

University of Manitoba **Department of Sociology**
077.229 Introduction to Research Methods, Section L02
Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.
Fall/Winter 2004-2005
Room 214 Tier

Instructors: Karen Kampen (Term 1)
Linda Wood (Term 2)

E-mail: kampenkm@cc.umanitoba.ca*
E-mail: umwoodlp@cc.umanitoba.ca*

Credit hours: 6
Phone: 474-8903
Office: 308 Isbister
Office Hours: Mon/Wed 11:30-12:30

* *Please put 77.229 in the subject line or else the message might be deleted; please also note that we will not be held responsible for emails rejected due to small capacity of your account etc.*

Required Textbook

Babbie, Earl and Lucia Benaquisto (2002). *Fundamentals of Social Research* (1st Canadian edition). Scarborough: Thomson/Nelson. This textbook has been bundled with a student version of the SPSS computer package on a CD-Rom. Additional copies of the CD-Rom alone are available in the Bookstore.

Course Objectives and Description

“Supposing is good, but finding out is better.”
- Mark Twain

This quotation has two connotations in the context of this course. First, it is often assumed that sociology is based upon “common sense”. However, this is far from the truth, and sociological research has often dispelled commonly held myths about the social world. The second connotation is that learning about research is ideally a process of “learning by doing”, rather than passively absorbing information about how others do research. With these ideas in mind, the central aim of this course is to help students learn what social research methods are and how to apply them, both as critical consumers of research findings as well as professionals in the job market.

While the prospect of taking Research Methods tends to be daunting to many students, if approached in a systematic and lively manner, it can indeed be enjoyable. In order to cover the large volume of new material and skills that you will gain during the course, we will spend the first half of the course focusing on research design and general modes of observation, while in the second half we will delve into the more statistical aspects of social research. You will also have an opportunity to do some original research, both in the form of gathering data as well as utilizing existing survey data.

This course has no formal “lab” component; instead, we will do exercises during class, in addition to lectures. Students are expected to read the relevant chapter before class, and to participate in the exercises. A large component of your course work can be completed during class, which should help to keep the workload and your stress level manageable. At the same time, this means that attending every class is particularly important in our course.

Evaluation

1) Unit tests (17.5% per test x 4 tests = 70%). Each test will be based upon readings and in-class material including lectures and exercises. Test format will include multiple choice questions as well as open-ended questions. Please note that a basic calculator is permitted during tests; no other electronic devices (e.g. programmable calculators, electronic dictionaries, Palm Pilots) will be permitted.

Test #1 (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) **October 27 & 29**

Test #2 (Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12, 14) **December 6 & 8**

Test #3 (Chapters 8 including Ethics section, 15, and 16 pp. 411- 426) **February 11**

Test #4 (Chapters 13, 7, and 16, pp. 426-463) **April 8**

2) There are two assignments in the course, designed to demonstrate your ability to apply what you have learned. Students should familiarize themselves with the referencing style of the *Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology*.

Assignment #1: Methodology and Content Analysis (15%). This assignment will involve collecting original data during the class periods of **November 8, 10, and 12**, and writing up a report related to these data. **Due December 8 (during class)**

Assignment #2: Statistical Analysis of Secondary Data (15%). This assignment will involve the analysis of an existing data set which will be made available early in the second term, and writing up a report related to your results. **Due April 8 (during class)**

* The last date for Voluntary Withdrawal is **March 18, 2005**.

Grade Distribution

90-100%	A+
80-89%	A
75-79%	B+
70-74%	B
65-69%	C+
60-64%	C
50-59%	D
<50%	F

Please note that 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 this equity and, therefore, your final grade may be changed.

Missed Tests, Late Assignments, and Missed Classes

It is crucial to provide every student with fair and equitable treatment. Although we hear the following requests every year, we know of no professor who considers excuses such as “I have 3 other tests that day” or “I have another assignment due that week” to be legitimate reasons for make-up tests or assignment extensions. It would be highly unfair to the other students in the class to grant such requests, so please do not bother to ask. Make-up tests and assignment extensions will be permitted only for students who have a legitimate reason, such as illness or bereavement, if **written documentation** is provided. Documentation must cover the date of the test/assignment deadline. (Examples include a death certificate, or a physician's note.) As per the University of Manitoba's FIPPA policy, it will be kept strictly confidential.

Students requiring **make-up tests** on either of the first two tests must write them at **1:00 p.m.** on the following date: **December 8**. Because we have a large class, this date cannot be altered to suit students' individual schedules. Please bring your documentation to our Teaching Assistant (name and office location T.B.A.), and he/she will supervise your test. Make-up test date(s) for Term 2 will be determined during that term.

In terms of the in-class **data collection days** listed above, students who miss one or more of these classes for legitimate reasons will need to provide supporting documentation, and they may be required to submit a different project for Assignment #1.

Late assignments will not be accepted and will result in a mark of zero. Students are strongly advised to begin working on their assignments as early as possible. In addition, preparing for “technical glitches” (such as computer problems) is the responsibility of the student. Students are encouraged to keep **back-up copies** of their work in order to avoid losing marks for assignments not completed on time due to computer problems.

If you **miss a class**, it is your responsibility to acquire lecture material, updates to our schedule, or other material, from others in the class. We will make ourselves available for help outside of class time, but will not provide a review of lectures or our personal lecture notes for students who miss class.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on "Examinations: Personations" (p. 25) and "Plagiarism and Cheating" (p. 26) found in the *Undergraduate Calendar*. While consulting one another about your assignments is acceptable conduct, please bear in mind that you must submit original work. On the other hand, students are strongly encouraged to study together for tests; it makes all of this more enjoyable! The Faculty of Arts also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.

Disruptions due to excessive talking or early departures from the classroom are especially distracting to large classes, including ringing/talking on **cell phones**. 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 class early should inform the instructor at the start of class.

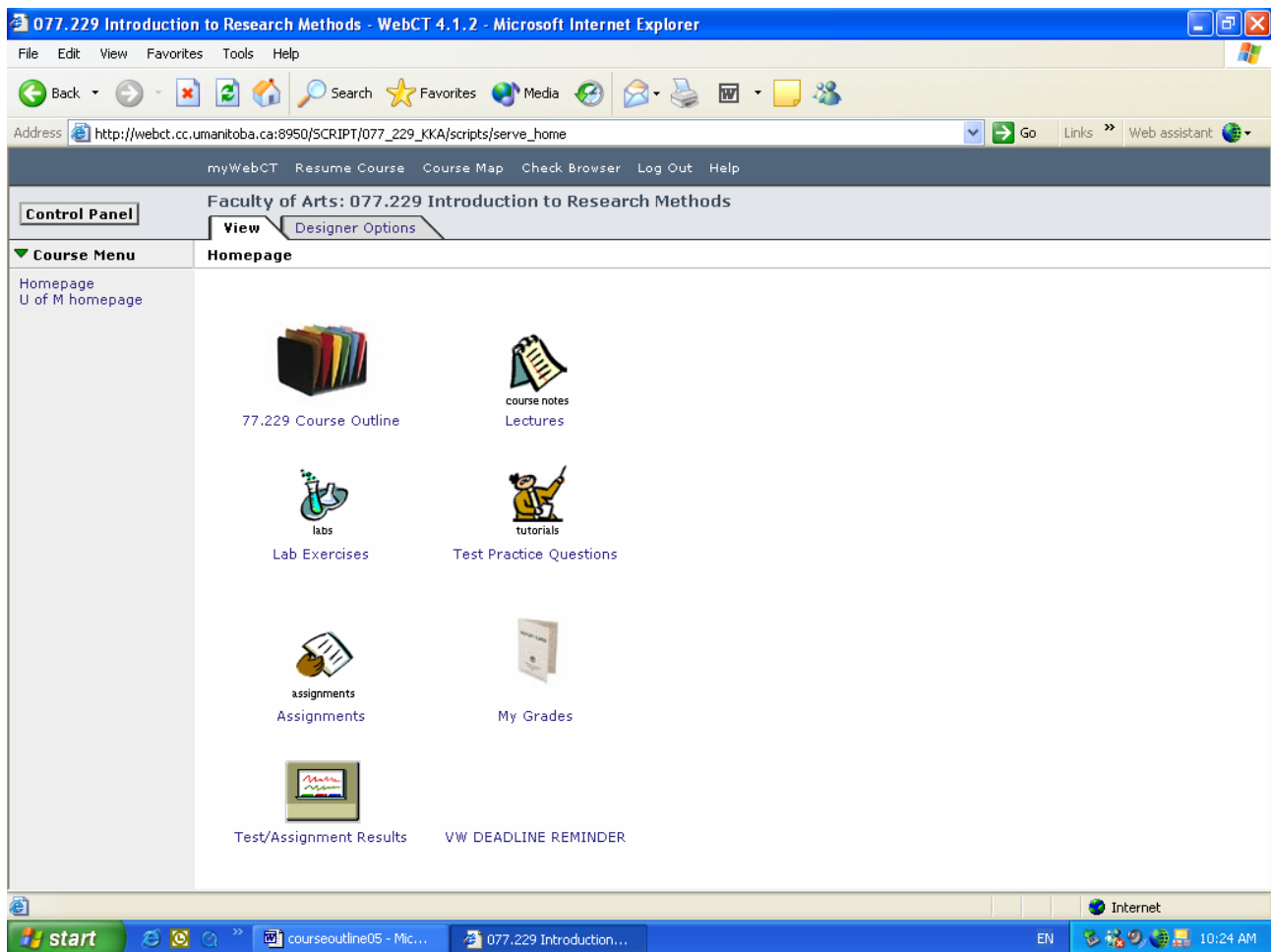
WebCT

This course will have a companion website which can be reached at the following link:

<http://www.umanitoba.ca/campus/ist/cms/webct>

This page shows you how to log into WebCT. If you do not have a home computer, you can access the site from one of the campus labs (e.g. Dafoe Library). For any technical questions re: WebCT, phone 474-9788 or use the email addresses on the above page. The website is designed to make accessing various things convenient.

Once you have successfully logged into WebCT and found the website for this course, you should see something similar to the following screen. Just click on the links to access your grades (the "My Grades" link). Grades cannot be released via telephone, email, on walls, or on doors (all being a violation of U of M's FIPPA policy). Only *you* will be able view your grades in WebCT; you cannot see those of other students, nor can they see yours. On this page you will also find links to partial PowerPoint slides prior to lectures, and other documents (such as the SPSS Lab Manual), all in MS Word, as they become available throughout the course.



TENTATIVE SCHEDULE 2004-2005

Term 1 (first date of each week is listed)

September 10: Introduction to the course

September 13: Human Inquiry and Science (Chapter 1)

September 20: Paradigms, Theory, and Research (Chapter 2)

September 27: The Idea of Causation in Social Research (Chapter 3)

October 4: Research Design (Chapter 4); Lab in 108 Machray (October 8)*

October 13: Conceptualization, Operationalization, Measurement (Chapter 5)

October 18: Indexes, Scales, and Typologies (Chapter 6)

October 25: **TEST #1 (October 27 & 29)**; Review day (October 25)

November 1: Unobtrusive Research (Chapter 10); pre-test for Assignment #1

November 8: Data collection for Assignment #1

November 15: Survey Research (Chapter 9)

November 22: Survey Research, continued (Chapter 9)

November 29: Qualitative Research (Chapters 11, 12, 14)

December 6: **TEST #2 (December 6 & 8) and Assignment #1 DUE (December 8)**

* Please bring something to save your work on (e.g. a diskette); please also bring your INS password - they are available at www.umanitoba.ca/claimid

Term 2 (first date of each week is listed)

January 5: Introduction to Statistics (Chapter 16)

January 10: Measures of Central Tendency and Dispersion (Chapter 16)

January 17: Types of Distributions/Normal Curve; Z-scores (Chapter 16)

January 24: Standardizing Data (no readings); Lab help

January 31: Bivariate Relationships (Chapter 16)

February 7: **TEST #3 (February 11)**; Review day (February 9)

February 21: Descriptive Statistics – Lambda, Gamma (Chapter 16)

February 28: Descriptive Statistics – Pearson's r (Chapter 16); Lab help

March 7: Introduction to Inference – Sampling and Probability (Chapter 7)

March 14: Confidence Intervals (Chapter 7)

March 21: Inferential Statistics – Chi-square Test of Significance (Chapter 16)

March 28: Elaboration Model; Lab help

April 4: **TEST #4 (April 8); Assignment #2 DUE (April 8)**; Review day (April 6)