

**University of Manitoba
Department of Sociology**

**077.229 L01
RESEARCH METHODS
2003 - 2004**

Instructor: Dr. L.W. Roberts
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Office: 321 Isbister
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:30-12:30
or by appointment.
Classroom: Room 213 Tier
Credit Hours: 6

Required Textbook:

Babbie, Earl & Lucia Benaquisto
2002 Fundamentals of Social Research (1st Canadian Edition). Thompson Nelson.

Overview

This course introduces you to the ideas and practice of social scientific inquiry. The course surveys a wide variety of topics, ranging from philosophy of science considerations to computer-assisted statistical analysis. The course aims to make you a more intelligent consumer of social science research, and will give you the opportunity to grasp and integrate several kinds of information. Some areas of the course may tax both your mind and endurance, but with steady work I am sure we shall all find the experience rewarding.

Course Requirements

Your grade in this course will be assigned based on your mastery of the contents of the lectures and the readings, as well as your application of the ideas contained in these sources.

Lectures and Applications: Our class periods will be composed of either lectures or application activities. The lectures will either cover topics not included in the textbook or will examine textbook topics from a different perspective. The applications will provide opportunities for you to practice using the abstract concepts and principles you are learning.

Reading Requirements: You are responsible for mastering the reading material for each unit. The readings covered on each unit test are as follows:

- Test 1: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- Test 2: Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11, 13
- Test 3: Chapters 12, 14, 15, 16 (pp. 411-426)
- Test 4: Chapters 6, 7, 16 (pp. 426-459)

Note: The second half of this course deals largely with issues of data analysis and interpretation. The textbook does not cover these topics extensively. Therefore, the readings will not always be synchronized with the lecture topics. Since you are responsible mastering the readings through independent study, this lack of synchronization does not present a serious problem.

Unit Tests: There will be 4 unit tests on the contents of the reading and lecture material. Please note that the tests will cover the reading, lecture, and application materials. Each unit test will take up two class periods and will be composed of both objective and written answer questions.

The dates reserved for testing and contribution toward your final grade are as follows:

	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Test 1	October 14 & 16	20%
Test 2	November 20 & 25	20%
Test 3	February 24 & 26	20%
Test 4	April 6 & 8	20%

Assignments: To do well in this course it is not enough that you *know* the material; you must be able to *apply* what you know. The principal demonstrations of your ability to apply what you have learned occur in the completion of two research projects. The details of these projects will be covered in separate handouts distributed and discussed in class. For now, it is essential that you note the following points regarding the research assignments.

Assignment 1: Methodology and Content Analysis: This assignment requires you to collect some original data and write up a report related to your results. The evidence you require for this assignment will be presented during the class periods of *November 27* and *December 2*. Since this is the only access you will have to the relevant evidence, **it is essential that you be in class on these two dates**. The report for this project is due during the class period of *January 15, 2004*, late assignments will not be accepted, and this assignment is worth *7 percent* of your final course grade.

Assignment 2: Statistical Analysis of Secondary Data: This assignment requires you to analyze an existing data set and write up a report related to your results. The data required for this assignment will be available early in the second term. The report for this project is due during the class period of *April 8, 2004*, late assignments *will not* be accepted, and this assignment is worth *13 percent* of your final course grade.

Some Final Notes

- 1) Only documented reasons are acceptable for not meeting course requirements, which includes class attendance (see Undergraduate Calendar).
- 2) Regarding Assignment 1, *for any reason*, you miss class on either November 27 or December 2, you will be required to complete a separate project where you will not have the benefit of collaboration and consultation.
- 3) You are responsible for mastering the contents of the readings through independent study. Therefore, please get started early and plan your study time accordingly.
- 4) Class will not be held on the following dates: February 17 & 19 -- Mid-Term Break
- 5) Voluntary withdrawal deadline date: March 17, 2004.
- 6) As a cautionary note, students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on 'Examinations: Personations' (p.28) and 'Plagiarism and Cheating (p.29) found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

- 7) On the issue of politeness: Disruptions due to talking or early departures from the classroom are disrupting. Please be considerate and respectful of the needs and rights of others in the class. Students should be aware that persistent disruption may result in disbarment from the course. Any student who has a legitimate reason for leaving the class early should inform the instructor at the beginning of class.
- 8) Students always ask how I translate the percentage grades received on tests, exams, and projects into the letter grades awarded at the end of the year. My procedure is straightforward. I weight each course component according to its contribution toward your final grade and add these weighted products. Then I use the following key:

Total Percentage	Letter Grade
90+	A+
80-89	A
75-79	B+
70-74	B
65-69	C+
60-64	C
50-59	D
0-49	F

Note: Senate Policy #1307 requires "A post-examination review of final grades in multi-sectioned courses that will encourage 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.