

**Winter 2009
EC 410/510
T 4-5
Portland State University**

**Prof. Mary C. King, kingm@pdx.edu
241-N Cramer Hall, 725-3940
Office Hours: T 12-1:30, W 12:30-2,
And by Appointment**

EC 410/510: The Art and Science of Migration Research

The class will strengthen students' apprehension of the several tools necessary for fieldwork and research on Mexican migration. These include basic statistical concepts; quantitative and qualitative research methods; fieldwork exercises; and Spanish language for fieldwork. This course is one of a package of four related courses. The class includes a three-week stay in Oaxaca, Mexico, to engage in fieldwork and research. There are no pre-requisites, other than a willingness to engage with the material and make the most of the experience.

Each student will be expected to read the assigned material, participate in classroom discussions and to complete the assignments described below.

Grades for undergraduates and graduate students will be based

- * 35% on homework assignments, due in class while we are in Portland,
- * 35% on engaged participation in Spanish classes, fieldwork exercises and participant observation in Oaxaca,
- * 15% on appropriate use and/or presentation of research in your final paper, and
- * 15% on class participation in Portland.

Additionally, I will expect graduate students to demonstrate some leadership in the classroom as well as to produce written work that reflects a more sophisticated understanding of research methods.

Regular attendance is vital for understanding the material and for the success of the course; therefore attendance will be noted and considered while grading class participation. If you need to bring your child (or children) along with you to attend class, by all means do so. We can all manage to deal with a little child noise. All assignments are due on the dates announced and late work will be marked down. However you are always better off to turn an assignment in than to skip it.

I will be available by appointment as well as during regularly scheduled office hours to consult on coursework, as well as to discuss course material in greater depth than may be possible in class. I am happy to talk with you via e-mail, but will not accept your assignments by e-mail, except in an emergency.

University policy calls for severe sanctions for plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty. While I encourage you to discuss your assignments with other people, the final

product must be your own, containing full citations to any work upon which you draw, including course material.

Students with disabilities will be accommodated. If you require assistance obtaining particular resources for your education, please see me.

Required Reading

These two books are available in the bookstore, and the Bryman is on physical reserve in the library. They include both required reading and optional reference material.

Alan Bryman. 2004. *Social Research Methods* Second Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

David H. Voelker, Peter Z. Orton and Scott V. Adams. 2001. *CliffsQuickReview Statistics*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Publishing.

One required reading – the Todaro chapter—is on e-reserve, listed under my other class, “Work, Poverty, Development and Migration.” Two other required readings—the Boltvinik and Tufte are on physical reserve in the library.

Course Outline

I. Research Design

1/6 Introductions: Each other, Course, Big Ideas
real vs. nominal values, purchasing power parity

Bryman, Chapters 1 & 2

II. Qualitative Research: Interviewing and Ethnography

1/13 Sampling, Interviewing, Questionnaires

Bryman, Chapters 4-8

1/20 Ethnography & Participant Observation

Bryman, Chapters 13, 14 & 19

III. Applications in Oaxaca

1/26 through 2/13 Spanish Study and Fieldwork exercises in Oaxaca

IV. Quantitative Research & Statistics

2/17 Simple Statistics, Understanding Linear Regression

CliffNotes Statistics, Chapters 1,2,3 & 8

IV. Inequality and Poverty—to be continued 3/4

2/24 Michael P. Todaro and Stephen C. Smith. 2006. *Economic Development*. Chapter 5: Poverty, Inequality and Development.

on e-reserve, under the title of my other class. password = king

3/3 Julio Boltvinik. 2003. “Welfare, Inequality, and Poverty in Mexico, 1970-2000.” In Kevin J. Middlebrook and Eduardo Zepeda (eds.) *Confronting Development: Assessing Mexico’s Social and Economic Policy Challenges*.

on physical reserve, maybe on e-reserve if I can get it!

V. Presentation

3/10 Accurate, Beautiful and Informative Presentation!

Edward R. Tufte. 1983. *The Visual Display of Quantitative Information*. Cheshire, CT: Graphics Press. Particularly Chapter 2! Chapters 1, 4 & 5 also very helpful

on physical reserve

3/17 Final Presentation and Paper Due!