

San José State University
Department of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences
SOCI 105, Title, Section 80, Spring, Spring 2023

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Jason DeHaan (he/him)
Telephone:	408-755-0522
Email:	jason.dehaan@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesday: 12:00 to 1:00 pm (online, by appointment)
	Wednesday: 2:00 to 3:00 pm (online, drop-in)
Class Days/Time:	None
Course Website:	sjsu.instructure.com
Prerequisites:	SOCI 1 or equivalent, SOCI 100W, SOCI 101 and upper division standing.

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the various approaches to designing and conducting qualitative research. Qualitative research is a multi-method approach to studying human social interaction and deriving meaning from individuals' experiences. Students will be introduced to basic sociological concepts, how to select and design research projects, ethics in social research, and qualitative data collection methods (observation and interviews). They will then gain first-hand experience through participation in group research projects. The projects will require students to enter the field to perform observations and interviews. Collected data will then be coded, analyzed, and presented.

Course Format

This is an asynchronous online course. This means that there are no scheduled course meetings or live lectures, and you will not be required to log in to participate at a scheduled time. All course materials, including readings, videos/lectures, and assignments, will be shared on Canvas. You will have the flexibility to complete the coursework according to your own schedule but will need to organize that schedule around set assignment due dates.

Course Website

All Course materials such as the syllabus, reading, lecture videos, assignment instructions, etc. can be found at the [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#). You are responsible for regularly checking the course Canvas page and your SJSU email to learn of any updates. For help with using Canvas, see the [Canvas Student Resource page](#).

Communication and Messaging

The table below contains a list of ways that you can communicate with me.

Communication Method	Access Information	Notes
Email	jason.dehaan@sjsu.edu	My preferred contact method.
Canvas Messaging	The Canvas messaging system	Canvas messaging is OK but I prefer to use email.
Text	408-755-0522	Text messaging is best for simple questions or urgent matters.
Phone Call	408-755-0522	I only answer my phone for scheduled meetings. Schedule a meeting with Calendly .
Zoom	Drop-in office hours link I will email you a link for scheduled meetings.	Schedule a meeting with Calendly .

Office Hours

My office hours are held via Zoom or phone only; I do not hold in-person meetings.

- My Tuesday office hours are held from 12:00 to 1:00 and are appointment-only. You can schedule a meeting using [Calendly](#). We can meet via Zoom or phone, and you can select the option you prefer when you sign up.
- My Wednesday office hours are drop-in and held on Zoom from 2:00 to 3:00. You can access them using [this link](#). I only hold meetings individually (unless a specific request is made) and meetings are first-come, first-serve. If you attend while I'm meeting with someone else, you'll have to wait until my meeting with them is completed.

Course Goals

This course has been designed to help students achieve the following goals:

1. Develop an understanding of how knowledge is produced within qualitative approaches to sociological research. Students should be able to identify how data is collected and analyzed, and what that data allows us to know about the social world.
2. Describe the connection between theory and research. Students should be able to describe how paradigms and theories shape research and the data collection process.
3. Describe the research design process as it pertains to qualitative sociological approaches. Students should also be able to generally distinguish between quantitative and qualitative approaches to research design.
4. Analyze and interpret qualitative data. Students should be able to code and analyze textual data to answer research questions.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and explain the role of paradigms and theories in research design.
2. Differentiate between quantitative and qualitative research methods.
3. Identify the key ethical principles that structure social science research.
4. Identify and apply concepts used in qualitative research design.
5. Identify and describe key steps in the qualitative research design process.
6. Identify and distinguish between the different approaches social scientists use to select research participants and objects.
7. Collect observational data.
8. Complete a research interview.
9. Code and analyze textual data.
10. Communicate the results of a research project in a report.

Course Resources

Textbook

There is no required textbook. All readings will be shared on Canvas in a digital format.

Word Processing Software

I recommend that you use Microsoft Word for the writing that you will do in this class. While options like Google Docs and Apple's Pages are acceptable, they are not as fully featured as Word and frequently lead to formatting issues. You have access to the entire Microsoft Office suite (which includes programs like Word, PowerPoint, and Excel) as a student. This will allow you to download the applications to your computer or access the web-based versions. To get access to Microsoft Office, please visit [the Office 365 Education site](#). It will require you to verify your eligibility and create an account using your SJSU email.

Adobe Creative Cloud

I recommend signing up for and installing Adobe Creative Cloud. This will give you access to many different Adobe applications, including Acrobat Pro, Illustrator, and Photoshop. Acrobat Pro is the most fully featured PDF software available, and I recommend that you use it. Creative Cloud also gives you access to Adobe Spark, which is a web-based application you can use to create websites. It is a great way to create presentations. You can get access to it at [SJSU's Adobe Creative Cloud for Students webpage](#).

ASA Style Guide

The writing you submit for this course will need to be formatted according to the standards of the American Sociological Association (ASA). These standards are well-documented on the internet and easy to find with a simple "ASA Style" search. While it is not required, the ASA Style Guide is useful because it is the official guide, it is pocket-sized and (fairly) easy to navigate, and reflects the most current standards (provided you purchase the seventh edition). You can purchase a physical copy for \$32 on the [ASA website](#). You can also purchase a [physical copy on Amazon](#) for \$35. There is also a [Kindle version](#) available for \$10.

Library Liaison

Michal Aguilar is the library liaison for the SISS department. He is a great person to contact if you have any questions about using library resources. The best way to contact him is to email him at michael.aguilar@sjsu.edu.

Coursework

Workload Statement

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Assignment	Due Date	Percent of Grade
Course Introduction Assignments		2
Profile Photo	January 26	0.5
Getting to Know Each Other Discussion Post	January 26	0.75
Course Introduction Module Quiz	January 26	0.75
Module and Video Quizzes	Due Weekly	25
Activities		25
Ethics and Issues Activity	February 26	5
Qualitative Research Design Activity	March 12	5
Interview Guide Activity	March 26	5
Ethnography and Observation Activity	April 16	5
Data Analysis Activity	May 7	5
Research Project		48
Observation	April 16	8
Interview and Transcription	April 30	15
Data Analysis	May 22	15
Findings and Discussion	May 22	10

Course Introduction Assignments

You will have three introductory assignments to complete. These include uploading a profile photo, introducing yourself in a discussion thread, and taking a quiz about the Course Introduction module.

These assignments cannot be submitted late. The discussion post is used to take attendance and failure to complete it will result in you being dropped from the class.

Module and Video Quizzes

There are two different types of quizzes you will complete: module quizzes and video quizzes. The point value for each quiz will depend on the number of questions. Each question will be worth one point and the quizzes are

worth 25 percent of your grade overall. You can expect there to be roughly eight to ten quiz questions per week but that is not consistent. The quizzes will be timed, and you will be given four minutes per question. That is applied as a total amount of time to complete the quiz, not per-question.

- **Module quizzes:** There will be 8 total module quizzes, one for each module (excluding the Course Introduction Module Quiz). These quizzes will primarily focus on the assigned readings but may also include ideas introduced in the lecture videos. Your lowest module quiz score will be dropped.
- **Video quizzes:** I have begun to gradually introduce video quizzes into my courses as I record new lecture videos. They will not be implemented consistently but you can expect some lecture videos to have quizzes integrated into them. The video quizzes can be retaken as many times as you'd like.

The standard late policy will apply to the quizzes. You will have a three-day grace period to complete them without any late penalty applied. After that, you will have five additional days to complete the quizzes with a 10 percent penalty applied for each day they are late.

Activities

You will complete five activities. They are small group assignments and each one, with the exception of the Interview Guide Activity, will require you to review a source I shared with you and then critically analyze it. The Interview Guide Activity will require you to develop interview guide questions that could potentially be included in the class interview guide for the research project (described below). I will assign groups for the activities.

The standard late policy will apply to the activities. You will have a three-day grace period to complete them without any late penalty applied. After that, you will have five additional days to complete them with a 10 percent penalty applied for each day they are late.

Research Project

The assignments listed below will all be completed as a part of a broader research project you will participate in for this class. This semester, we're going to focus on how social class affects students' experiences in college.

Observation

As part of the data collection requirements for the class you will be required to complete an observation of a social setting. You will have the option to perform participant observation (where you're an active participant in the setting) or direct observation (where you observe the setting from the margins). You will create "fieldnotes" that document your experience and submit them for credit.

The standard late policy will apply to the Observation assignment. You will have a three-day grace period to complete it without any late penalty applied. After that, you will have five additional days to complete it with a 10 percent penalty applied for each day it is late.

Interview and Transcription

For the second data collection requirement, you will conduct one research interview with a participant you will recruit. To receive full credit, the interview will need to be at least 45 minutes long and your handling of the interview must conform to basic standards associated with research interviews. You will record the interview and transcribe it. You will submit the audio record and transcription for credit.

The standard late policy will apply to the Interview and Transcription assignment. You will have a three-day grace period to complete it without any late penalty applied. After that, you will have five additional days to complete it with a 10 percent penalty applied for each day it is late.

Data Analysis

You will perform a domain and theme analysis of a selection of the interviews that you and your peers performed. This analysis will require you to read at least 10 interviews and identify “themes” or patterns across them. You will document your analysis with domain and theme worksheets, which you will submit for credit.

The Data Analysis assignment can be submitted up to two days late with a 10 percent late penalty applied for each day it is late.

Findings and Discussion

Once your Data Analysis is complete, you will summarize it and write about two key findings. This will require you to use evidence from the domain and theme worksheets for support. You will also be required to write a discussion section where you will summarize what you learned.

The Findings and Discussion assignment can be submitted up to two days late with a 10 percent late penalty applied for each day it is late.

Final Examination or Evaluation

There is no final exam in this course.

Submitting Work

All your work for this course will be submitted on Canvas. Following are my policies regarding the submission of your work and some notes about the submission process.

- All work must be submitted on Canvas and I will not accept emailed assignments.
- I require any written documents you submit to be in .doc, .docx, or .pdf format.
- You can resubmit your work until it has been graded. I do not allow resubmission of graded work. See my Assignment Resubmission policy below for more information.
- Everything you submit on Canvas is saved. When you resubmit an assignment, any previous submissions are saved and available for me to review. Unless you ask me to review an earlier submission, I will only ever look at the most recent submission. This means that resubmitting an assignment never overwrites or deletes your previous submissions.

Grading Information

Determination of Grades

Grades will be calculated by tallying up the total points earned on assignments and then weighting them according to the percentages provided in the assignment table. Canvas handles this process automatically and while your grade will fluctuate as you complete your work over the course of the semester, your grade on Canvas will always be accurate and reflect your standing in the class.

Final letter grades will be assigned based on the table below. I use standard rounding rules (any decimal 0.5 or greater will be rounded up) when I assign final letter grades. For example, if you finish the class with a total of 86.5 points, will round that up to 87.

Grade	Percentage
A+	97 to 100%

Grade	Percentage
A	93 to 96%
A-	90 to 92%
B+	87 to 89 %
B	83 to 86%
B-	80 to 82%
C+	77 to 79%
C	73 to 76%
C-	70 to 72%
D+	67 to 69%
D	63 to 66%
D-	60 to 62%
F	Below 60%

Extra Credit

I do not have any extra credit planned and will only offer it if some opportunity where I think offering additional work is appropriate comes up. Any extra credit opportunities will be created as assignments on Canvas and announced there as well.

Late Work

The course introduction assignments cannot be submitted late. Those are used to take start-of-the-semester attendance and failure to submit them could result in you being dropped from the course.

All other course assignments, with the exception of the Data Analysis and Findings and Discussions assignments, can be submitted up to three days late without penalty. This is a grace period that everyone receives, and you do not need to reach out to me to request it. After the three-day grace period, your work can be submitted up to five days late. A 10 percent penalty will be applied for each day your work is late.

The Data Analysis and Findings and Discussion assignments are due at the end of the semester and, due to the necessity of getting final grades calculated, there will be no grace period. Those assignments *can* be submitted up to two days late though, with a 10 percent penalty applied for each day they are late.

Assignment Resubmission

I do not allow you to resubmit graded work to improve your grade. I consider all assigned grades final unless I made some mistake (tell me if you think I did!). However, I am always willing to review your work before you submit it for a grade. If you'd like me to review your work, please submit it to the appropriate assignment prompt on Canvas and then message me to let me know you'd like feedback. If I know you are uploading your work for feedback, I will not assign a grade.

ASA Formatting

Unless otherwise noted, all essay writing you submit for this course be formatted according to the standards of the American Sociological Association. I recognize that this may seem like a nuisance to those of you who are not familiar with it, but I require it for the following reasons:

- It is an important “professionalization” experience. Learning to apply *any* formatting standard is good practice for any professional writing you do in the future.
- It makes it easier for me to evaluate your work. If I do not require a particular standard, I will get a wide variety of different standards (including blends and none at all) that create a lot of additional work for me to review.
- The ASA standard is widely used by sociological publications and learning it will help any of you who plan to pursue graduate studies in sociology.
- It is the standard that I know best and am most capable of helping you learn.

Resources that document the standard are widely available online. I have also shared information about the official guide to ASA formatting in the “Required and Recommended Resources” section of the syllabus.

Policies

Late Work Submission

You will find my late work submission policy above in the “Grading Information” section of this syllabus.

Incompletes

Incompletes are only intended to be assigned when a student has completed most of the coursework (70-80 percent) but is facing some hardship that prevents them from completing the rest. I am never going to evaluate a student request to take an incomplete by calculating the exact percentage of work that was completed, but I will take what is left to be done into consideration.

If you want to take an incomplete in the course, please reach out to me as soon as possible to discuss it. It helps if you provide me a list of the work you have left to complete along with a general description of what stands in the way of you completing your work. I do not need specifics and I will never pry to get more information than you want to share. I do not need documentation or any other type of proof.

You will find a description of the University policy for incompletes [at the SJSU Academic Expectations \(Policies\) webpage](#).

Plagiarism

I enable the Turnitin plagiarism checking service for any written assignments that require you to reference sources. I use the service as a tool to help you improve your writing, not to try police or punish you. Plagiarism is very common in academia and one of the most important skills I hope to teach you is how to appropriately reference other people’s ideas and work. I will share additional information about what plagiarism is during the course, but you should generally understand that most plagiarism is unintentional and results from rushed and/or sloppy work. However, just because you did not mean to plagiarize does not mean it is not a problem.

Following is my policy for dealing with instances of *significant* plagiarism. These are cases where there is a clear pattern of plagiarism within your work that goes beyond a simple mistake.

- First instance: We will review the plagiarized work together and discuss how it happened, how to address it, and how to avoid it in the future. You will have the opportunity to rewrite the plagiarized passages and resubmit your work with no penalty applied to your work. If you choose not to address the plagiarism, you will receive a zero on your assignment.
- Second instance: We will review and discuss your work again and you will be given the opportunity to rewrite the plagiarized passages. I will apply a penalty to your assignment grade (no more than 50

percent) that depends on the significance of the plagiarism. If you choose not to address the plagiarism, you will receive a zero on your assignment.

- Third instance: You will receive a zero on the assignment.

For minor instances of plagiarism, I will reach out to you to point out the plagiarized passage(s) and ask you to rewrite them. If you choose not to rewrite them, I will apply a penalty to your assignment grade (no more than 25 percent) based on the significance of the plagiarism.

The goal of this policy is to encourage you to take plagiarism seriously, not to scare you. I want to help you become a competent and confident academic writer. To do that, you will need to learn how to communicate other people's writing and ideas by putting those ideas in your own words and giving them appropriate credit.

Late Drop Policy

If you need to drop one or more of your courses after the drop deadline, please review the University's [late drop policy](#).

University Policies

University policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](#), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

SOCI 105 / Qualitative Research Methods, Spring 2023, Course Schedule

This schedule provides a weekly overview of when coursework will be due. The dates reflect the beginning of each week of the semester, not the specific due dates. Please refer to the coursework section of this syllabus and Canvas for specific due dates.

Not all the lecture videos and video quizzes are listed here. You will find those in the Canvas modules.

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice. Any changes will be announced on Canvas.

Course Schedule

Module		Date	Learning Materials	Assignments
A	Course Introduction	Jan. 25	Watch: Course Welcome Video Review: Course Introduction Module Read: Syllabus	Profile Photo Getting to Know Each Other Discussion Post Course Introduction Quiz
1	Introduction to Qualitative Research	Jan. 30	Read: What is Social Research? Watch: Introduction to Social Science Research	Introduction to Social Science Research Video Quiz Introduction to Qualitative Research Module Quiz
2	Getting Started	Feb. 6	Read: Strategies for Beginning Research Read: Starting Where You Are Watch: Starting the Research Process	Starting the Research Process Video Quiz Getting Started Module Quiz
3	Ethics and Issues	Feb. 13	Read: Ethical Issues Watch: Ethics and Issues: Introduction Watch: Ethics and Issues: Example: Bike Party Research Watch: Ethics and Issues: Ethical Obligations Watch: Ethics and Issues: Addressing Ethical Issues	Ethics and Issues: Introduction Video Quiz Ethics and Issues: Ethical Obligations Video Quiz Ethics and Issues: Addressing Ethical Issues Video Quiz
		Feb. 20	Read: The Ethics of Ethnography Read: Sociology's Race Problem	Ethics and Issues Activity Ethics and Issues Module Quiz
		Feb. 20	Last Day to Drop Classes Without a "W" Grade and Last Day to Add Classes via MySJSU	

Module		Date	Learning Materials	Assignments
4	Qualitative Research Design	Feb. 27	Read: Designing Qualitative Research Watch: Qualitative Research Design: Theory Watch: Qualitative Research Design: Concepts Watch: Qualitative Research Design: Stages	Qualitative Research Design: Concepts Video Quiz Qualitative Research Design: Stages Video Quiz
		Mar. 6	Read: Collaborating in Class: Social Class Context and Peer Help-Seeking and Help-Giving in an Elite Engineering School	Qualitative Research Design Module Quiz Qualitative Research Design Activity
5	Interviewing and Transcription	Mar. 13	Read: A Dramaturgical Look at Interviewing Watch: Interviewing Watch: Types of Interviews Watch: Interviewing: The Dramaturgical Perspective Watch: Interviewing: The Interview Guide	Interview Practice Activity
		Mar. 20	Read: Beyond the Qualitative Interview: Data Preparation and Transcription Read: The Transcription Process	Interviewing and Transcription Module Quiz Interview Guide Activity
		Mar. 27	Spring Recess	
6	Ethnography and Observation	Apr. 3	Read: Ethnographic Field Strategies	
		Apr. 10	Read: Brilliant or Bad: The Gendered Social Construction of Exceptionalism in Early Adolescence	Ethnography and Observation Module Quiz Ethnography and Observation Activity Observation
7	Unobtrusive Measures	Apr. 17	Read: Unobtrusive Measures: Analyzing Texts and Material Artifacts Watch: Unobtrusive Measures	Unobtrusive Measures Quiz

Module		Date	Learning Materials	Assignments
		Apr. 21	Semester Withdrawal Deadline	
8	Data Analysis	Apr. 24	Read: An Introduction to Content Analysis Watch: Content Analysis: Introduction Watch: Content Analysis: Manifest vs. Latent Content Watch: Content Analysis: Open Coding	Data Analysis Module Quiz Interview and Transcription
		May 1	Read: ‘Both Sides of the Story’: History Education in Post-Apartheid South Africa Watch: Domain and Theme Analysis: Introduction Watch: Domain and Theme Analysis: Rules and Relationships Watch: Domain and Theme Analysis: Step One: Preparation Watch: Domain and Theme Analysis: Step Two: Data Review Watch: Domain and Theme Analysis: Step Three: Initial Coding Watch: Domain and Theme Analysis: Step Four: Focused Coding Watch: Domain and Theme Analysis: Step Five: Organize Domain Sheets	Data Analysis Activity
		May 8		
		May 15	Last Day of Instruction	
		May 22	Last Day of Class	
		May 26	Initial Faculty Grade Deadline	
		May 31	Final Faculty Grade Deadline	