



University of Manitoba
Faculty of Arts
Department of Sociology and Criminology

COURSE DETAILS

Course Title & Number:	SOC 2290 Introduction to Research Methods (A03); CRN 50531
Number of Credit Hours:	6
Class Times & Days of Week:	Tuesdays/Thursdays 1:00-3:45, Winter 2020.
Location for classes:	Room 237 University College
Pre-Requisites:	SOC 1200 ("C" or better)

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor(s) Name:	Karen Kampen
Office Location:	308 Isbister Building
Office Hours or Availability:	Tuesdays/Thursdays 11:30-12:30 or by appointment during weeks in which classes are in session. 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 if there is a Teaching Assistant for this course, please consult UMLearn for his or her contact details and more information about his/her role in the course. TAs are wonderful sources of extra support, and please consider them to be an important element of your learning experience.

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)
- * Develop your scientific literacy by understanding core principles such as “objectivity”
- * Develop 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 you encounter on a regular basis through things like the mass media

Textbooks

There is one required textbook for this course, and one optional (but highly recommended) text. Registration details for any online supplements will be provided on UMLearn.

Required Textbook:

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. The textbook can be purchased with MindTap, an online set of supplementary materials (like practice test questions) that are not required but are highly recommended for study purposes. Here are your two purchase options in that regard:

Option 1 - Text with MindTap (**this is the recommended option**):

ISBN: 9780176903756

U of M Bookstore Cost: \$144.95 (new)/\$108.71 (used)

Option 2: Text without MindTap:

ISBN: 9780176570118

U of M Bookstore Cost: \$124.95 (new)/\$93.71 (used)

Optional Textbook:

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

ISBN: 9780994802156

U of M Bookstore Cost: \$69 (via an access card)

* Your purchase gives you lifetime access to this textbook, including any new editions that are released in the future. It is a digital interactive text, containing study questions, games, videos, and so on. For some chapters, we only need portions of the material contained within them; they will be posted in a separate document on UMLearn (see below). You can purchase an access card for this book at the U of M Bookstore, or buy it online at Tophat.com.

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>.

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)
- * Handouts for use in class; please **print** out a copy and bring it to class, unless you want to access it electronically during class
- * Practice materials for tests, where available; please remember that textbook-based study questions are under copyright of the publisher involved, so you will need to purchase MindTap in order to access Babbie’s study questions or the TopHat text for their study questions
- * Test marks

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

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.

Course Evaluation Methods

Term Tests (74%): 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 can include questions taken directly from the required Babbie/Roberts textbook. Because the Hayward/TopHat textbook is optional, you won't be tested on it directly but you will be pointed towards readings from it that help prepare you for in-class material upon which you will be tested (see chart below). Some tests are valued slightly less to compensate for the fact that "first" tests on a subject tend to be more challenging for students. The first three tests will be written in our usual classroom, while the fourth one will be in a Final Examination room (TBA – please check Aurora for date, time, and location). Each in-class test begins at the start of class and normally lasts a maximum of 90 minutes; any remaining classroom time will be spent working on our lab assignment.

Lab assignment (20%): There will be an assignment that involves some in-class work as well as work outside of class. It is designed to give you a sense of what research is like in practice, as well as a chance to exercise your sociological imagination. Details are provided below.

In-class participation (6%): During selected classes, you will be asked to respond to questions using the i-Clicker Cloud classroom response system that is available free of extra charge to all U of M students. If you do not have access to an Internet-enabled device, iClicker response units can be purchased at the U of M Bookstore. You only need to answer the question in class to get credit for it, regardless of whether or not you answered correctly. The dates and times of i-Clicker will be determined spontaneously according to instructional needs. It's the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of any score inaccuracies or technical problems (such as dead batteries or a forgotten device) before the end of class, so that they can be adjusted for you if warranted. 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 10% unanswered questions without penalty, to allow for the occasional absence.

Assessment Tool	Date and Materials	Value of Final Grade
Test #1	(Babbie/Roberts Ch. 1,2,4,5); January 23, 2020	17%
Test #2	(Babbie/Roberts Ch. 3,7,8,9,11); February 13, 2020	20%
Test #3	(Hayward/TopHat Ch., 1,2,3; Babbie/Roberts Ch. 16 pp. 405-410); March 17, 2020	17%
Test #4	(Hayward/TopHat Ch. 4, 8,13, 14; Babbie/Roberts Ch. 15); Date TBA (see Final Exam Schedule)	20%
Lab Assignment	April 7, 2020	20%
Class Participation	Throughout the course (selected days as needed)	6%

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 Assignment

Description: This course will give you the opportunity to try your hand at research through a content analysis of television commercials. The assignment is quite structured, but it also gives you some choice in terms of what you might like to measure; creative thinking is essential to doing sociology! We set aside class time to work in small groups to determine the concepts that you would like to measure, pretest your instrument, and analyze your data. Details of the assignment will be provided in class. This assignment will comprise 20% of your grade.

Collaboration: While students should expect to spend some of their class time in small groups, they may submit their final product individually. They may also submit their assignment as a small group of up to 4 people, provided that each member does an equal amount of work toward the final product. Each student in the group must submit the assignment on UMLearn and ensure that everyone's name is on the document. Students in the group might receive different marks from one another if they miss any portions of the assignment that we complete during class time.

Due date: Your assignment is due on UMLearn by midnight on the final day of classes. Late assignments are accepted, but subject to a 10% per day penalty.

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, Assignments, 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.”

Students who miss a test will have the option of a makeup test during the April Final Exam Period on a date after the fourth test has been completed; the date, time, and location will be determined after the Final Exam Schedule has been announced. Questions may 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 is required, such as a Dr. note or death certificate. Students who miss a second test will be asked to apply for an Authorized Withdrawal.

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.

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](#). This also not only means being respectful when others speak up or ask questions. It also means refraining from things that distract fellow students and/or violate privacy and copyright, including:
 - Any form of audio or videorecording
 - Taking photographs
 - Using electronic devices (except for the purpose of note-taking and i-Clicker)

In order to address the growing number of students who are frustrated by such distractions from classmates, students might be called upon in class or asked to leave if they engage in such behaviours. I'm here to support you in your learning experience, so don't hesitate to let me know if these sorts of problems arise and I'll do my best to fix them.

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 if available

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.

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, as well as time for our lab assignment.

Date (week of)	Class Content	Readings
January 7,9	Human Inquiry & Science; Paradigms, Theory, & Research	Chapter 1 & 2 Babbie /Roberts
January 14, 16	Research Design & Causation	Chapter 4 Babbie /Roberts
January 21, 23	Conceptualization & Measurement, Test #1	Chapter 5 Babbie /Roberts
January 28, 30	Ethics & Experiments	Chapters 3, 7 Babbie /Roberts
February 4, 6	Surveys & Non-Reactive Research	Chapters 8, 9 Babbie /Roberts
February 11, 13	Qualitative Research & Test #2	Chapter 11 Babbie /Roberts
February 18, 20	No classes (Fall Term Break)	No new readings
February 25, 27	Introduction to Statistics & Univariate Descriptive Statistics	Chapter 1 & 2 Hayward
March 3, 5	The Normal Distribution & Z-scores	Chapter 3 Hayward
March 10, 12	Bivariate relationships	pp. 405-410 Babbie/Roberts
March 17, 19	Test #3 & The Elaboration Paradigm	Ch. 15 Babbie/Roberts
March 24, 26	Correlation & Regression	Ch. 14 Hayward
March 31, April 2	Sampling & Probability, Confidence Intervals	Ch. 4 & 8 Hayward
April 7	Chi-square	Ch. 13 Hayward
TBA (Final Exam Period)	Test #4	No new readings

Note: The 100% fee refund deadline is **February 4, 2020**. The Voluntary Withdrawal (VW) deadline is **March 18, 2020**.