Methods of social research include the ways that social scientists collect evidence – experiments, surveys, field research, and the like - and the ways that they evaluate it. Techniques for collecting evidence are the focal point of this course, but we will also learn some different data analysis techniques. Much of data analysis in the social sciences, and particularly Sociology, takes the form of statistical analysis, with which you should already be familiar (Soc 274 is a prerequisite for this course), but this is by no means the only type of analysis. In this course you will be introduced to the diversity of research methods that are currently in use, their respective strengths and weaknesses, and have the opportunity to see some of these methods in action in published social research.

**Readings**

*Text (available at the campus bookstore or on reserve at the UA library):*


**Assignments & Grading**

*Quizzes (100 pts. each)*—We will have three short-answer quizzes throughout the course (see below for exact dates) that cover the topics in the readings and class discussions. Each quiz will be at the beginning of class on the scheduled days and take 20-30 minutes. None are cumulative.

*Questionnaire (100 pts.)*—When we study survey research you will be asked to develop your own survey instrument, adhering to the standards discussed in class. Your questionnaire should be able to answer a research question that you will develop in class. You should offer a hypothesis of what you expect to find. Due in class on July 25th.
Interview (100 pts.)—When we study in-depth interviewing you will conduct your own interview with a person whom you do not know. With your interview you should try to answer a research question that you will develop in class. Write up (approx. 2 pgs.) and present your results to your discussion group on August 1st.

Comparative analysis (100 pts.)—When we study comparative analysis you will be given data from which you will derive a solution using the techniques developed by Ragin (ch. 5). Due in class on August 8th.

Participation (100 pts.)—Throughout the course we will have in-class activities (discussion groups, exercises, etc.) for which you will receive credit just for participating. This is one way I hope to encourage your regular attendance. Each activity will be worth 75 points divided by the total number of activities during the semester. The other 25 possible points will come from anonymous peer evaluations from your discussion group at the end of the course. Participation points cannot be made up and will only be waived in extraordinary circumstances.

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<tr>
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<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Questionnaire</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interview</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comparative analysis</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>700</td>
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The top score in the class sets the 100% mark.

A 90-100%
B 80-89%
C 70-79%
D 60-69%
E below 60%

Late assignments will not be accepted.

Students are expected to observe the University’s Code of Academic Integrity. The Code can be found at: http://w3.arizona.edu/~studpubs/handbook/policyframe.html.

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations to fully participate in course activities or meet course requirements must register with the Disability Resource Center. If you qualify for services through DRC, bring your letter of accommodations to me as soon as possible.
calendar

[week 1] ...........................................................................................................................

07.11.05 Introduction
07.12.05 Representing social life [Ragin, ch. 1]
07.13.05 The uses of social research [A & C, ch. 1]
07.14.05 The goals of social research [Ragin, ch. 2]
07.15.05 Theory and research [A & C, ch. 2]

[week 2] ...........................................................................................................................

07.19.05 Quantitative methods [Quiz 1; Ragin, ch. 6]
07.20.05 Sampling [A & C, ch. 5]
07.21.05 Measurement [A & C, ch. 6]
07.22.05 Survey research [A & C, ch. 9]
   Mini-workshop: Asking questions in variable-based research

[week 3] ...........................................................................................................................

07.25.05 Survey research [Questionnaire due]
07.26.05 Experimental research [A & C, ch. 8]
07.28.05 Qualitative methods [Quiz 2; Ragin, ch. 4]
07.29.05 In-depth interviewing [A & C, ch. 10]
   Mini-workshop: Asking questions in case-based research

[week 4] ...........................................................................................................................

08.01.05 In-depth interviewing [Interview due]
08.02.05 Field/ethnographic research [A & C, ch. 11]
08.04.05 Comparative analysis [Ragin, ch. 5]
08.05.05 Comparative analysis

[week 5] ...........................................................................................................................

08.08.05 Content analysis [A & C, ch. 13] [Comparative analysis due]
08.09.05 Archival research [A & C, ch. 12]
08.10.05 [Quiz 3]