concerns. We will focus on evaluating different research methods and their scholarly applications.

Books & Readings
There are two required books: Making Sense of the Social World: Methods of Investigation, 3rd edition (2010), by Daniel F. Chambliss and Russell K. Schutt, and Promises I Can Keep: Why Poor Women Put Motherhood Before Marriage (2005/6), by Kathryn Edin and Maria Kefalas. They are available from the Rutgers University Bookstore in the Feren Mall, but you can likely find both used from other outlets. All other required readings for this class are available on the course Sakai site.

Sakai Site
You can find required readings for the course that do not come from the textbook or Promises I Can Keep under the “Resources” tab on the course Sakai site. The in-class assignments are also available on the site. If you miss class, you should print the assignment, do it, and bring it to your next recitation meeting to get credit for it.
You should check the site once a week or so, especially the day of class, and make sure that you check your Rutgers email frequently for announcements and notifications about the class.
Course Requirements
Midterm Exam 30%
Final Exam 30%
Assignments 30%
Participation 10%

Assignments
This course requires several assignments, due dates TBA in class. Assignments are not graded. If an assignment is inadequate or incorrect, you must revise and resubmit to get credit. There will be time in recitation to work on most assignments, and most assignments will be due in the same class that they are assigned. You must complete all assignments to receive the 30% assignment grade; otherwise, you will receive 0 for this portion of the course, and will not be able to pass the class.

Exams
Exams consist of short answer questions and problems. Both exams will cover material from readings and lecture. Exams are not cumulative, although key ideas and concepts will carry over. All students must take the exams when they are scheduled. Make-up exams are only available with a Dean’s Note and my advance approval; all make-up exams will be long essay format. Traffic is not an excuse for missing or coming late to an exam. Plan accordingly.

Participation
Participation means:
1. speaking in class in response to my questions during lecture and contributing to discussions in lecture, and
2. contributing to discussions and working on assignments during recitation.
If you do not participate, you will not get points. Note that there is no grade for attendance. If you attend every class but never speak, you will not get points for participation. You do not need to speak in every class to get a perfect participation grade, however you do need to speak often and offer thoughtful comments.

Policy
If you find any of these policies unacceptable, you should not take this course. I do not make exceptions.

Attendance
Missing more than 4 lectures or recitations (any combination) will result in an F in the course. No exceptions. Save your absences for emergencies. Persistent lateness will also reduce your grade.
If you expect to miss class due to illness or family emergencies, please use the University absence reporting website, at https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/, to indicate the date and reason for your absence. Use this absence reporting system only for illness or family emergencies, not for absences related to other personal reasons. I am automatically notified via email when you use this system to report an absence.
Phone Use in Class
Texting in class will reduce your participation grade (even if you participate actively), and upon multiple offenses, decrease it to zero. If you imagine that Yu-Sheng or I cannot see you texting, please come to the front of the room to adopt our viewpoints.

Grading
Rutgers University uses a lettered grading system. Your final grade will be assigned in accordance with this system, shown below. You must complete all assignments and exams to get a grade; otherwise you will receive an F.

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<td>F</td>
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Final Grades
There will be no extra credit offered in this course. I do not curve, and I do not negotiate final grades. Again, there will be no extra credit offered in this course. I do not curve, and I do not negotiate final grades. Make sure you understand what this policy means before you decide to stay in this class, especially if you are a senior who intends to graduate at the end of this term.

Timeliness
All course requirements must be completed by the end of the course. Should exceptional circumstances (by my determination) arise, all course requirements must be completed within one month of the final exam. I do not consider any circumstances to be exceptional, regardless of their nature, if they occurred during the course of the term, but you do not bring them to my attention until the end of the term, or after final grades have been submitted.

If you are having a problem that interferes with your ability to complete your work in this class, please let me know right away. This includes problems that you anticipate may interfere with your ability to complete the course requirements. I cannot make exceptions after the fact.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is using another person’s words and ideas as though they were your own. This includes both published work and other students’ work. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense which can result in your expulsion from the University. You are responsible for knowing the standards of academic integrity as set forth by the University.
COURSE SCHEDULE

Please read the assigned material before class.

Although it’s unlikely, the course schedule is subject to change. Announcements of changes in dates and/or reading assignments will be made in class and posted as announcements on Sakai.

Thursday September 1   Introduction & Course Overview
                        No recitation
Read: This syllabus, in its entirety.

Monday September 5      NO CLASS, Labor Day

Thursday September 8    The Research Circle (Monday classes meet today.)
                        No recitation
Read: Chambliss & Schutt, Chapter 2: The Process and Problems of Social Research

Monday September 12     Variables & Hypotheses
                        First recitation for SECTION 06
Read: Stephens, “Chapter 1” (pp. 1-19) from Hypotheses & Evidence
      Babbie, “A Variable Language” (pp. 14-19)

Thursday September 15   Causality I
                        First recitation for SECTION 07
Read: Chambliss & Schutt, Chapter 6: Causation and Experimental Design (pp. 130-135 only)

Monday September 19     Causality II
Read: Stephens, “Cause & Effect” (pp. 168-187) from Hypotheses & Evidence

Thursday September 22   Experiments: Causality and Research Design
Read: Chambliss & Schutt, Chapter 6: Causation and Experimental Design (pp. 135-157)
      Babbie, “The Classical Experiment” (pp. 222-234)

Monday September 26     Experiments II
Read: Pager, “The Mark of a Criminal Record”

Thursday September 29   NO CLASS, Canceled
                        Recitation still meets

Monday October 3        Reliability & Validity: Assessing Measurement
Read: Babbie, “Criteria of Measurement Quality” (pp. 143-148)

Thursday October 6      Reliability & Validity II
Read: Pager & Quillian, “Walking the Talk? What Employers Say Versus What They Do”
Monday October 10  Sampling I
Read: Chambliss & Schutt, Chapter 5: Sampling

Thursday October 13  Sampling II

Monday October 17  Midterm Exam Review
Optional recitation, open to both sections

Thursday October 20  MIDTERM EXAM
No recitation

Monday October 24  Conceptualization
No recitation
Read: Chambliss & Schutt, Chapter 4: Conceptualization and Measurement

Thursday October 27  Operationalization
Read: Fowler, Jr., “How Unclear Terms Affect Survey Data”
Read about The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (AddHealth) online at http://www.cpc.unc.edu/addhealth (“About Add Health” and “Study Design” sections)

Monday October 31  Survey Research I, Happy Hallowe’en
Read: Chambliss & Schutt, Chapter 7: Survey Research

Thursday November 3  Survey Research II
Read: Bearman, Moody & Stovel, “Chains of Affection: The Structure of Adolescent Romantic and Sexual Networks”

Monday November 7  Quantitative Data Analysis I
Read: Chambliss & Schutt, Chapter 8: Elementary Quantitative Data Analysis

Thursday November 10  Quantitative Data Analysis II

Monday November 14  Qualitative Methods
Read: Chambliss & Schutt, Chapter 9: Qualitative Methods: Observing, Participating, Listening

Thursday November 17  Description & Causation I
Read: Edin & Kefalas, from Promises I Can Keep:
   “Introduction”
   “One: ‘Before We Had a Baby…’”

Monday November 21  NO CLASS (Wednesday classes meet today.)
TUESDAY November 22  Description & Causation II (Thursday classes meet today.)
Read:  Edin & Kefalas, from Promises I Can Keep:
   “Four: What Marriage Means”
   “Five: Labor of Love”
   “Six: How Motherhood Changed My Life”

Thursday November 24  NO CLASS, Happy Thanksgiving

Monday November 28  Description & Causation III
Read:  Edin & Kefalas, from Promises I Can Keep:
   “Conclusion: Making Sense of Single Motherhood”

Thursday December 1  Ethics I
Read:  Chambliss & Schutt, Chapter 7: Ethics in Research

Monday December 5  Ethics II
Read:  Scheper-Hughes, “Parts Unknown: Undercover Ethnography of the Organs-Trafficking Underworld”

Thursday December 8  Optional class for survey projects
Optional recitation, open to both sections

Monday December 12  Final Exam Review
Optional recitation, open to both sections
SURVEY PROJECT DUE (You can also hand it in earlier.)

Monday December 19  FINAL EXAM, 8-11am in our regular classroom

Final grades will be submitted via Rutgers’s electronic grade submission system within 48 hours of the final exam. Please do not email me for your final grade.