



University of Manitoba
Faculty of Arts
Department of Sociology and Criminology

COURSE DETAILS

Course Title & Number:	SOC 2290 Introduction to Research Methods (A01); CRN 10600 (Term 1) and CRN 50534 (Term 2)
Number of Credit Hours:	6
Class Times & Days of Week:	MWF 10:30-11:20, Fall/Winter 2018-19.
Location for classes:	Term 1 - Room 215 Tier Term 2 - TBA (check Aurora for updates)
Pre-Requisites:	None

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor(s) Name:	Karen Kampen
Office Location:	308 Isbister Building
Office Hours or Availability:	Mondays/Wednesdays 11:30-12:30 or by appointment, during weeks in which classes are in session. (I'm in the classroom during most of the day on Tuesdays/Thursdays). Please feel welcome to stop by my office any time that I am there.
Office Phone No.	(204) 474-8903
Email:	Karen.kampen@umanitoba.ca . Please be reminded that all email communication must conform to the Communicating with Students university policy.
Contact:	Emails and phone messages will normally be answered within 24 hours from Monday-Friday. Also note that there will be a Teaching Assistant for this course; please consult UMLearn for her contact details. She is an essential part of our course, and her role includes troubleshooting website accounts (TopHat, Revel; see below). <u>Please direct your emails to her for any tech-related questions including account issues, unless they can be solved by contacting a publisher's technical support.</u>

Course Description

SOC 2290 - Introduction to Research Methods

(Formerly 077.229) An introduction to quantitative and qualitative scientific methods of investigating social phenomena. The course will include introductions to the assumptions of scientific inquiry, the conceptualization of research problems, basic statistical analysis, and use of a packaged computer program. Students may not hold credit for both SOC 2290 (077.229) and SOC 2291 (077.229). Prerequisite: [a grade of "C" or better in SOC 1200 (077.120) or the former SOC 1201 (077.120)] or [a grade of "C" or better in both SOC 1211 (077.121) and SOC 1221 (077.122)].

General Course Information

“Supposing is good, but finding out is better.” (Mark Twain)

Has the number of children gunned down doubled every year since 1950? Is Canada’s child poverty rate only 10%, or is it closer to 17%? Who decides what it means to be “mentally ill”? How can we know the truth about anything? This course takes an approach that not only provides you with the fundamentals of social research and statistics, but also aims to help you critically sort through the masses of information that all of us are bombarded with daily.

The above quotation has two implications. First, sociology is often assumed to be based upon “common sense”. However, this is far from the truth, and social research has often dispelled commonly held myths about our world. Second, studying research methods is ideally a process of “learning by doing” rather than passively absorbing information. With these ideas in mind, the central aim of this course is to help students learn what social research methods are and how to apply them, both as consumers of research as well as its potential producers.

While the prospect of taking Research Methods tends to be daunting to many students, if approached in a systematic and lively manner, it can be enjoyable. I had a lot of fun putting this course together, and I hope that you will enjoy it.

Course Objectives

- * Understand the differences among the major approaches to social research (such as qualitative and quantitative methods)
- * Learn the common data gathering techniques in the social sciences (such as surveys, interviews, focus groups, participant observation, and experiments)
- * Developing your scientific literacy by understanding core principles such as “objectivity”
- * Developing your statistical literacy by learning to apply basic statistical techniques used in the social sciences, such as correlation and regression
- * Become better able to critically evaluate the research findings that are you encounter on a regular basis through things like the mass media

Required Textbook, Readings, Materials

There are two required textbooks for this course (one for first term and one for second term), as well as *three* online access codes for additional required material.

1. The U of M Bookstore has ordered a “bundle” that includes a soft cover textbook as well as two access cards for online homework that constitutes the lab portion of this course; it is used in all sections of SOC 2290. Included in this bundle are the following three materials:

1.1 Babbie, Earl, and Lance Roberts (2017). *Fundamentals of Social Research, 4th Canadian Edition*. Toronto: Nelson.

* This textbook includes the core theories and methods involved in social research, with a focus on Canadian content. Your purchase comes with Premium Web Access to supplementary materials such as study questions. It is bundled with the following two items; links to these items as well as registration instructions will be placed on UMLearn.

1.2. *Babbie/Roberts Custom Aplia Homework for Fundamentals of Social Research (4th Canadian edition)*.

* We will be using this product for Term 1 only, for online lab homework (described in a later section). Your purchase will give you 12 months of online access to this product. It comes in the form of an “access card” encased in the bundle.

1.3 *Healey Custom Aplia Homework for Statistics: A Tool for Social Research (3rd CDN edition)*

* We will be using this product for Term 2 only, for online lab homework (described in a later section). Your purchase will allow you 12 months of online access to this product. It comes in the form of an “access card” encased in the bundle.

ISBN: 017683284X

Bundle Cost: approx. \$174.95

2. Hayward, Steve (ed.) *Statistics for Social Science: A TopHat Interactive Text*.

ISBN: 9780994802156

Cost: \$45 (access card permits lifetime access to this product)

* We will be using this text in Term 2 only. Your purchase gives you lifetime access to this textbook, including any new editions that are released in the future. Past experience teaching this course has shown me that students strongly desire a statistics textbook to provide the foundation for the material that they learn in class during the second term. Your textbook will not only be portable (you can read it on a computer, smartphone, iPad, or print it out), but it will be interactive, containing study questions, games, videos, and so on. For some chapters, we only need portions of the material contained within them; irrelevant portions will be removed for you for the duration of the course. You can purchase an access card for it at the U of M Bookstore, or online at Tophat.com.

3. TopHat Classroom Response System (online subscription for 8 months).

The TopHat platform is web-based classroom response system that will enable you to interact with me during lectures, such as answering polling questions, via Internet-enabled electronic devices such as smartphones, iPads, and laptop computers. Access cards for the online subscription are available at the U of M Bookstore and they cost \$41.95. Alternatively, you can purchase TopHat online through TopHat.com. You will need a minimum 8-month subscription to get you through September-April. Details about how to set up TopHat, including any course codes needed, will be provided during our first few days of class. If you do not have an internet-enabled electronic device for use in class, you must let me know in advance so that we can arrange a suitable alternative for you.

Course Technology

It is the general University of Manitoba policy that all technology resources are to be used in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner. Students can use all technology in classroom setting only for educational purposes approved by instructor and/or the University of Manitoba Accessibility Services. Students should not participate in personal direct electronic messaging / posting activities (e-mail, texting, video or voice chat, wikis, blogs, social networking (e.g. Facebook) online and offline “gaming” during scheduled class time. If student is on call (emergency) the student should switch his/her cell phone on vibrate mode and leave the classroom before using it.

This course will have a companion website on the University of Manitoba’s online learning system UMLearn. You can access it by going to the U of M homepage and select the “UMLearn” link on the top right of the page. There you will find:

- * Skeleton lecture notes (meaning some portions of class PowerPoint slides, but with significant amounts of the content removed)
- * Occasional handouts at instructor’s discretion; please **print** out a copy and bring it to class, unless you want to access it electronically during class
- * Test marks

Class Communication

The University requires all students to activate an official University email account. Please note that all communication between myself and you as a student must comply with the Electronic Communication with Students policy. You are required to obtain and use your U of M email account for all communication between yourself and the university. This means that I cannot respond to student enquiries from non-U of M accounts. For full details of the Electronic Communication with Students policy please visit: <http://intranet.umanitoba.ca/registrar/email-policy>.

Student Accessibility Services

Student Accessibility Services

If you are a student with a disability, please contact SAS for academic accommodation supports and services such as note-taking, interpreting, assistive technology and exam accommodations. Students who have, or think they may have, a disability (e.g. mental illness, learning, medical, hearing, injury-related, visual) are invited to contact SAS to arrange a confidential consultation.

Student Accessibility Services <http://umanitoba.ca/student/saa/accessibility/>

520 University Centre

(204) 474-7423

Student_accessibility@umanitoba.ca

Expectations: I Expect You To

- * Attend every class and remain for its duration (please notify me if you need to leave early)
- * Do the required readings prior to class
- * Comply with the university's [Respectful Work and Learning Environment Policy](#), including REFRAINING FROM ANY FORM OF VIDEO OR AUDIO RECORDING OR PHOTOS DURING CLASS.
- * Refrain from using electronic devices except for the purpose of note-taking and TopHat
- * Take responsibility for your own study, including commitment to attend, purchase a textbook, keep your TopHat etc. accounts in working order. If you have technical issues, contact their tech support, get a numbered incident report, keep track if things on your own. Feel free to contact our classroom Teaching Assistant for extra help. (Her contact details will be on UMLearn.)

Expectations: You Can Expect Me To

- * Comply with the university's [Respectful Work and Learning Environment Policy](#), for example by welcoming diverse points of view during class discussions
 - * Provide in-class material that is not merely reciting the textbook, but expands upon/applies it with original, powerful examples that you will not soon forget
 - * Make attending class worthwhile; for example, key material will be discussed in class and/or written on a board, rather than merely posted online
 - * Try to make the classroom experience as interactive and dynamic as possible, in part by using things like hands-on exercises, classroom polls, and guest speakers (vs. just "chalk-and-talk")
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Course Evaluation Methods

Term Tests (70%): There will be four term tests, based upon a combination of multiple choice, true/false, or short-answer questions drawn from any material presented in class such as lectures, exercises, films, and/or guest speakers. Each test is based upon the textbook and class material covered since the previous test. While tests are not cumulative per se, they rest upon core concepts and principles learned in earlier parts of the course. Further details about each test will be provided in class. All tests are worth 17.5% each. Their dates are shown below. All tests are written in our usual classroom and students will have the entire class period to complete their tests.

Aplia online lab assignments (18%): There will be a total of 18 online lab assignments. These assignments will be done online through the Aplia system; further details are provided below.

Classroom interaction (12%): During selected classes, you will be asked to respond to questions using the TopHat classroom response system, which enables you to interact with the class using a mobile device such as a cellphone, tablet, or laptop. Please don't worry about feeling like you will be constantly under pressure. TopHat is a lot of fun, and helps make the classroom a dynamic place where your opinion counts. You will receive full points every time that you provide a response. Details will be provided during an in class-demo and on UMLearn.

The dates and times of TopHat are not available in advance, and may be created during classes we go along, according to class needs. They can occur at any time. It is the student's responsibility to ensure they have TopHat in working order throughout the year, and to inform me of any score inaccuracies before the end of class. Please be reminded about the penalties for academic dishonesty, including personation, which will be enforced. Your actual responses must be submitted to TopHat by yourself only, inside our classroom, during class time; TopHat technology makes it easy to spot academic dishonesty. If you do not have access to a mobile device capable of connecting to the Internet, please let me know so that we can arrange a suitable alternative. You will be allotted a rate of 15% unanswered questions without penalty, to allow for the occasional absence or dead battery.

Assessment Tool	Date and Materials	Value of Final Grade
Test #1	(Babbie/Roberts Ch. 1,2,4,5); Oct. 19, 2018	17.5%
Test #2	(Babbie/Roberts Ch. 3,7,8,9,11); Dec. 7, 2018	17.5%
Test #3	(Hayward/TopHat Ch., 1,2,3; Babbie/Roberts Ch. 16 pp. 405-410); February 15, 2019	17.5%
Test #4	(Hayward/TopHat Ch. 4, 8,13, 14; Babbie/Roberts Ch. 15); April 8, 2019	17.5%
Lab Assignments	Every 1-2 weeks; due dates will appear in Aplia	18%
Classroom Interaction	Throughout the course (selected days as needed)	12%

Grading

The following grading distribution will be applied in this course.

Letter Grade	Percentage out of 100	Grade Point Range	Final Grade Point
A+	90-100	4.25-4.5	4.5
A	80-89	3.75-4.24	4.0
B+	75-79	3.25-3.74	3.5
B	70-74	2.75-3.24	3.0
C+	65-69	2.25-2.74	2.5
C	60-64	2.0-2.24	2.0
D	50-59	Less than 2.0	1.0
F	Less than 50		0

Note: In accordance with University and Faculty of Arts policies and the *University of Manitoba Senate Policy #1307*, departments 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 that there may also be a review and approval of proposed final grades of other undergraduate courses.

Laboratory Assignments (Aplia)

Description: This course has a series of online lab assignments using the Aplia system from Nelson Publishing. They can be completed on or off-campus since they are online. Aplia is structured as a "course"; therefore you will access an Aplia course for the Babbie/Roberts textbook in Term 1, and a separate Aplia course by author Joseph Healey, for second term. The Healey Aplia lab material will be compatible with the material presented in class (as we are not using Healey's textbook itself).

Getting Started: Please see the document on UMLearn containing registration information. You will also be given a demonstration of Aplia during the first few days of class.

Collaboration: Aplia uses algorithms to generate a large set of different questions that address the same concepts and principles, which means that students will not necessarily be answering the same questions as their classmates. While collaboration enhances the learning experience, but please bear in mind that you must complete and submit the lab assignments yourself.

Grading: There will be a total of 18 Aplia assignments throughout the course. Aplia assignments are self-grading. For most questions, Aplia allows you up to three attempts to answer a problem, using three different versions of a question, and a "Do No Harm" feature which averages your attempts using scores that are equal to or higher than subsequent attempts.

Due dates: Lab assignment due dates will be displayed on the Aplia website. They will normally be posted well in advance of their due dates and will be due at 11:45 p.m. on the Sunday evening after we finish a topic in class. Because Aplia does not accept late work, a grace period of one week will be given for all assignments, and that fact combined with the fact that they will be available far in advance means that there will be no extensions for any reason.

Grading Times and Feedback

Test marks are normally available within a week on UMLearn. Students are welcome to keep their “bubble sheets” but the instructor will remain in possession of the test questions. You will be provided with an answer key to view in our Teaching Assistant’s office.

Note: 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.

Missed Tests and Classes

The Undergraduate Calendar states that “regular attendance is expected of all students in all courses”. Note that “an instructor may initiate procedures to debar a student where unexcused absences exceed those permitted. Students so disbarred will have failed the course.” Please consult the calendar for full details to ensure that you know the potential consequences of chronic absence (in our case, more than 15 percent of classes in either term). Students who need to miss more than due to health or personal reasons should consider **Voluntary Withdrawal or Authorized Withdrawal**. Please refrain from sending **unnecessary emails to ask about material you missed or will miss**. I have at least 330 students meeting 2-3 times per week, which amounts to **close to 20,000 “attendances” per year**. It is not feasible for me to account for students’ absences.

Note: 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 and at least three weeks’ notice of absence should normally be given where special arrangements are sought.

Because the lowest of your six test marks will be dropped, including missed tests, there are no provisions for make-up tests in this course.

Assignment Extension and Late Submission Policy, and Missed Tests

Students who miss a test for any reason will have the option of writing a final exam during the April Final Exam Period. Questions would be comprised of a series of open-ended, essay, and/or multiple choice and true/false questions based upon the material from that term. Supporting

documentation (e.g. Dr.'s note) not is required but is recommended. Students who miss a second test will be asked to apply for an Authorized Withdrawal.

Late or non-submitted lab assignments receive a mark of zero, regardless of reason. In the event that something like a serious long-term health event arises, please ensure that you have documentation so that we can discuss your situation if needed, and look at the possibility of Authorized Withdrawal.

Using Copyrighted Material

Please respect copyright. We will use copyrighted content in this course. I have ensured that the content I use is appropriately acknowledged and is copied in accordance with copyright laws and University guidelines. Copyrighted works, including those created by me, are made available for private study and research and must not be distributed in any format without permission. Do not upload copyrighted works to a learning management system (such as UM Learn), or any website, unless an exception to the *Copyright Act* applies or written permission has been confirmed. For more information, see the University's Copyright Office website at <http://umanitoba.ca/copyright/> or contact um_copyright@umanitoba.ca.

Copyright of Course Material

I (Karen Kampen) and the University of Manitoba hold copyright over the course materials, presentations and lectures which form part of this course. No audio or video recording of lectures or presentations is allowed in any format, openly or surreptitiously, in whole or in part without my permission. That includes taking photographs of the board, projection screen, and fellow students. Course materials (both paper and digital) are for the participant's private study and research.

Academic Integrity

* Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, or 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.

Class Schedule

Material covered in class is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor and/or based on the learning needs of the students. Test dates are fixed but we'll "go with the flow" in terms of needing more or less time for some topics, hence the catch-up/review dates as needed. All of the *Term 1 readings are from the Babbie/Roberts textbook, and Term 2 readings are from the Hayward et al (TopHat) textbook unless otherwise specified.*

Date (week of)	Class Content	Required Readings or Pre-class Preparation
Term 1 (2018)		
Sept. 5 & 7	Welcome & Human Inquiry & Science	Chapter 1
Sept. 10	Human Inquiry & Science (cont'd.)	Chapter 1
Sept. 17	Paradigms, Theory, & Research	Chapter 2
Sept. 24	Paradigms, Theory, & Research (cont'd.)	(cont'd.)
Oct. 1	Research Design & Causation	Chapter 4
Oct. 8	Conceptualization & Measurement	Chapter 5
Oct. 15	Ch. 5 (cont'd); Test #1 (Oct. 19)	(cont'd.)
Oct. 22	Ethics	Chapter 3
Oct. 29	Experiments	Chapter 7
Nov. 5	Survey Research	Chapter 8
Nov. 12	No classes (Fall Term Break)	No new readings
Nov. 19	Survey Research (cont'd.)	(cont'd.)
Nov. 26	Non-reactive Research	Chapter 9
Dec. 3	Qualitative Research; Test #2 (Dec. 7)	Chapter 11
Term 2 (2019)		
Jan. 7	Introduction to Statistics	Chapter 1 Hayward
Jan. 14	Presenting and Standardizing Data	Chapter 2 Hayward
Jan. 21	The Normal Distribution	Chapter 3 Hayward
Jan. 28	Z-Scores	Chapter 3 Hayward
Feb. 4	Bivariate relationships	pp. 405-410 Babbie/R
Feb. 11	Catch-up/Review; Test #3 (February 15)	No new readings
Feb. 18	No classes (Winter Term Break)	No new readings
Feb. 25	The Elaboration Paradigm	Ch. 15 Babbie/Roberts
March 4	Correlation	Ch. 14 Hayward
March 11	Regression	Ch. 14 Hayward
March 18	Sampling & Probability	Ch. 4 Hayward
March 25	Confidence Intervals	Ch. 8 Hayward
April 1	Chi-square; Catch-up/Review	Ch. 13 Hayward
April 8	Test #4 (April 8)	No new readings

Note: The 100% fee refund deadline is **September 18, 2018**. The Voluntary Withdrawal (VW) deadline is **January 18, 2019**.