Instructor: Dr. Douglas Baer

Course Description:
Strategies of quantitative research design and analysis.

Course Outcomes/Objectives:
The purpose of this course is to provide class participants with a critical understanding of the approaches adopted by quantitative researchers to investigate social phenomena, and the methods used by investigators to analyze data. In terms of research methods, primary emphasis will be given to questions associated with survey methods and with experimental methods, especially "quasi experimental" methods used in the study of social interventions, but some additional attention will be given to various forms of aggregate social data analysis. The class will spend a certain amount of time dealing with issues associated with social measurement, including methods for the assessment of reliability and validity of measures.

The course aims to integrate an understanding of the logic underlying various quantitative research designs and the statistical procedures appropriate for the analysis of data obtained from these research designs.

Course Pre/Co-requisites:
Pre-requisites: Sociology 211 and Sociology 271

Topics May Include:
An overview of forms of research; sampling; interpreting results from bivariate and multivariate statistical procedures; survey research; multiple indicators in social research; path analysis and the logic of causal analysis; experiments; quasi-experiments ("field experiments"); comparative research.

Required Resources May Include:
Reading materials will be provided to class participants in the form of downloadable PDF files.

1 This online outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.