

**Sociology 3301-001**  
**Survey Methods**  
**Fall, 2007**

JT Young MD JD PhD- Instructor  
Joseph.T.Young@colorado.edu  
Office hours 12:30pm Tuesdays, Ketchum 11A

**Purposes:**

- To solidify your knowledge of social statistics and apply that knowledge to social research using surveys.
- To improve your skills at writing technically, critical thinking and scientific reasoning.
- To present social research methods and techniques from a survey research perspective.

**Prerequisites:** You must have a working knowledge of statistical inference, descriptive analysis and regression techniques. This is not negotiable. These statistical methods will not be taught in full here. In other words, if you have not taken statistics, do not take this class.

**Texts:** Babbie, E. (1998) Survey Research Methods-2nd Edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.  
(do not purchase—on reserve)  
Sweet, Stephen and K. Grace-Martin (2003) Data Analysis with SPSS—2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.  
Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

**Disability Statement**

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me an letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard Hall 322, and [www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices).

**Religious services and holidays**

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, please inform me **before** the event or holiday and I will accommodate you. If you inform me after the event or holiday, I will not accommodate you. Students can see full details of this policy at [www.colorado.edu/policies/fac\\_relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html).

**Classroom Behavior and Lateness Policy**

Students and faculty each have a responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the responsibility to treat students with understanding, respect and dignity, to guide classroom discussion, and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which students express opinions.

There are topics in my classes that are controversial, medically oriented and occasionally personal and graphic. Please understand that my intent is to provide information, not to influence your opinions, or make outrageous statements or assertions.

Every opinion is treated with respect and your right to hold that opinion is protected.

I treat you as adults. You will be held to that standard regardless of circumstances. If you are going to be late with an assignment, absent for a test, or absent from a required presentation or class you **MUST inform me prior to the event in question**. This rule **INCLUDES** illness, deaths in the family and any other event. I will hold you to this

standard, so do not test me. The only exceptions are your death or your unconsciousness/coma.

### **Honor Code Policy**

All students of the University of Colorado are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of the institution. Violations of this policy include:

- a) cheating
- b) plagiarism (document sources very carefully and rigorously)
- c) aiding others in academic dishonesty,
- d) fabrication and lying,
- e) bribery and
- f) threatening behavior.

All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code Council. If you are found to be in violation of University policy, you will be subject to sanctions from the instructor and the University including but not limited to probation, expulsion, and suspension. The Honor code can be found at [www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html).

### **Sexual Harassment**

The University of Colorado policy on sexual harassment applies to all students, staff and faculty. Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual attention. It can involve intimidation, threats, coercion, or promises that create an environment that is hostile or offensive. Harassment can occur between members of the opposite sex, those of the same sex, students, staff, faculty or administrators, and may occur anywhere on the campus or related to campus activities. Any student, faculty or staff who believes that he/she has been sexually harassed should contact the Office of Sexual Harassment (OSH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Further information may be found at [www.colorado.edu/sexualharassment](http://www.colorado.edu/sexualharassment).

**Class and Laboratory Meetings:** The class will meet in a classroom for lectures and Ketchum 117 for lab sessions. The labs will be supervised and are for your own edification. Assignments will be made and descriptive/regression products will have to be presented for your project but the purpose of the lab is to familiarize you with SPSS and these techniques so that you may do well on your project for the class. Lab sessions usually will meet on Thursdays. Lectures are on Tuesdays. Class attendance is advisable—this is too difficult a class. You to miss instruction and lab time and you will fail. There is not enough room in the lab for everyone so please share. Attempts have been made, without success, to find a bigger lab. You may use the lab in the basement of Ketchum if you desire during the daytime.

**Survey used:** General Social Survey

**Statistical Package:** SPSS

**Course Requirements:** Tests at midterm covers the first half of the course didactics. Final will cover second half didactics. The tests will count 40% of your grade. No late tests unless PRIOR permission is given. Final paper is minimum 15 pages in length, double-spaced, 12 font size, with academic references (10 minimum; ASA format). Standard juried paper format will be followed. **No newspapers, magazines or web sites will be cited.** Library research and drafts/proposals will be periodically required, as well as the final paper. The timing of these assignments is listed in this syllabus. The paper will be due on at the time of the final. Late papers/proposals/drafts will not be accepted without PRIOR permission. The paper and associated documents will count 60% of your grade (Research question=5%; Descriptive Analysis=5%; Literature Review=5%; Proposal=5%; and Paper=40%). Grading will be on the standard CU grading scale. An opportunity to revise and resubmit parts of the paper will be offered.

## **Class Schedule**

**Wk 1--** Syllabus, lab procedures, class format and expectations

Social Science Inquiry and science

Theory and Practice

Paradigms and paradigm shifts

Survey Methods Chapter 1 and 3

**Wk 2--** What is a dataset? Using and perusing data. Starting SPSS

What is the GSS? How do you use it?

Objectivity and Reality

The Nature of Causation

Looking at the GSS. Recoding variables.

Survey Methods Chapter 2

Data Analysis Chapters 1 and 2

**Wk3 --**What is a research question?

Conceptualization Operationalization

Frequency tables. Choice of variables.

Descriptives.

Survey Methods Chapter 7

Data Analysis Chapters 3 and 4

**Wk 4--** Research Designs I and II

More Looking at GSS. Cross tabs. Operationalization

Survey Methods Chapter 4

Data Analysis Chapter 5

**One page summary of paper topic due including a list of hypotheses.**

**Wk 5 --** Literature Searches and Literature reviews Survey Methods Chapter 5-6

In lab we will use Chinook and library resources

**Must be able to recode variables, do crosstabs and frequencies by this period of the course.**

**Wk 6 --** Composite measures and Indexes

Survey Methods Chapter 8

**Descriptives (Analysis) due**

**Wk 7** Choosing dependent variables and independent variables of interest

Bivariate and univariate analysis-descriptive and regression

Data Analysis Chapters 3 and 5

**Wk 8 –** Tuesday--Correlation and association Significance

Data Analysis Chapter 6

Thursday -- The logic of Sampling

Statistical versus actual significance

Survey Methods 16-17; 5-6

**Literature Review Due on Thursday**

**Wk 9** Refining hypotheses

What is a research proposal? Discuss research proposal expectations

How to present results, tables and graphs

Control Variables

Multivariate analysis Linear regression

Survey Methods Chapter 16

Data Analysis Chapter 7

**Wk 10** Research question review, Critique, Writing results and format

Multivariate analysis Logistic Regression

Survey Methods Chapter 18

Data Analysis Chapter 8 and 9

**Turn in Proposals on Thursday**

**Wk 11** Questionnaire Design

Data collection

Lab: -help with research

Survey Methods Chapters 9-12

**Wk 12** Advanced survey design-longitudinal, panel, experimental and multi-level designs

Generalizability, Ethics

Survey Methods Chapter 19

Ethics and politics

Causation or correlation?

**Draft of results due if you wish me to review them**

**Test due Thursday of Week 12 on didactic material**

**Vacation week**

**Weeks 13-15** Tuesday and Thursday in lab completing analysis and writing

**Paper due at time of the final on the scheduled final date**