



Research Workshop in Applied Sociology – SOC 6V92 Spring 2026

Professor Contact Information

Professor Dr. Sheryl Skaggs
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Student Hours Thursday 1:30 – 2:30 pm (also by appt. – MS Teams or in person)

** Email is the preferred method of contact – please allow at least 24 hours for me to receive and respond to your email. Be sure to include your full name and the class number (SOC 6v92) in the subject heading of your email.*

Course Description

This graduate workshop bridges sociological theory and research methods with real-world application through collaborative, hands-on projects with external partners, including businesses, government agencies, and non-profit organizations. Students will leverage the knowledge and methodological skills acquired in prior coursework—such as survey design, interviewing techniques, case study analysis, and statistical modeling—to address complex challenges in areas like education, housing, public health, and marketing. Working in small teams, students will engage with organizational stakeholders to design and implement a research project that generates actionable insights. Emphasis will be placed on ethical research practices, community engagement, and the translation of sociological findings into evidence-based recommendations that inform program development, policy, and practice. Through this immersive experience, students will develop a deeper understanding of the role of applied sociology in shaping solutions to pressing social issues across diverse sectors.

Required Text

Readings provided by the professor in eLearning.

The instructor may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class, as they are intended to supplement the workshop experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course; however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved AccessAbility Resource Center accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Use of AI for coursework: Student assignments are designed to strengthen understanding of materials – including concepts and applications. AI is not an appropriate source for the development of knowledge in this course or for any assigned work. Although AI has a place in some workplace settings and personal spaces, its utilization in this academic space diminishes the learning experience that builds on critical thinking and writing skills. AI cannot do this for you.

Course Objectives

- **Develop and execute a sociological research plan** in collaboration with external stakeholders.
- **Apply appropriate methodology and research techniques** to collect and analyze data relevant to a real-world social issue.
- **Produce a comprehensive report** that includes the use of relevant literature, methodology, findings, and actionable recommendations.
- **Demonstrate effective communication skills** through presentations and written materials tailored to diverse audiences.
- **Critically evaluate the impact of sociological research** on organizational decision-making and public policy.
- **Reflect on the ethical dimensions** of conducting applied research in community and organizational settings.

Course Requirements:

- **Bi-Weekly Milestone Reports (20%)**
Students will submit brief progress updates every two weeks, detailing research activities completed, challenges encountered, and next steps. These reports will be evaluated for clarity, depth of analysis, responsiveness to employer feedback, and alignment with project goals.
- **Final Research Report to Employer (40%)**
A comprehensive report and presentation summarizing the research process, findings, and recommendations. Evaluation will focus on methodological rigor, analytical insight, and relevance to stakeholder concerns.
- **Final Project Presentation to Employer (15%)**
- **Peer Evaluation of Project Contribution (15%)**
Students will be assessed by their project team members on the quality and consistency of their contributions throughout the research process. Evaluation criteria will include effective communication, timely completion of assigned tasks, collaboration, and the overall quality of work delivered. This component encourages accountability and fosters a collaborative learning environment.
- **Attendance and Participation (10%)**
Because this course is a collaborative, research-driven workshop, consistent attendance and active engagement are essential. During the first week, all students must meet with the instructor to form project teams, clarify expectations, and outline preliminary research plans. This initial meeting is a required component of the course.

Throughout the semester, each team will meet bi-weekly with the project manager to report on milestones, receive feedback, and ensure progress toward project goals. Students will also meet periodically with the professor (at least 4 times) to discuss project development and address emerging challenges. Active participation in all scheduled meetings is expected and contributes to the overall participation grade.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND POLICIES

Class Attendance

The University's attendance policy requirement is that individual faculty set their course attendance requirements. Regular and punctual class attendance is expected. Students who fail to attend class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. In some courses, instructors may have special attendance requirements.

Class Participation

Regular class participation is expected regardless of course modality. Students who fail to participate in class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. A portion of the grade for this course is directly tied to your participation in this class. It also includes engaging in group or other activities during class that solicit your feedback on assignments, readings, or materials covered in the lectures (and/or labs). Class participation is documented by faculty. Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to University requirements, as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Class Recordings

Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the AccessAbility Resource Center has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved AccessAbility Resource Center accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Technical Requirements

In addition to a confident level of computer and Internet literacy, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful learning experience. Please review the important technical requirements on the [Getting Started with eLearning](#) webpage.

Communication

This course utilizes online tools for interaction and communication. Some external communication tools such as regular email and a web conferencing tool may also be used during the semester. For more details, please visit the [Student eLearning Tutorials](#) webpage for video demonstrations on eLearning tools.

Distance Learning Student Resources

Online students have access to resources including the McDermott Library, Academic Advising, The AccessAbility Resource Center, and many others. Please see the [eLearning Current Students](#) webpage for more information.

Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties

The University is committed to providing a reliable learning management system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the online [eLearning Help Desk](#). The instructor and the eLearning Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Grading Policy

Grading Policy:

Milestone Reports20%
Final Research Report40%
Final Research Presentation15%
Peer evaluation15%
Employer & instructor meeting attendance10% (allowed one absence without penalty)

Grades will be assigned as follows:

93-100% A	90-92 A-	
88-89 B+	83-87 B	80-82 B-
78-79 C+	73-77 C	Below 73 F

Late Work

You should always strive to turn in work on time. Not only is this a great work habit, but it also demonstrates your dependability to your professor, classmates, team members, and your current or future employer. Time management skills are essential to success in this course. If you find that it is not possible to comply with a deadline, please note that penalties will increase exponentially based on lateness, as noted below.

Up to the first 12 hours late	10 pt. penalty
12 – 24 hours late	15 pt. penalty
24 – 48 hours late	25 pt. penalty
48—72 hours late	50 pt. penalty

Any assignment turned in later than 72 hours past the due date will not be graded.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

Academic Support Resources

The information contained in the following link lists the University’s academic support resources for all students. Please see <http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources>.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

- The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please review the catalog sections regarding the [credit/no credit](#) or [pass/fail](#) grading option and withdrawal from class. Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

Tentative Course Schedule and Assignments

Week of:	Topic
Jan. 20	Introduction to the course & Project Assignments
Jan. 26	Initial Project Manager/Employer Mandatory Meeting
Feb. 2	Team meeting w/ professor
Feb. 9	Project Manager Meeting & Milestones
Feb. 16	Team meeting w/professor
Feb. 23	Project Manager Meeting & Milestones
March 2	Project work
March 9	Project Manager Meeting & Milestones
March 16	SPRING BREAK!
March 23	Project Manager Meeting & Milestones
March 30	Team meeting w/professor
April 6	Project Manager Meeting & Milestones
April 13	Team meeting w/professor
April 20	Project Manager Meeting & Milestones
April 27	Project report draft & mock presentation
May 4	Employer Presentation & Final Project Report Due

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.