The aim of this course is to provide students with an overview of the methods, practices, and outcomes of applied social research. Major emphasis will be placed on applications of survey and evaluation research methods to the study of contemporary social issues. We will begin each segment of the course with a brief overview of the relevant research methodology. To provide students with an overview of the life cycle of the research process, we will follow a number of contemporary research enterprises from their inception in a research proposal through their realization in publications many years later. Using this strategy, we will review the basic stages and issues in empirical research, including conceptualization, operationalization, causal explanation, criteria for selecting research strategies and research designs, sampling theory, and some basic issues in data collection and analysis. We will also have the opportunity to observe the ways in which serendipity, opportunity, and luck -- both good and bad -- can reshape the research process.

For most of this course, there will be no formal text. Instead, we will be reading from a wide selection of articles, chapters, and unpublished research proposals. For classes on November 17th and 24th, the required text is: Robert Boruch, *Randomized Experiments for Planning and Evaluation*.

**GRADING**

**EVALUATIVE QUIZZES.** Quizzes will be given in class on October 27th and December 8th. These quizzes will be designed to evaluate whether you have completed your reading assignments and mastered key concepts covered in class. As we will discuss in our first class meeting, the assigned reading for this course is substantial, and I expect students to be serious about learning from it. Quizzes, however, will be designed so that a student who has completed at least half of the class readings and mastered the most important concepts discussed in class should be able to achieve an excellent grade.

**TERM PAPER.** All students are required to submit one 10-15 page research proposal providing an overview of a research problem, statement of specific research objectives, specific hypotheses to be tested (if appropriate), description of research methods to be employed (including instruments to be used or developed, sample design, potential impediments to research), and types of analyses that will be done with the data generated by the research. The term paper must be submitted by e-mail before 11:00 pm on December 29th. (If you will be submitting your paper using a word processor other than MS Word or WordPerfect, you must save your file in RTF format.)

Before beginning work on your term paper, all students must meet with the instructor to discuss and receive approval for their proposed research topic. These meetings should be completed on or before October 31st.

**GRADES.** Grades in the course will be based upon student’s performance in the two evaluative quizzes (25% each), and the term paper (50%).

**PLAGIARISM.** The use of other people’s work or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment is a serious breach of the standards of academic scholarship. Students who engage in such behavior may be given a grade of F, and they may be subject to other disciplinary action. The university’s academic integrity policy is published in full at ---

http://web.cuny.edu/academics/info-central/policies/academic-integrity.pdf
CONTACTING ME. The best way to contact me is to send E-Mail to CFTurner3@GMail.com. My office telephones are 202-657-4455 (home) and 718-997-2819 (university). Please leave voicemail messages ONLY on 202-657-4455.

READINGS (* indicates a required reading)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1</td>
<td>COURSE OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH PROCESS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 8</td>
<td>No class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 22 (cont’d)</td>
<td>PRACTICE AND SOME PROBLEMS OF SURVEY RESEARCH (cont’d)</td>
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<td>Oct 6</td>
<td>APPLIED RESEARCH ON SEXUAL BEHAVIORS AT THE ONSET OF THE AIDS</td>
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<td>Oct. 13</td>
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<td>Oct. 20, 27</td>
<td>AGONIES AND OUTCOMES OF APPLIED RESEARCH ON SEXUAL BEHAVIOR</td>
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<td>Nov. 3</td>
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Research Proposals


Chapters 1-2, Appendix A-B in E. Laumann et al., Social Organization of Sexuality. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994. (Optional Reading: Appendix C, Questionnaire) [Reading 17, 18]

Research Outcomes


**NOTE. October 27th class will include in-class evaluative quiz #1.**

**Nov. 10**

**REDISCOVERING THE NEED FOR APPLIED RESEARCH ON INJECTION DRUG USE**

**Research Proposals**


**Research Outcomes**

DesJarlais et al., Bibliography and Abstracts of Published Research. [Reading 21]


**Nov 17, 24**

**EVALUATION RESEARCH**


Dec. 1, 8

THE FUTURE: SURVEY RESEARCH ON THE INTERACTION OF GENETICS, ENVIRONMENT, AND HUMAN DISEASES.


  Chapter 1: Introduction [Reading 102]
  *Chapter 3: Biological Material in Household Surveys: The interface between Epidemiology and Genetics [Reading 103]

Glossary


NOTES: The December 8th class will include an in-class evaluative quiz #2. Term papers must be submitted before 11pm on December 29th.