

SOC 4860 - Senior Capstone

Summer 2026 Syllabus, Section A01, CRN 30713,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Dr. Amanda Fehlbaum

Professional Qualifications:

Ph.D., Sociology, The University of Oklahoma

Master's, Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Texas at Dallas

Bachelor's, Gender Studies, University of Texas at Dallas

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Communication Expectations:

I typically respond to email within 24 hours on weekdays. I strive to grade assignments within one week.

How to Refer to me:

Dr. Fehlbaum

Course Description

4860. A capstone experience for the major in Sociology. Designing, implementing, and completing an empirical research project or paper on a topic approved by the capstone advisor. Prereq.: Senior status in Sociology; SOC 4850. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	The Art and Science of Social Research. 2nd Ed.	Carr, Deborah, et al.	9780393537529

- [Arthur, Mikaila Mariel Lemonik. 2021. "Preparing Quantitative Data and Data Management," in *Social Data Analysis*. Pressbooks. Web.](#)
- [Guest, Greg, Arwen Bunce, and Laura Johnson. "How Many Interviews Are Enough? An Experiment with Data Saturation and Variability." *Field Methods* 18.1 \(2006\). 59-82.](#)
- [Arthur, Mikaila Mariel Lemonik. 2021. "Quantitative Data Analysis with SPSS: Getting Started," in *Social Data Analysis*. Pressbooks. Web.](#)
- [Arthur, Mikaila Mariel Lemonik. 2021. "Presenting the Results of Qualitative Data Analysis," in *Social Data Analysis*. Pressbooks. Web.](#)
- [Arthur, Mikaila Mariel Lemonik. 2021. "Presenting the Results of Quantitative Data Analysis," in *Social Data Analysis*. Pressbooks. Web.](#)
- [Purdue OWL \(2026\) ASA References page formatting](#)
- [Chen, Victor Tan, et al. \(n.d.\) "Presenting Your Research" in *The Craft of Sociological Research*. Pressbooks. Web.](#)

Recommended Resources:

- [Oregon State University Department of Sociology. *Writing Within Sociology: A Guide for Undergraduates*.](#)
- [The University of California Berkeley Department of Sociology. 2011. *Writing for Sociology, 2nd Edition*.](#)

This course is First Day Ready which means that your book is included as part of your tuition and fees. You may opt-out of these charges though it is strongly discouraged.

Students are required to have access to [Blackboard](#) as this course takes place online. These are the [computer lab locations](#) on campus.



The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
6/29	• Syllabus • Review Relevant Chapters in ASSR	MODULE 1 Refining Your Research Foundation	• Request Cayuse Log-In • Revised Proposal • Research Plan Template • Finalized Research Instrument • Progress Memo 1
7/6	• Cayuse User Guides	MODULE 2 Research Ethics and IRB Application	• Informed Consent Document • Recruitment Flyer or Graphic • Survey in Microsoft Forms (if applicable) • Complete Cayuse IRB Application • Progress Memo 2
7/13	• ASSR: Chapter 6 - Sampling & Recruitment • For Quantitative Students: "Preparing Quantitative Data and Data Management" in Social Data Analysis	MODULE 3 Data Collection I: Launching the Study	• Data Collection Log - Entry 1 • Positionality Reflection • Discussion: Sampling & Recruitment • Progress Memo 3
7/20	• For Qualitative Students: "How Many Interviews Are Enough?" in Field Methods • For Quantitative Students: "Quantitative Analysis with SPSS: Getting Started" in Social Data Analysis	MODULE 4 Data Collection II: Completing and Reflecting on the Study	• Data Collection Log - Entry 2 • Data Organization Audit • Discussion: Data Quality & Sufficiency • Progress Memo 4
7/27	• For Qualitative Students: ASSR: Chapter 17 - Analysis of Qualitative Data • For Qualitative Students: "Presenting the Results of Qualitative Analysis" in Social Data Analysis • For Quantitative Students: ASSR - Chapter 13 - Univariate and Bivariate Analysis of Quantitative Data • For Quantitative Students: "Presenting the Results of Quantitative Data Analysis" in Social Data Analysis	MODULE 5 Data Analysis	• Analysis-Ready Data Checkpoint • Preliminary Analysis Memo • Discussion: Sharing Preliminary Findings • Progress Memo 5
8/3	• ASSR: Chapter 14 - Communicating Science Research Findings • Purdue OWL's ASA References Page	MODULE 6 Writing the Research Paper	• Full Draft of Research Paper • Peer Review of Classmate's Draft • Discussion: Framing Limitations Honestly • Progress Memo 6
8/10	• "Presenting Your Research" in The Craft of Sociological Research	MODULE 7 Presenting, Reflecting, and Looking Forward	• Final Revised Research Paper • Research Presentation • Revised Resume or CV • Elevator Pitch • Capstone Reflection + Senior Exit Survey • Professional Profile + Portfolio

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