

University of Manitoba, Department of Sociology

SOC 3100 A01 – Practicum in Criminological/Sociological Research
Fall 2015 & Winter 2016 (6 credit hours)

Room 335 Isbister Building
M/W 2:30 – 3:45

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Office hours: By appointment

Overall, this course is intended to provide students with an opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they have acquired in this and previous criminology/sociology courses, and to gain experience in the conduct of research in a ‘real life’ setting. In addition to attending lectures and tutorials dealing with research methods and tools, students will be placed within a justice or other social-service related agency to complete a research project relevant to the agency’s mandate.

Research findings often must be filtered through a network of political interests, fiscal realities, and various organizational needs and priorities. Therefore, it is important for students to develop an understanding of the context in which research is interpreted and applied. Through this course, students will gain an understanding of the policy implications that are attached to both criminological/sociological theory and to the results of field research. The field placement will also expose students to the ways in which criminal justice and other agencies define needs and priorities, design and implement strategies, and deliver programs and services. Students will be supported in their projects through lectures, practical exercises, and tutorials in the use of statistical and/or presentation software.

Required Text:

Babbie, E. and L. Benaquisto (2014). Fundamentals of Social Research (3rd Cdn. Ed.). Nelson.

Strongly Recommended:

A research and writing style guide. This is one of the good ones:

Northey, M. et al (2007). Making Sense in the Social Sciences: A Student’s Guide to Research and Writing (4th edition). Oxford University Press. [Note: other editions are fine as well.]

Evaluation:

Grades will be determined on the basis of 3 assignments/exercises, and on the evaluation of various aspects of the field projects. Each of these components is described in more detail below.

- **Assignments and exercises (15%)**

Students will complete three written assignments/exercises over the course of the academic year. These are intended to reinforce the material discussed in the lectures, and to provide students with an opportunity to apply, for example, their statistical and presentation software skills. Each assignment is worth 5% of the final grade.

- **Literature review (5% (outline) + 15% (finished document))**
The literature review is one of the essential steps in conducting a research project; it summarizes prior research in a given area, and provides a context and rationale for new research. Through the literature review, students will demonstrate their familiarity with the existing knowledge and data that are relevant to their projects. Students must submit a typed, unbound hard-copy version, as well as an electronic version (e-mail is preferred, however any other electronic format is acceptable) in Microsoft Word format.
- **Research report (5% (outline) + 35% (finished version) + 5% (revisions))**
The research report presents a detailed summary of the process and outcomes of the student's project. The report will contain an introductory/background section, a detailed description of the methodology employed, presentation of findings, and a discussion of the conclusions and/or recommendations that are supported by the research findings. Students must submit an outline (5%), a typed, unbound hard-copy version (35%), as well as an electronic version in Microsoft Word format. Following grading, students must submit a revised version (5%) for binding and presentation to the agency supervisor.
- **Power Point presentation (10%)**
PowerPoint (as well as other similar brands of presentation software) is commonly used to present the results of research to clients and other audiences. Students will prepare and deliver a presentation (at a time to be arranged by the student and their supervisor) to the agency in which they conducted their research. For grading purposes, students must submit a hard-copy version as well as present the live version at the year-end exposition.
- **Poster presentation (5%)**
Posters/boards are a means to present research findings in a graphical fashion, allowing viewers to quickly grasp the purpose, process, and findings of a project. Students will prepare a poster presentation for display at the year-end exposition.
- **Agency evaluation (5%)**
Each student's performance during the placement will be evaluated by relevant agency personnel.

Note: With the exception of the assignments/exercises, all of the required course work listed above must be completed in order to pass the course.

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A+	90 - 100%	C+	65 - 69%
A	80 - 89%	C	60 - 64%
B+	75 - 79%	D	50 - 59%
B	70 - 74%	F	0 - 49%

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all classes. The instructor may initiate debarment procedures when unexcused absences exceed three scheduled classes. If you have a legitimate reason for missing class, please inform the instructor prior to the class if possible. In the case of a missed test, exam, or assignment due date, a medical certificate must be provided or a reduction of one

letter grade per day will be applied. In any of the cases above, it is the student's responsibility to *contact the instructor as soon as possible*. There will be no exceptions to the above policy.

Class Conduct:

Disruptions such as talking, late arrivals or early departures are especially distracting to the instructor and to other students. Please be considerate of the needs and rights of others. Active cell phones and other electronic devices are not welcome. Laptop computers, tablets, etc. may only be used to facilitate note-taking, and solely at the instructor's discretion.

Academic Integrity:

Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, exam personation, ("Personation at Examinations" (Section 5.2.9) and "Plagiarism and cheating" (Section 8.1)) and duplicate submission by reading documentation provided at the Arts Student Resources web site at <http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/index.html>. Ignorance of the regulations and policies regarding academic integrity is not a valid excuse for violating them.

Voluntary Withdrawal:

Students should be familiar with the rules and procedures for voluntary withdrawal. The final date for withdrawal without academic penalty is March 18th, 2016.

Tentative Course Schedule

This schedule (other than deliverable dates) is approximate and may be adjusted as the course progresses. Assignments and exercises will be integrated into the course when and where appropriate.

September

Introduction to the course
Project management
Social science and the research process

October

Review of sociological/criminological perspectives
Literature reviews and secondary research
Research ethics

Literature review outline due **October 14th**

November

Concepts and measures
Research design
Sampling
Survey research

Literature review due **November 18th**

January

Qualitative methods and interview research
Evaluation

February

Writing a research report
Preliminary presentations

Research report outline due **February 10th**

Mid March/April

No scheduled class content – time will be spent as needed on the completion of research reports, finalization of presentations, etc.

Final Deliverables:

March 23rd – Research reports due (will be returned to you with comments by April 6th)

April 6th – Poster and PowerPoint presentations due

April 13th – Revised reports due (graded version must also be returned)

April 22nd – Research exposition (1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

Note: Assignments and other deliverables must be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. on the due date. They must be submitted either directly to the instructor or date-stamped by the Sociology general office. Deliverables submitted by **any other** means will not be accepted.

The lectures and displays (and all material) delivered or provided in this course, including any visual or audio recording thereof, are subject to copyright owned by Prof. Frank Cormier. It is prohibited to record or copy by any means, in any format, openly or surreptitiously, in whole or in part, in the absence of the express written permission of the instructor any of the lectures, materials provided or published in any form during or from this course.

Unclaimed term work

Any term work that has not been claimed by students will be held for four (4) months from the end of the final examination period for the term in which the work was assigned. At the conclusion of this time, all unclaimed term work will become property of the Faculty of Arts and be destroyed according to FIPPA guidelines and using confidential measures for disposal.