

EDPSY 588: Survey Research
Winter 2012: Mondays 1:00-3:20p in Miller 104

Instructor **Liz Sanders**
Email: lizz@uw.edu (email is best way to communicate)
Office Hours: Miller 312 #G, by appointment

Electronic Devices

All electronic devices including cell phones and laptops must be **turned to silent and put away** during class to keep our learning environment respectful to others and as distraction-free as possible.

Overview

This course broadly examines survey research methods. We will be concerned with survey sampling designs and analysis, survey modes, and survey instrument development. Related issues include response validity, nonresponse rates and bias, and human subjects considerations. The selected class topics, readings, and assignments are geared toward helping you build the capacity to conduct your own survey research. In other words, this class is designed to be relevant to your own research. Homeworks and project exercises build directly on class discussions and readings as well as your own interests. Finally, note that some of our work at the beginning of the quarter involves learning sampling methods that build on a foundational understanding of univariate statistics. As such, successful completion of Edpsy 490 or equivalent is a pre-requisite. (If you are unsure if you meet this requirement, please see me at the end of class today.) Our estimated topic and text reading schedule is provided in the table below – **note that most weeks will involve additional article readings as well (see next page).**

EDPSY 588 Course Schedule		
<i>Text Readings</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Assignments</i>
D: 1-3 K: 1-2, 8	1/09 – Survey Modes & Probabilistic Sampling	BRING TOPIC IDEA
	1/16 – UW HOLIDAY	Work on homework/project
K: 3-5, 9, 11	1/23 – Survey Modes & Probability Sampling	HW1 & Proj1 due
	1/30 – Sampling Wrap-up & Designing Instruments	HW2 due
D: 4-7	2/06 – Designing & Evaluating Instruments	HW3 & Proj2 due
	2/13 – Designing & Evaluating Instruments	HW4 due
	2/20 – UW HOLIDAY	Work on project
D: 11, 13	2/27 – Evaluating Instruments Wrap-up & Data Analysis	Proj3 due
	3/05 – Data Analysis Wrap-up & Human Subjects Issues	HW5 due
	3/12 – <i>Informal Project Presentations & Potluck</i>	Proj4 (final) due

D = Dillman et al, K = Kalton

Text Readings

There are two texts we will read from. The first is Internet, Mail, and Mixed Mode Surveys: The Tailored Design Method (Third Ed) (2009) by Don A. Dillman, Jolene D. Smyth, and Leah Melani Christian. The second text is Graham Kalton's (1983) classic Introduction to Survey Sampling. The class schedule outlines our text readings.

Additional Readings

Every week there will be readings (typically 1-3 journal articles) in addition to your text readings for small group and class discussion. These will typically be sent via the all-class weekly email.

Weekly Class Emails

I have created a class email list to communicate course announcements and assignments; please be sure that you can receive group emails in your email. Note that my class emails do not allow anyone to use "reply all" (all queries go to me). Please bring your weekly readings with you to class for discussions.

Small Work Groups

I have created small groups of 5-6 people each for you to work in during class, throughout this quarter. Please also collaborate with each other on homeworks and projects as the need arises; however, note that each person is expected to turn in his/her own original work.

Software & Calculator

You will need **MS Excel** (95 or later) and **MS Word** (95 or later) for assignments (I will be attaching all homeworks via email); student versions of these are available for purchase at the UW Bookstore's Computer Department. Note that Excel for Macs is limited in its random number generator function, and you may need to use a PC for one of the class homeworks. MS Excel and Word are also installed on computers on the fourth floor of Miller Hall, in two labs at CSSCR (basement of Savery hall), and on most computers in UW libraries. If you get stuck, please email me and I will try to help you remotely or in person. Finally, you will need a **calculator** that can compute the square root ($\sqrt{\quad}$) of a number. (The TI-30Xa SE and HP 30S are both examples of adequate calculators.) Please bring your calculator to class during the first half of the quarter.

Performance Evaluation

This is a credit/no credit class. Credit will be given to individuals who (a) satisfactorily complete all homework and project assignments, and (b) attend and participate in each class period. Note: "satisfactorily" is defined as a high-quality (graduate-level) response to each assignment. All assignments should be typed in 10- or 12-point easy-to-read font such as Times New Roman, Arial, or Calibri. Computations may be neatly handwritten.

1. Attendance

Attendance, in concert with readings and assignments, is an important feature of the learning process. In addition to simply attending class, all class sessions will require your involvement in small group activities. Given the few class periods we have, **only one made-up absence is permitted to receive credit for this course**. Please email me if you will be missing any part of class so that I can send you a make-up assignment. Make-ups must be submitted by the last day of class for credit consideration.

2. Homeworks

There will be **5 homeworks** this quarter that will be emailed to the class in a timely manner that corresponds to topic coverage. You may work in groups for discussing how to tackle problems in the assignments; however, each person is expected to turn in their own original work. Homeworks should be typed for all non-calculation questions in complete sentences (calculations can be neatly handwritten). **Resubmits**: If a homework is not satisfactorily completed, I will return it to you, and then you may revise and resubmit it at the next class period.

3. Project

There will be one project in which you propose your own survey research project. It will have **4 components** due at various points in the quarter (see schedule), including a rough draft sampling plan and instrument, group peer reviews, cognitive interviews, and a final proposal and instrument draft. Component assignments will be sent to you as an attachment in the weekly class email.

Students with Disabilities

To request a letter for accommodations due to a disability, please contact Disabled Student Services at (206) 543-8924 (V/TTY); bring the letter to me to privately discuss the accommodation you might need for the class.