SOC 358  
Social, Cultural and Media Studies  
4  

COURSE NAME/NUMBER  
FACULTY/DEPARTMENT  
UFV CREDITS  

Advanced Research on a Selected Topic  

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:
In this course students conduct their own primary research on the course topic, as directed by the instructor. The course is based around a select sociological topic, and readings address the selected topic. Class time is spent learning about and discussing the topic as well as discussing practical and theoretical aspects of conducting a research project. The course topic is determined by the instructor and will vary from semester to semester.

PREREQUISITES:  
45 university-level credits to include one of SOC 255/ANTH 255/MACS 255, GEOG 252, CRIM 220, or equivalent.

COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: September 2011  
COURSE REVISED IMPLEMENTATION DATE: January 2015  
COURSE TO BE REVIEWED: January 2020  
(six years after UEC approval)  

SYNONYMOUS COURSE(S):
(a) Replaces: 
(b) Cross-listed with: 
(c) Cannot take: for further credit.

TOTAL HOURS PER TERM: 60  

LENTS: 45 Hrs  
Seminar: 15 Hrs  
Laboratory: Hrs  
Field experience: Hrs  
Student directed learning: Hrs  
Other (specify): Hrs  

TRAINING DAY-BASED INSTRUCTION:
Length of course:  
Hours per day:  

OTHER:  
Maximum enrollment: 25  
Expected frequency of course offerings: Once every 18 months (every semester, annually, every other year, etc.)

WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (lower-level courses only)  
☐ Yes ☑ No  
WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (upper-level requested by department)  
☒ Yes ☑ No  
TRANSFER CREDIT EXISTS IN BCCAT TRANSFER GUIDE:  
 ☑ Yes ☐ No  

Course designer(s): Chantelle Marlor revised by Gabriela Pechlaner  
Department Head: Stephen Piper Date approved: August 23, 2013  
Campus-Wide Consultation (CWC) Date of meeting: August 30, 2013  
Curriculum Committee chair: Amanda McCormick Date approved: September 13, 2013  
Dean/Associate VP: Jacqueline Nolte Date approved: September 13, 2013  
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval Date of meeting: September 27, 2013
LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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

- Outline a variety of academic debates and perspectives on the topic.
- Evaluate academic debates on the topic in relation to the student's own research plan.
- Explain the relationship between the topic and the broader field of sociology.
- Apply basic qualitative and/or quantitative techniques for gathering data.
- Demonstrate an ability to organize, manage, and analyze this material in relation to a small research project.
- Construct a research report summarizing the student’s research on this topic.
- Propose new research based on the student’s report.

METHODS: (Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)

Lectures and discussions

METHODS OF OBTAINING PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):

- Examination(s)
- Portfolio assessment
- Interview(s)
- Other (specify):

PLAR cannot be awarded for this course for the following reason(s):

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS: [Textbook selection varies by instructor. An example of texts might be:]

For example, if the special topic was on Research in Sociology of Health and Healing:


SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:

STUDENT EVALUATION: [An example of student evaluation for this course might be:]

| Topic selection assignment and ethics review | Pass/Fail |
| Data submission #1 (existing materials on topic of choice) | 15% |
| Data submission #2 (transcriptions from two interviews) | 15% |
| Presentation | 5% |
| Feedback for others on their presentations | 5% |
| Preliminary analysis | 25% |
| Final report | 30% |
| Reading reports | 5% |

COURSE CONTENT: [Course content varies by instructor. An example of course content might be:]

Week 1: Introduction to the topic of health, illness, and healing
Week 2: Overview of research projects, selecting a research topic, how to collect and analyze primary data
Week 3: Health Care in Canada
Week 4: Conceptions of health and illness
Week 5: Mainstream health care practices and practitioners
Week 6: Review of students’ research activities (students’ progress on research projects, including problem-solving strategies, clarification of data collection, and analysis techniques)
Week 7: Marginal and alternative health practices and practitioners
Week 8: Distribution of health and illness by social groups
Week 9: Inequality and health care
Week 10: Health, illness, and the life course
Week 11: Instruction on writing and formatting final research reports
Weeks 12-13: Student presentations of research projects