The materials you need are listed under the section “Course Materials for Soc 143.” Other course materials are for sale in the UCSD bookstore. There will be a midterm (25% of total grade), a final (50% of total grade), homework assignments (12.5% of total grade). Much of the crucial material you will need to understand is taught ONLY in lectures; therefore, to encourage attendance, your attendance record will account for 12.5% of your grade.

I. Approaches to the study of suicide

A. Study of groups

1. Statistical techniques used in studying group rates

   a. Informal techniques for finding patterns in data
   b. Formal techniques for finding patterns in data

2. How to measure the propensity to suicide

   a. number of suicides   b. crude suicide rate
   c. age-specific suicide rate d. age-adjusted suicide rates

3. Biases in the calculation of suicide rates

4. Demographic variation in suicide rates

   by sex, race, age, marital status, occupation, region

5. Temporal variation in suicide rates

   by day of week, month, time of month, year, around holidays, and after suicide stories

B. Study of individuals

1. Case histories of suicides

   a. ordinary suicides (read the cases in The Final Months).

   b. famous suicides (read several biographical sources on your chosen subject)

   c. fictional suicides (read play, novel, etc. and also commentary on the fictional work you have selected)

2. Suicide notes
Characteristics of real vs. simulated notes

3. Psychological characteristics associated with suicide

4. Calls to suicide prevention centers

C. Sociological theories of suicide

1. Durkheim on social integration (read Suicide, Book II)
2. Copycat suicide

D. Some Non-sociological theories of suicide

Terminal illness and physician-assisted suicide