

**Sociology 310b**  
**Community Research II**  
**Spring 2017**  
**Tuesday & Thursday**  
**2:00-3:15PM**

**Instructor: Dr. Trish Wonch Hill**

**Office: 370F Whittier Research Center**

**Office hours: 1pm-2pm Tuesday/Thursday small conference room**

**Phone: office: 472-7646 cell: 402-310-0698**

**Email: phill3@unl.edu**

**Room: Oldfather 7<sup>th</sup> floor computer lab**

**Required Texts:**

Milner, M. (2013). Freaks, geeks, and cool kids. Routledge.

Crosnoe, R. (2011). Fitting in, standing out: Navigating the social challenges of high school to get an education. Cambridge University Press.

Pallant, Julia. The SPSS survival manual. Open University Press.

**Course Objectives:**

The purpose of this course is to gain skills and practice in conducting and presenting social science research. This goal will be achieved through class discussions, lecture, small group exercises, guest speakers, practical/real world experiences, and independent research projects. The following objectives will be met throughout the course of the semester:

- The student will gain an understanding of the different types of research design and the appropriateness of each to different questions and populations.
- The student will learn how to develop a research question, how to conceptualize and operationalize key constructs, apply measures, select a sample, process data, and present this information in written form and to potential research clients.
- The student will explore the areas of applied research, qualitative/quantitative research, data cleaning, data analysis, data visualization, and data and research presentation.
- The student will develop a greater awareness of the presence, importance and pitfalls of social research in everyday life.
- The student will learn good practices for conducting ethical research projects.

**Course Requirements:**

Students are required to complete assignments not only in a quality manner but also on time. Because some of the assignments include group work, I reserve the right to change grades to reflect individual participation and effort in the group. This will be done by anonymous group evaluations and instructor observation.

**Participation:**

Your regular presence and active participation in class is vital to your comprehension of the subject matter and success in this course. Therefore, attendance and active participation is *required* and necessary in order to receive a passing grade (see "Grading" below). This is a small class that is intended to be modified throughout the semester to fit you and your classmates' personal learning goals as related to applied social science research. Your participation in activities and discussion is essential to the quality of this learning experience for yourself, and for the rest of the students in the classroom. You should view this class as an active learning community. Phones and other electronic devices are not allowed in the classroom except when explicitly necessary for a class exercise.

**Community Service**

This course involves working with a community partner to collect data for their purposes. As such, there will be out of classroom experiences and events to present your data to community partners. These events are required. Failure to do so will result in a reduced participation grade and a lowered grade on your research project and presentation.

**Instructor Availability**

You are welcome to visit me for any questions, concerns about the class, or just to talk about your interest in Sociology. Outside of office hours, you may contact me via e-mail to communicate with me or to schedule an

appointment. I will respond to e-mails within 24 hours during the week, but often, I am able to respond almost immediately during the day time (8am-5pm). It is fine to send me a reminder if you have an important question and you have not received a response after 24 hours.

### **Canvas/Facebook**

In addition to class and office hours, I will use Canvas to post articles, review assignments, and to post important course information and updates. If you have any limitations for using Canvas, notify me immediately, as computer access is a fundamental requirement of this section. Participation on the class facebook page is also an important piece of this course as I share numerous links/articles/ideas, and you are encouraged to as well.

### **Communication**

You are required to communicate questions, concerns, life events, etc., to me as soon as possible if they will impact your class participation or attendance. Email, or attending office hours is preferable. If you will miss class, notify me as soon as you know, prior to class. If you have an issue with a due date or assignment, email me prior to the deadline. I cannot promise I will accommodate excessive absences (more than 2).

### **Grading:**

#### **Course Requirements**

Class Participation/attendance	10%
Community Participation/Presentations	10%
Weekly Reading Response	10%
Class Discussant (2X during the semester)	10%
Assignments/Class exercises	15%
Literature Review	15%
Research Poster	15%
Final Research Project	15%

**Class Participation/Attendance:** As previously mentioned, students are required to not only attend every class, but to participate in class discussions. Lack of class participation will impact your participation grade. Note that missing more than **two** classes will also affect your participation grade. I take attendance at each class and take notes on who actively participates. Absences beyond the two allowed will be excused (and no points deducted) only in the case of life circumstances (mental/physical illness, disability, death in the family) with verification. It is your responsibility to acquire the material learned from any days when you are absent from Canvas, or from peers in the class. If further clarification is needed, inquire with me as soon as possible. Use of phones or electronic devices outside of designated times will result in lowered participation grade.

**Community Participation/Attendance:** There will be 1-2 opportunities for students to participate in community engagement and research presentation activities. This will include meeting with key stakeholders on survey findings, and presenting the results of your research to the schools. Attendance at every after school club and focus group is not required, but students are required to attend at least 3 after school clubs, and to present their research findings to both schools and as part of a Sociology Colloquium. I will work with you to best to help fit this into your schedules. At present, the dates and times for the school presentations are not set.

**Weekly Reading Responses:** Students are expected to upload a one page reading response on Sundays before midnight before the Tuesday class discussion. These will be due Wednesday nights before midnight when readings will be discussed in Thursday classes. Summaries should be typed in 12 point font, be double spaced, and must include your name and the name of the assigned reading(s) at the top. Summaries **must** be turned in electronically on Canvas before they are due. Students may opt out of up to 2 summaries over the course of the semester, but not reading responses associated with their role as class discussant.

**Class Discussant:** Students are required to lead at least two class discussions over the course of the semester based on the core readings. Class discussion leaders are required to come prepared to summarize the assigned readings that day and ask classmates questions to generate discussion. Discussion leaders may also discuss the larger context around this topic as well as relevant debates and trends with the class. Discussion leaders are also required to prepare discussion questions.

**Assignments:** Throughout the course, there will be small assignments that will take place during class and outside of class, in addition to weekly readings. Sometimes these assignments will substitute for weekly readings. Generally, they will include completing the research IRB, analyzing data in SPSS and summarizing data graphically in tables and figures in excel.

**Capstone Research Project:**

Literature Review: A detail literature review will be written based off of the annotated bibliography turned in for Soc 310a. This will be completed in the first 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the class so that you can receive feedback, and the feedback will be incorporated into the Final paper.

Research Paper: In addition to an Introduction, and Literature Review, your paper final paper will include a detailed Methods Section, Results Section, and Discussion Section, which will be a full 10-15 page research paper due by the Final Exam Date. These sections will be turned in for feedback as we work on them together throughout the semester so that you can get guidance and feedback on each component of the final paper.

Poster: An academic poster will be created to present your results to our community partner, and at the undergraduate research Sociology Colloquium date TBD.

**Grading System**

A+	97%-100%	B+	87%-89%	C+	77%-79%	D+	66%-69%
A	93%-96%	B	83%-86%	C	73%-76%	D	61%-65%
A-	90%-92%	B-	80%-82%	C-	70%-72%	F	<60%

**Grades**

I focus primarily on student learning. If earning a certain grade is important to you, feel free to ask me to “pre review” your work and to assist you in reaching your goal. Please do this by asking me for help with your learning and not in terms specifically about grades. I do not round up grades once the semester has ended for any reason, an 89.9 is a B+.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

All UNL policies and procedures regarding plagiarism and academic dishonesty will be upheld in this class.

Any form of academic dishonesty, falsifying or fabricating information or misrepresenting work as your own (plagiarism) for any assignment or requirement in this class will result in a failing grade for the course. Any form of cheating, whether on exams, quizzes, homework assignments, or final paper projects will not be tolerated. You are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty including plagiarism.

For more information on this topic, check UNL’s policy which begins at <http://bulletin.unl.edu/undergraduate>

**Class Cancellation**

In the event that UNL is closed for any reason not on the syllabus, such as weather, or the class is otherwise cancelled, the material scheduled for that day will be pushed to the next time the class meets. If I need to cancel class for any reason, I will send an email through Canvas and post a notification on the class facebook page.

\*I am learning Canvas this semester, I reserve the right to switch back to Blackboard for any reason, in which case, replace the word ‘Canvas’ with blackboard. I will give ample warning if this happens.