

University of Manitoba
Department of Sociology and Criminology
SOC 2290 A02
INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS
Winter Term 2018-19

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Office Hours: By appointment
Classroom: 215 Tier
Timeslot: Tuesday & Thursday 10:00am-11:15am

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course entails an introduction to the philosophy and practice of social science research, and will cover key topics such as the assumptions of scientific inquiry, the conceptualization of research problems, qualitative and quantitative approaches, and basic statistical analysis. The main objective of the course is to provide students with a general understanding of the principles of social scientific research methods such that they are better prepared to: (1) undertake their own research projects, and/or, (2) be critical consumers of published research.

The first half of the course (Fall term) covered a number of issues related to the research process such as the nature of scientific knowledge, the place of theory and causality, and some basic methodological approaches to asking and addressing research questions. The second half of the course (Winter term) will focus largely on basic statistical methods and techniques for data analysis, with the basic goal of increasing students' statistical literacy.

While this course does not require a strong mathematics background, students will, in the Winter term, need to use a calculator to work through some basic problems and statistical techniques. As most students will be new to the statistical techniques relevant to this course, regular lecture attendance and completion of online lab assignments will be essential. Course material is presented in a logical sequence with new topics and concepts building upon previous ones; therefore, missing lectures is likely to create cumulative difficulties with mastery of this material, especially in the later stages of the course.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

1. Textbook

Winter Term:

Roberts, L.W., Edgerton, J., Peter, T., & Wilkinson, L.A. (2015). *Understanding Social Statistics*. Toronto: Oxford. ISBN: 0195444292

2. Lab Access (Aplia) Registration Codes

In addition to the textbook, you must obtain registration codes that provide access to the lab assignments, called *Aplia*.

Aplia HomeWork for *Statistics: A Tool*, 3rd edition, Healy (**not a textbook, only a registration code**) ISBN: 0176805230

Winter term student Aplia access link: <https://www.cengage.com/dashboard/#/course-confirmation/KU4A-NFX7-PIQH/initial-course-confirmation>

NOTE: Study questions, lecture PowerPoint slides and test marks will be posted on the UM Learn course website.

COURSE EVALUATION

Your Winter term mark constitutes 50% of your final course mark:

Tests = 35% (grades will be posted on UM Learn within 2 weeks of each test date)

Aplia = 15% (each assignment will be automatically graded and displayed online; final cumulative mark will be posted on UM Learn at end of Winter term)

1. Tests (35% of final course mark): There will be 2 in the Winter term. Please note that the tests will cover the reading, lecture, and application materials. Test questions will be drawn from assigned readings and class lectures, and will include both multiple choice and written/calculation responses. The tentative test dates and contribution toward your final grade are as follows:

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Test 1	February 12 & 14	17.5%
Test 2	April 4 & 9	17.5%

Note: During tests, only a basic, non-programmable calculator is permitted (in Winter term); no other electronic devices are allowed.

Missed Unit Tests: Any student who misses a test or exam is required to provide written documentation of a legitimate reason, such as serious illness or bereavement – any student who misses a test without instructor permission will receive a grade of zero for that test. *This requirement will be strictly enforced.* No student will be allowed to write a make-up test without appropriate written documentation. Any student who does not inform me (by phone/voice mail) of their unavoidable absence *prior* to test time *will not* be allowed to write a make-up test. **There will only be one make-up test date scheduled (Wednesday April 10th).** Note: make-up tests will differ from the tests administered in class. Any student who misses a make-up test will receive a grade of zero for that test.

2. Aplia (15% of final course mark)

There are two Aplia product codes: one for each term. Aplia HomeWork assignments will be due almost weekly, and correspond to a specific unit. Please see Aplia Assignment Schedule on page 4 of

course outline for individual due dates.

Each Aplia HomeWork assignment allows students up to 3 attempts – please note, a different question will be provided, but with the same concept, in order to discourage students from randomly guessing. The final grade for the assignment will be based on the score that is equal to or higher than subsequent attempts (i.e., do no harm).

Grade Key:

Total Percentage	Letter Grade
90+	A+
80-89	A
75-79	B+
70-74	B
65-69	C+
60-64	C
50-59	D
0-49	F

Note: In accordance with University and Faculty of Arts policies and the University of Manitoba Senate Policy #1307, department and programs are required to utilize a final grades review and approval process of multi-sectioned undergraduate courses before course grades are rolled into Aurora student. 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. At the discretion of a Department’s Council, the Faculty of Arts policy states there may also be a review and approval of proposed final grades of other undergraduate courses.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION

Class will not be held on the following dates:

February 19 & 21 (Winter Mid-term break)

Voluntary Withdrawal Deadline Date:

January 18, 2019

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://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student_resources/student_responsibilities_integrity.html. Ignorance of the regulations and policies regarding academic integrity is not a valid excuse for violating them.

Unclaimed Term Work Disposal:

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.

Conduct in Class:

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. Any student who has a legitimate reason for leaving the class early should inform the instructor at the beginning of class.

Accommodations:

Special Needs: Special needs services are provided through Student Accessibility 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.

APLIA ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Winter Term due dates		
Assignment	Title	Due Date
1	Introduction to Social Statistics	01.20.19
2	Basic Descriptive Statistics	01.27.19
3	Measures of Central Tendency and Dispersion	02.03.19
4	The Normal Curve and Standardized Scores	02.10.19
5	Bivariate Association (Categorical Variables)	02.17.19
6	Bivariate Association (Continuous Variables)	03.10.19
7	Sampling Distributions	03.24.19
8	Hypothesis Testing	03.31.19

Note: Unlike UM Learn DropBox, Aplia does not save late assignments, so there will be no record that you completed the assignment (if late). All Aplia assignments are due by **11:45 pm CST**, on the due date (Sunday).

SOC 2290 WINTER TERM 2019 SCHEDULE

The course schedule is a general guideline only. Topics may overlap weeks, and may begin or end before specific dates indicated below. It is students' responsibility to ensure that they have all materials for lectures, which will be available through the course website.

Week/dates	Topic/Event	Chapter
January 8	Lecture Unit 1 Logic of Social Statistics	2
	<i>Univariate Analysis</i>	
January 10, 15 & 17	Lecture Unit 2 Frequency Distributions Measures of Central Tendency Measures of Dispersion Charts and graphs	4 5 6 7
January 22 & 24	Lecture Unit 3 Distribution (normal curve & z-scores)	8
	<i>Bivariate Analysis</i>	
January 29 & 31	Lecture Unit 4 Introduction to Bivariate Relationships Contingency Tables (crosstabs) Scatterplots	9 10 11
February 5 & 7	Lecture Unit 5 PRE Measures of Association for Categorical Data	12 & 13
February 12 & 14	Test #1 (February 12 & 14) Material covered: Chapters 2 & 4-13 & Lecture Units 1-5	
February 18-22	Mid-term break (no classes)	
February 26 & 28	Lecture Unit 6 Bivariate Linear Regression, Pearson's r and PRE	14
March 5 & 7	Lecture Unit 7 The Logic of Multivariate Analysis The Elaboration Model	15 16
	<i>Inferential Statistics</i>	
March 12 & 14	Lecture Unit 8 Samples & Populations	18
March 19 & 21	Point Estimates, Confidence Intervals and Confidence Levels	19
March 26 & 28	Hypothesis testing	20 & 21
April 2	Review	
April 4 & 9	Test #2 (April 4 & 9) Material covered: Chapters 14-16 & 18-21 & Lecture Units 6-8	

