

University of Manitoba
Department of Sociology
Fall/Winter (6 Credit Hour Course) 2005-2006

77.229 RESEARCH METHODS L02

Instructor: Tracey Peter
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Class: MWF 10:30 – 11:20 (214 Tier Building)
Office Hours: By appointment

Required Texts:

Babbie, Earl and Lucia Benaquisto (2002) *Fundamentals of Social Research*. First Canadian Edition. Scarborough, ON: Thomson Nelson.

The class textbook is ‘bundled’ with SPSS. Please purchase the textbook that includes the bundle as you will be using SPSS for your lab coursework.

Recommended Text:

George, Darren and Paul Mallery (2005) *SPSS for Windows Step by Step: A Simple Guide and Reference*. Fifth Edition. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon.

For your use, a copy of this text is on reserve in Dafoe library.

Course Objectives and Description:

Sociology 229 introduces students to social science research methods, which are essential skills for constructing knowledge, developing sociological theories, and designing effective social policy. The goal of this course is to provide students with a general understanding of sociological research methods in order to enhance students’ ability to undertake research and to be informed consumers of published research.

The first half of the course (Fall Term) explores the study of assumptions, principles, and techniques of various research methods used in sociology. The intended outcome is for students to become familiarized with the general principals of research methods and their application in the collection of data for analysis. The second half of the course (Winter Term) will cover basic statistical methods and techniques for data analysis. The primary goal here is to enhance students’ statistical literacy.

There is a lab component for this course. The lab component comprises 20 percent of your final grade in the course. Laboratory attendance is compulsory. The details of the contents and requirements of the labs will be provided by the lab instructor. For now you need to note the following critical point: You must achieve a passing grade (i.e. 50 percent) in the lab component to pass the course. In other words, passing the lab is required, independent of how you do in the other course components. Students who fail

the lab, and therefore fail the course, will be required to retake the entire course (not just the lab component) in order to achieve credit in 77.229.

Please note that this is not a math course. You will be using a calculator in order to systematically work through basic problems and concepts. You do not require any advanced mathematical training to do well in this course. Given that most students will not be familiar with statistical techniques, regular class and lab attendance is essential. Course material is presented in a logical sequence; therefore, missing class may result in difficulty with future material.

Course Evaluation

Grades:

A+ = 90% and over	4.5
A = 80% to 89%	4.0
B+ = 76% to 79%	3.5
B = 70% to 75%	3.0
C+ = 66% to 69%	2.5
C = 60% to 65%	2.0
D = 50% to 59%	1.0
F = Under 50%	0.0

Students should be aware that the above grades are only guidelines. Different cut-off percentages may be used depending on final grade distributions.

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.

Test 1:	October 19 th and 21 st , 2005	20%
Test 2:	November 30 th and December 2 nd , 2005	20%
Test 3:	February 22 nd and 24 th , 2006	20%
Test 4:	April 3 rd and 5 th , 2006	20%
Lab Component:	(See Lab Course Outline)	20%

Tests: There are four unit tests covering class lectures and assigned readings. Each unit test will be written over a two-class period. Each test will include a mixture of multiple choice and written responses. The specifics of each test will be discussed in class. Each test will contain a mixture of assigned readings and class lectures. Please note: The second half of the course covers basic statistical methods and techniques for data analysis, which are not discussed in great detail in the course textbook. For this reason, class attendance is critical.

Required Reading:

Test 1: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Test 2: Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11, 13

Test 3: Chapters 12, 14, 15

Test 4: Chapter 6, 7, 16

Missed Tests: Any student who misses a test or exam must provide a doctor's note (or appropriate equivalent). **This will be strictly enforced.** No student will be allowed to write a make-up test without a doctor's note (or some form of written documentation). Any student who does not inform me (by phone/voice mail) **prior** to test time (that they will be absent for the test) **will not** be allowed to write a make-up test. This also will be strictly enforced.

Student Conduct and Academic Regulations of the University

Voluntary Withdrawal: The final date for voluntary withdrawal from this course is March 16th, 2006. There are no refunds on this date – see page 102 of the General Calendar for details.

Academic Dishonesty: Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on 'Examination: Personations' (p. 26) and 'Plagiarism and Cheating' (p. 27) found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Electronic Devices: Students are required to silence all electronic devices (cellular phones, pagers, etc.) when in the classroom.

Classroom Disruptions: Students should recognize that excessive talking or early departures from the classroom are disrupting for both the instructor and classmates. Please be considerate of others in the class. Continual disruption by a student may result in disbarment from the course. Please notify the instructor at the onset of class if you need to leave early.

Accommodations

Special Needs: Special needs services are provided through Disability Services (474-6213). Students with special needs (who require aids, other supports, or require extra time to write a test) should introduce themselves to the instructor at the beginning of the term in order to arrange suitable testing times.

Holy Days: The university recognizes the right of all students to observe recognized holidays of their faith, which fall within the academic year. With instructor discretion, necessary arrangements can be made to ensure studies are not jeopardized. The instructor should be notified of a student's intended absence in advance. At least three weeks notice of absence should normally be given where special arrangements are sought.