INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

INSTRUCTOR: Sara Naderi

Course Description and Objectives

Research methods are central to Sociology and to what Sociologists do. This course provides an introduction to important concepts and strategies of social research, including conceptualization, research design, sampling, measurement, and the collection and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data. In particular, we will explore such issues as:

1. How do we know that we know (epistemology);
2. The roles of deductive and inductive logic;
3. The framing of research questions and research design;
4. The relationship between the researcher and the researched;
5. The relationships between qualitative and quantitative research;
6. The politics and ethics of social research; and
7. mixed methods.

We will also examine some of the major types of methods sociologists use, e.g., interviews, surveys; participant observation, ethnography, etc., and the measurement and analysis issues involved with their use. The major focus of this course, however, is not on the “how to do” research. Instead, SOCI 211 provides the foundational knowledge required for subsequent courses (i.e., SOCI 374 and 376) that concentrate more in-depth on specific research techniques.

Required Textbook

* A more detailed course outline will be distributed to students during the first week of classes