SOCI 205: Introduction to Social Research I
Department of Sociology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln — Spring 2017

**Abridged syllabus—see course Blackboard site for full syllabus**

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<th>Course Information</th>
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<tr>
<td>Instructor:</td>
<td>Dr. Tara D. Warner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lecture Times:</td>
<td>MWF 1:30pm-2:20pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office:</td>
<td>705 Oldfather Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lecture Room:</td>
<td>231 Burnett Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:twarner2@unl.edu">twarner2@unl.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Prerequisites:</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office hours:</td>
<td>Mondays &amp; Wednesdays, 11:30am – 12:30 pm, or by appointment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Assistant:</td>
<td>Rosalind Kichler – <a href="mailto:rosalind.kichler@huskers.unl.edu">rosalind.kichler@huskers.unl.edu</a> – 735 Oldfather Hall</td>
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<td>TA Office hours:</td>
<td>2:00pm-3:00pm Tuesdays &amp; Thursdays</td>
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**Course Description and Objectives:**

The primary objective of this course is to introduce you to the purpose and techniques of social research. The basic goal of all social research is to gather evidence in order to answer questions about the nature of relationships between individuals, groups, institutions, and societies. This course is designed to give you a broad overview of the logic of social research, of the process of research design, and of the major types of data collection techniques and methods of data analysis.

**Required Text** (available in the campus bookstore or online):


***Other required readings (journal articles) will be available on Blackboard.***

**Course Requirements:**

1. **Participation and In-Class Activities (100 points)**—In addition to attending class, reading, and taking notes, regular and relevant class participation, especially participation in (randomly-distributed) in-class activities, is an important part of the course experience.

2. **Worksheets (100 points; 4@25 points each)**—To aid students in their grasp of the material, particularly more difficult concepts, you will be required to complete a series of homework assignments associated with core chapters. Students will complete 5 worksheets over the course of the semester—the 4 highest-scoring assignments will be counted toward the final grade.

   Assignments will be submitted electronically through Blackboard; detailed instructions for each assignment and how/where to submit them can be found on Blackboard under “Assignments.”

3. **“Doing Research”—Developing a Question, Locating, and Deconstructing the Literature (150 points)**—The purpose of this assignment is to help students synthesize course concepts and apply them to research in your particular field. It will involve (1) identifying a topic of interest and developing a research question or hypothesis about that topic (10 points), (2) locating 3 peer-reviewed published empirical research studies examining issues relevant to that topic (15 points), and (3) deconstructing and contrasting those 3 studies, highlighting their strengths and weaknesses in terms of addressing your research question/hypothesis (125 points).

4. **Exams (400 points; 2 mid-term exams@100 points, 1 final exam@200 points)**—Three exams, evenly spread throughout the semester, will test your understanding of the readings and lectures. Exams for this course will be taken under electronic supervision at Digital Learning Center (DLC),

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1 Information in this document is subject to change throughout the course of the semester; please consult Blackboard for the most current version of the course syllabus.
which is located in the Adele Coryell Hall Learning Commons. Additional information about DLC procedures and logistics is located on Blackboard under “Exams.” Note: Testing times must be pre-scheduled by students. All students are responsible for self sign-up and early sign-up is recommended. Time slots fill up quickly.

**Attendance:** If you are absent, do not email the professor! Instead, you should ask your student contacts for copies of their notes, and discuss with them what you missed.

**Student Contacts:** Knowing a few other students in class has the potential of being extremely beneficial for you. In the spaces below please record the first and last names of two of your classmates, along with phone numbers or e-mails (whichever they feel comfortable providing). Turn to whoever is sitting near you for this. If, during the course, you notice that your student contacts have dropped, please obtain contact information from 1-2 other students.

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**Grading:**

Students will earn their final grade based on the following:

- Class participation and in-class activities: 100 points
- Worksheets (4 @ 25 points each): 100 points
- “Doing Research” Project: 150 points
  - Part I: Topic and research questions/hypotheses (10 points)
  - Part II: Literature approval (15 points)
  - Part III: Literature deconstruction (125 points)
- Exam 1 (highest scoring): 100 points
- Exam 2 (highest scoring): 100 points
- Final Exam: 200 points

Total points possible: 750 points

**Grade Check Requests:** It is preferred that grade check be handled during office hours; however, I will complete checks after class only for students who email me notification of this need 24 hours in advance and arrive with all pertinent information on the form already completed (e.g., course name, number, etc.). To protect students’ information and privacy I will not open the gradebook in the classroom.

**Students with Disabilities:** To receive accommodation services, you must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration. Please contact the (SSD) office as soon as possible to have them advance the paperwork to me in a timely manner.

**Course Outline and Schedule:**

- See full syllabus on BB—the Outline and Schedule lists assigned reading dates and due dates for all assignments and exams.
- You are expected to complete the assigned reading prior to the first class for which it is assigned.