

The University of Manitoba

Department of Sociology

SOC 2290 Introduction to Research Methods (Lab Component)

Mondays 2:30-3:45 (B01) & 4:00-5:15 (B02)

Tuesdays 8:30-9:45 (B03) & 1:00-2:15 (B04)

Thursdays 8:30-9:45 (B05)

Classroom: Room 202 Isbister

Instructor: Karen Kampen

Phone: 474-8903

Email: kampenkm@cc.umanitoba.ca

Office: 308 Isbister

Office Hours: Monday 6:00pm - 7:00pm, Tuesday 10:00am -1:00pm, or by appointment

- Please consider my door always open; as long as I am there, feel free to stop in.
- Please note that this is not an "official" course outline per se, unlike the one that was distributed by your SOC 2290 instructor. This document is intended to provide you with additional information about how the labs will run during the year, as well as contact information, etc.

Objective of the Labs

The main purpose of the lab is to take material learned in the classroom and textbook and apply it via practical, "hands on", problem-solving exercises.

Class Format

Students work on a small exercise each week and submit it to me at the end of the lab session; it will be returned the following week. While group learning is encouraged, all students are expected to know the class material and be able to apply it, and are not obligated to submit the same answers as their classmates.

Preparation

Your assigned textbook readings and/or lecture materials are the main source of preparation for lab exercises. Normally, our labs will lag about one week behind the associated lecture topic from class. However, because occasionally the lab material might not correspond directly with previously introduced class material, additional concepts would be introduced in the lab if needed. All lab exercises are "open book", so please bring whatever class materials you find useful, including your textbook. Throughout Term 2, students are required to bring their Lab Manual (to be distributed in class.) Make sure to test your INS userid and password *before* the labs begin in September (www.umanitoba.ca/claimid). You will be unable to access the Internet or the SPSS statistical package without a functioning INS userid and password.

Website and Email

The data required in Term 2, lab marks, and other necessary information will be made available through Angel. Email communication from me such as reminders of important dates and announcements of cancelled classes will be based upon contact information that you have provided to the university and thus accessible to me via my class list. Please use the above email address (not Angel) to email me.

Evaluation

Four tests, each worth 25% of your lab mark, i.e. 6.25% of your course mark:

Lab Test 1: Week of October 24-28 (date depends upon your section)

Lab Test 2: TBA (refer to the December Examination Schedule)

Lab Test 3: Week of February 27-March 2 (date depends upon your section)

Lab Test 4: TBA (refer to the April Examination Schedule)

All tests will take place in our lab (202 Isbister) except for the December test (see the December Final Examination Schedule for details.) They will be mainly comprised of problem-solving questions similar to those in the lab exercises. Your lab manual and completed lab exercises are your primary study materials for these tests.

Policy on Missed Tests

* Students must write tests with the section for which they are registered.

* Vacations, automobile problems, extended February Break holidays, and forgetting are among the reasons that will not be considered reasonable justifications for missing a test.

* Students who miss a test for documented medical or compassionate reasons will have two options: (1) Write with one of the other lab sections that same week, if there is an extra seat available; or (2) Write a make-up test later on, comprised of a series of essay and/or short-answer questions. These make-up tests will be held during a set date/time. To be eligible for either of these two options, students must contact me in writing within 24 hours of the missed test.

* Special accommodations will be made in advance for religious observances.

* There are no exceptions to this policy, so please do not bother asking ☺

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

The relevant policies in your SOC 2290 course outline also apply to the lab. In addition:

The use of lab computers to play on Facebook, to do assignments for other courses, etc. has become highly disruptive to our classes in recent years. For this reason, use of the lab computers during class time is prohibited except for the sole purpose of completing lab exercises.

Departmental Policies:

Please take note of the Sociology Department's lab attendance policy and grades policy for SOC 2290 as stated in your course outline under "Lab Component". Here are some additional details:

- * **Students are not permitted to miss more than two labs per term.**
- * Students may miss up to two labs per term for undocumented reasons. Where appropriate documentation is provided, the missed lab will not count as an absence.
- * Examples of appropriate documentation include: illness (original signed note from a physician specifying the dates of the illness) or bereavement (death certificate or obituary that includes your name).
- * Students wishing to appeal their removal from the lab must make an appointment with the Department Head to make their case for reinstatement. To be considered for an appeal, students are required to provide an explanation for the reasons for the third absence within one week of the third missed lab.
- * Students are welcome to attend another lab section if they have missed the one in which they are registered. You will not be recorded as absent for that week. However, bear in mind that this arrangement is possible only if there is space available in the room. The sections with relatively more space are B02, B04, and B05. Also remember that your tests still need to be written during the section for which you are registered.

(2) Grades Policy

* **Students must receive a passing grade of 60% or higher in the lab component in order to pass this course.** Your grade in the lab is independent of your grade in the remaining course component. Students who fail the lab will fail this course and will be required to retake the entire course (not just the lab component) in order to obtain credit for SOC 2290.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR TERM 1

Note: The labs will usually lag one week behind the relevant lecture topics

September 12-16, Introduction

September 19-23, Lab 1: Science as a Way of Knowing

September 26-30, Lab 2: Theory Construction, Part 1: Variables, Attributes

October 3-7, Lab 3: Theory Construction, Part 2: Hypothesis Construction

October 10-14, Lab 4: Measurement, Part 1: Levels of Measurement

- No in-person labs this week due to two lab sections falling on the Thanksgiving holiday on October 10; instead, all sections will receive a take-home lab, due the following week. I will be available on campus for consultation.

October 17-21, Lab 5: Measurement, Part 2: Conceptualization, Operationalization, Validity and Reliability

October 24-28: Lab Test #1

October 31-November 4, Lab 6: Causal Thinking and Units of Analysis

November 7-11, Lab 7: Survey Research

November 14-18, Lab 8: Qualitative Research Designs

November 21-25, Lab 9: Content Analysis, Part 1

November 28-December 2, Lab 10: Content Analysis, Part 2

December Examination Period: Lab Test #2. Please consult the U of M website for your examination date and location. If you are unsure what section number you are registered in, please check Aurora.

Term 2: Schedule TBA.

February 27-March 2: Lab Test #3.

April Examination Period: Lab Test #4.

***** Voluntary Withdrawal Deadline: March 16, 2012 *****

*I had a lot of fun creating the lab exercises, and I hope that you enjoy them.
Good luck in the course, and I look forward to meeting you!*