

Preliminary - Subject to change

**UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
SOCIOLOGY 077.229 Section L02
RESEARCH METHODS**

**COURSE OUTLINE
Regular Session 2003-2004
6 credit hours**

Instructor: Steven Kohm
Office: 301E Isbister
Phone: 474-6721
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 1:30-2:30
E-mail TBA
Class location: 403 Tier Building
Class time: Slot 07, MWF 12:30-1:20

REQUIRED READING:

Babbie, Earl & Lucia Benaquisto *Fundamentals of Social Research, First Canadian Edition* (Nelson/Thomson Canada Ltd., 2002)

Additional readings will be placed on reserve as needed.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

An introduction to quantitative and qualitative scientific methods of investigating social phenomena. The course will include introductions to the assumptions of scientific inquiry, the conceptualization of research problems, basic statistical analysis, and use of a packaged computer program.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course will introduce students to the fundamentals of qualitative and quantitative social research. The first part of the course will guide students through the process of social research by examining the role of theory in social research, the formulation of research problems, measurement issues, sampling and data collection methods. The social, political and ethical contexts within which the research process takes place will also be examined. The second part of the course will focus on the analysis of data and the presentation of research findings. This section will introduce students to statistics and computer-assisted data analysis.

It is expected that students will learn by working through assignments as well as by critical examination of research carried out by social scientists. Class time will be split between a lecture component and a hands-on component, which will include computer laboratory time during which students will learn the basics of computer assisted data analysis.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Evaluation for this course will be based on 5 assignments worth 5% each and four in-class tests, weighted as noted below.

	<u>Tentative Date</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Test 1:	October 24	20%
Test 2:	December 3	20%
Test 3:	February 15	15%
Test 4:	April 7	20%

1. Assignments:

Detailed instructions for the assignments will be provided in class. Normally, two assignments will be due in Term 1 and three will be due in Term 2.

The five assignments will each account for 5% of your final grade. They are due at the **beginning** of class on the due dates.

Students must retain a copy of the written assignment submitted to the Instructor/Teaching Assistant for evaluation.

A penalty of 5 points (out of 100) per day (including weekends and holidays) will be deducted from late assignments. In addition, once the solutions to the questions in the assignment have been discussed in class (usually one week after the due date), late assignments will **not** be accepted.

2. Tests:

There will be four in-class tests. Tests will **not** be cumulative.

If a test is missed for legitimate medical reasons the student must contact the instructor, present their medical certificate, and arrange for a make-up assignment. Failure to contact the instructor in a timely manner and present proper medical documentation will result in ineligibility for a make-up assignment and a mark of zero for that test.

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%

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.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Cheating of any kind is strictly prohibited. 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.

DISRUPTIONS

Disruptions due to excessive talking or early departures from the classroom are especially distracting in large classes. Please be considerate and respectful of the needs and rights of others in the class. Students should be aware that persistent disruption will result in debarment from the course. If you have a legitimate reason for leaving the room early, please inform your instructor at the beginning of the class.

WITHDRAWAL

Last day for voluntary withdrawal from this course without academic penalty is **March 17, 2004.**

COURSE TOPICS AND READINGS

Below is a *tentative* schedule of readings and topics, subject to revision and change.

TERM ONE

Human Inquiry and Social Scientific Inquiry

Chapter 1

Paradigms, Theory and Research

Chapter 2

Causation in Social Research

Chapter 3

Ethical Considerations in Social Research

Pages 201-212 Ethical Considerations

General Issues in Research Design

Chapter 4

Conceptualization, Operationalization and Measurement

Chapter 5

Indexes, Scales and Typologies

Chapter 6

The Logic of Sampling

Chapter 7

Experiments and Quasi-Experiments

Chapter 8

Survey Research

Chapter 9

Unobtrusive Research

Chapter 10

Qualitative Field Research

Chapter 11

TERM TWO

Qualitative Interviewing

Chapter 12

Evaluation Research

Chapter 13

Qualitative Analysis of Data

Chapter 14

Quantifying Data – Computers in Social Research

Chapter 15

Univariate and Bivariate Analysis

Chapter 16

Descriptive and Inferential Statistics

Chapter 16