

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Winnipeg Manitoba

Department of Sociology

**SOCIOLOGY 77.229: INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS,**

**L02, Slot 9, 137 Isbister Building**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**2000-2001**

**I. General Information**

**A. Course Overview:**

This full year course is an introduction to social science methods, statistics, and computing. Sociology 77.229 will begin with the methods section. Statistics will be started towards the end of first term and continue throughout the second term. A computing module based on the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) will be conducted during the beginning of the second term.

Although techniques will be dealt with throughout the course, the primary objective is for the students to gain a grounding in methods, statistics, and computing in order to become intelligent consumers of

contemporary social science research.

This course will **not** assume that the students have a strong mathematics background, nor will the course be based heavily on mathematics. It is hoped, however, that Sociology 77.229 students will be open to the use of some necessary rudimentary mathematics as the course evolves.

## **B. Instructor**

Dr. Shiva S. Halli

Room 327 Isbister

Meetings: Tuesday & Thursday 11:30 to 12:45 P.M.

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Telephone: 474-6058

## **C. Required Material:**

1. Chava Frankfort-Nachmias and David Nachmias, sixth ed.

2000 Research Methods in the Social Sciences, Fifth Edition, St. Martin's Press, New York.

2. It will also be necessary to have a calculator for Sociology 77.229. It should be able to do square roots.

## **Optional Material:**

### 3. Chava Frankfort-Nachmias and David Nachmias

2000 Study Guide to Research Methods in the Social Sciences, sixth Edition, St. Martin's Press, New York.

#### **D. 1. Course Requirements:**

Component Weight Due Date

Method Test 1 20% October 23

Method Assignment 1 5% October 30

Method Test 2 20% December 4

Statistics Assignment 1 5% February 7

Computing Assignment 1 5% February

Computing Assignment 2 5% February

Statistics and

Computing Test I 15% March 7

Statistics Assignment 2 5% March 19

Final Test 20% April 11

## **2. Problem Sets:**

The five problem sets will each account for 5% of the Sociology 77.229 final grade. They are due at the beginning of class on the due dates.

A penalty of 5 points (out of 100) per day (including weekends and holidays) will be deducted from late problem sets. In addition, once the problem set solution has been discussed in class (usually one week after the due date), late problem sets will not be accepted.

Make sure that you retain a copy of your completed assignment before you submit.

**3.** There will be four in-class tests. The first two will cover the methods section and the last two will concentrate on the statistics and computing material. No make-up test will be conducted.

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A+ = 95-100% C+ = 65-69%

A = 85-94% C = 60-64%

B+ = 80-84% D = 50-59%

B = 70-79% F = 0-49%

## SOCIOLOGY 77.229

### Course Outline

### **TOPIC READINGS\***

### **FIRST TERM: METHODS AND INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICS**

The Research Process F&N: Ch. 1

Ethical & Political Issues F&N: Ch. 4

Formulation Stage F&N: Chs. 2, 3

Research Design Stage F&N: Chs. 5, 6

Measurement Issues F&N: Ch. 7

Sampling F&N: Ch. 8

Questionnaire Construction F&N: Ch. 11

Data Collection Stage F&N: Chs. 9, 10, 12, 13

Data Preparation for Analysis F&N: Ch. 14

## **SECOND TERM: SOCIAL SCIENCE COMPUTING AND STATISTICS**

Introduction to Statistics F&N: Ch. 15

Describing Univariate Data F&N: Ch. 15

Introduction to Computing F&N: App. A

Hypothesis Testing F&N: Ch. 19

Analyzing Bivariate Relationships F&N: Ch. 16

\*F&N: Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias. Research Methods in the Social Sciences. (2000)

NOTE: Students are advised to acquaint themselves with the University policy of plagiarism and cheating, as outlined in the General Calendar for the University of Manitoba.

**Senate Policy #1307** requires a *"post-examination review of final grades in multi-sectioned courses that will ensure an equitable correspondence between grades and level of performance in all sections."* Accordingly, the final grade distribution in this course may be **raised or lowered** to achieve such equity and, therefore, your final grade may be changed.

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