

**University of Manitoba**  
Department of Sociology  
Regular Session (6 Credit Hours) 2006-2007

**SOC 2290 RESEARCH METHODS A04**

**Instructor:** Linda Wood  
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**Office Hours:** By appointment  
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**Meeting Times:** Slot E3: Wednesday evenings, 7:00-10:00 pm  
**Location:** 312 Tier Building

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**Required Textbook/Material:**

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

\*Please obtain a textbook that is bundled with a student version of the SPSS computer program as you will be using this in the lab component of the course.

A calculator is also required for the statistics section of the course.

**Course Overview:**

Sociology 2290 provides an introduction to the philosophy and practice of social scientific inquiry. The goal is for students to gain a foundation in methods, statistics, and computing in order to become critical consumers of social science research. The course will begin with the methods section during the first term. Basic statistical methods and techniques for data analysis will be covered in the second term.

There is a lab component for this course, which comprises 25 percent of your final grade in the course. You should all have registered for a lab section. Laboratory attendance is compulsory. The details 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 SOC 2290.

This course does not require a strong mathematics background. It is hoped, however, that students will be open to the use of some necessary rudimentary mathematics as the course progresses.

**Course Requirements:**

Test 1:	October 25, 2006	18.75%
Test 2:	December 6, 2006	18.75%
Test 3:	February 21, 2007	18.75%
Test 4:	April 11, 2007	18.75%
Lab Component:	(See Lab Course Outline)	25%

**Tests:** There are four in-class tests covering lectures, handouts, and assigned readings. Each test will consist of a mixture of multiple choice and written responses. The specifics of each test will be discussed in class. Please note that 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. There is no final exam.

**Required Reading:** You are responsible for mastering the reading material through independent study. Therefore, please get started early and plan your study time accordingly. Please see p. 4 for the readings covered on each test. Note that the chapters for each test may be altered depending on our progress through the material.

**Lecture Periods:** Our class periods will usually be composed of lectures, which will either cover topics not included in the textbook or will examine textbook topics from a different perspective. Please note that the textbook 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.

**Labs:** The lab instructor is completely responsible for delivering the labs and assigning your grade in the lab component of the course. Therefore, any questions or issues you have with this part of the course should be directed to the lab instructor (Term 1: J. McLean; Term 2: K. Kampen).

**Missed Tests:** Make-up tests will be permitted only for students who provide written documentation of a legitimate reason, such as serious illness or bereavement. If you miss a test it is your responsibility to get in touch with me as soon as possible to arrange for a make-up test. Failure to do so within one week may result in ineligibility for a make-up test. A missed test will receive a grade of 0.

**Course Evaluation:** Grades will be posted exclusively on the course's WebCT site. Students must consult the course website to learn their grades. The tentative grade distribution for this course is as follows:

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

Note: Senate Policy #1307 requires *"A post-examination review of final grades in multisectioned 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.

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

<http://www.umanitoba.ca/webct>

If you are having problems logging into the course, visit the Accounts Office in E3-637 at the Engineering and Information Technology Complex, contact the support desk by phone at 474-8600, or email [support@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:support@cc.umanitoba.ca).

Once you have successfully logged into WebCT and found the website for this course, you will be able to access your grades, important announcements, practice exercises and other documents as they become available throughout the course. It is your responsibility to periodically check the class website for updates and postings.

**Academic Integrity:**

Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on 'Personation at Examinations' (Section 4.2.8 p. 25) and 'Plagiarism and Cheating' (Section 7.1 p. 26) found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

**Class Conduct:**

Excessive talking, late arrivals, or early departures are impolite and distracting for both the instructor and classmates. Please be considerate and respectful of the needs and rights of others in the class. Students are required to silence all electronic devices (i.e., cell phones, pagers, PDAs, etc.). Persistent disruption will result in disbarment from the course.

**Voluntary Withdrawal Deadline:** March 19, 2007

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

<b>TERM 1</b>	<b>READINGS</b>
Foundations of Research	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5 (pp. 104-119) <sup>1</sup>
Ethical & Political Issues	pp. 199-212
Research Design	Chapters 4, 8
<b><i>TEST 1: OCTOBER 25, 2006</i></b>	
Measurement	Chapter 5 (pp. 119-133) <sup>2</sup>
Sampling	Chapter 7
Data Collection Methods: Survey Research	Chapter 9
Unobtrusive Research	Chapter 10
<b><i>TEST 2: DECEMBER 6, 2006</i></b>	
<b>TERM 2</b>	
Data Collection Methods (cont'd): Qualitative Field Research	Chapter 11
Qualitative Interviewing	Chapter 12
Evaluation Research	Chapter 13
<b><i>TEST 3: FEBRUARY 21, 2007</i></b>	
Data Processing/Analysis: Qualitative Data Analysis	Chapter 14
Quantifying Data	Chapter 15
Quantitative Data Analysis	Chapter 16
<b><i>TEST 4: APRIL 11, 2007</i></b>	

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<sup>1</sup> Up until, but not including, the section 'Levels of Measurement'.

<sup>2</sup> From the section 'Levels of Measurement' until the end of the chapter.