

**The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Department of Sociology**

**SOCI 2003 Social Research Methods
Term 1, 2022 – 2023**

Date: On Friday
Time: 09:30 – 11:15 a.m.
Venue: YIA LT 9
Mode of teaching: Face-to-face

Course Instructor: Dr. HO Ching Wai
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Course Overview :

This course is an introduction to the fundamental principles and procedures of empirical research in sociology. Students will be presented with the theoretical and practical challenges involved in problem formulation, research design, data collection, and data analysis. We will examine some of the major types of both qualitative and quantitative social research methods (e.g., structured interviews, questionnaires, qualitative interviews, and ethnography) and the sampling, measurement and analysis issues involved with their use.

Learning outcomes:

Upon the completion of the course, students are expected:

- (1) To understand the logic of scientific inquiry and the steps in social research
- (2) To appreciate different approaches in conducting social research
- (3) To evaluate quality of a research project
- (4) To design a research project

Reading materials

Textbook

Babbie, E. R. (2016). *The Practice of Social Research* (14th ed.). Boston, Massachusetts: Cengage Learning. Available from https://julaccuhk.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/852JULAC_CUHK/16slfhk/alma991034781109703407

Supplementary reference

Bryman, A. (2016). *Social research methods* (International edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Chambliss, D. F. (2019). *Making sense of the social world* (6th ed.). London: Sage Publications. Available from https://julaccuhk.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/852JULAC_CUHK/1dl2t2q/alma991040021098103407

Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. (2018). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches* (5th ed., international student edition). Thousand Oaks, California: SAGE Publications. Available from https://julaccuhk.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/852JULAC_CUHK/16slfhk/alma991040020989303407

Schutt, R. K. (2017). *Investigating the social world: The process and practice of research* (9th ed.). London: Sage Publications. Available from https://julaccuhk.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/852JULAC_CUHK/16slfhk/alma991040021091503407

Summary of assessment plan

1) Research proposal (Group)	30%
2) Presentation on research project (Group)	20%
3) In-class Quiz (Individual)	40%
4) Lecture and tutorial participation (Individual)	10%

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures.

- In the case of group projects, all members of the group should be asked to sign the declaration, each of whom is responsible and liable to disciplinary actions, irrespective of whether he/she has signed the declaration and whether he/she has contributed, directly or indirectly, to the problematic contents.
- For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally textbased and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment.

Assignments without the properly signed declaration will not be graded by teachers.

Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

The submission of a piece of work, or a part of a piece of work, for more than one purpose (e.g. to satisfy the requirements in two different courses) without declaration to this effect shall be regarded as having committed undeclared multiple submissions. It is common and acceptable to reuse a turn of phrase or a sentence or two from one's own work; but wholesale reuse is problematic. In any case, agreement from the course teacher(s) concerned should be obtained prior to the submission of the piece of work.

Guide to Grading System

Grade Descriptors

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| A | A thorough understanding of the course materials and an outstanding performance on all learning outcomes. |
| A- | A solid understanding of the course materials and an outstanding performance on almost all learning outcomes. |
| B | An adequate understanding of the course materials and a substantial performance, on average, on all learning outcomes. |
| C | A basic understanding of the course materials and a satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses. |
| D | A partial understanding of the course materials and an inadequate performance on a number of learning outcomes. |
| F | A poor understanding of the course materials and an unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes. |