



**University of Manitoba  
Faculty of Arts  
Department of Sociology**

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## **COURSE DETAILS**

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<b>Course Title &amp; Number:</b>	SOC 2290 Introduction to Research Methods (A01); CRN 2313
<b>Number of Credit Hours:</b>	6
<b>Class Times &amp; Days of Week:</b>	Monday-Friday 10:45-12:45, Summer 2017
<b>Location for classes/labs/tutorials:</b>	Class: 202 Isbister
<b>Pre-Requisites:</b>	SOC 1200 (Minimum "C" grade)

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## **Instructor Contact Information**

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<b>Instructor(s) Name:</b>	Karen Kampen
<b>Office Location:</b>	308 Isbister Building
<b>Office Hours or Availability:</b>	Daily 12:45-1:15 (on days that we have class) or by appointment. Please feel welcome to stop by my office any time that I am there.
<b>Office Phone No.</b>	(204) 474-8903
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:Karen.kampen@umanitoba.ca">Karen.kampen@umanitoba.ca</a> . Please be reminded that all email communication must conform to the <a href="#">Communicating with Students</a> university policy.
<b>Contact:</b>	Emails and phone messages will normally be answered within 24 hours from Monday-Friday, unless it is a particularly busy period such as the end of the term. During those times, you might find it easier to reach me in person during office hours, but please feel free to contact me any time. My door is always open for you.

## Course Description

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### 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

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“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

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- \* 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 Course Materials

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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. Below you will see a description of each one of them, followed by information about purchasing options.

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. Included in this bundle are the following materials:

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

\* This textbook is one of the leaders in its market, and has a very relaxed, reader-friendly writing style. It 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.

1.2. *Babbie/Roberts Custom Aplia Homework for Fundamentals of Social Research (4<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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: [017683284](#)

Bundle Cost: \$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.

### 3. TopHat Classroom Response System

ISBN: 9780986615108

Cost: \$28.61 (Access Card for 4 Months)

\* The TopHat platform is a classroom response system that will enable you to interact with me during lectures, such as answer polling questions. You can use TopHat via Internet-enabled electronic devices such as smartphones, iPads, and laptop or desktop computers. If you do not have one of these personal electronic devices enabled during class, you will have the option of using a desktop computer instead.

## Course Technology

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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, or use the following link:

<https://universityofmanitoba.desire2learn.com/d2l/home/246616>.

On this website 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
- \* Test marks

## Class Communication

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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

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### 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](mailto:Student_accessibility@umanitoba.ca)

## Expectations: I Expect You To

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- \* Attend every class
- \* Remain in class 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](#), for example, not engaging in conversation when a fellow student is asking a question or making a comment
- \* Refrain from using electronic devices except for the purpose of note-taking or TopHat question responses
- \* Have an understanding of the basic math required for university level work
- \* Please note: U1 recommends that for every *hour* spent in the classroom, students should spend *two hours* on independent study. ***Because this is a spring/summer course, you should be prepared for a commitment of 30 hours per week in order to be successful in this course.***

## Expectations: You Can Expect Me To

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- \* Comply with the university's [Respectful Work and Learning Environment Policy](#), for example by welcoming diverse points of view during class discussions and in assignments
- \* Provide in-class material that is not merely reciting the textbook, but expands upon it
- \* Show you how to look at methods and statistics sociologically, rather than just teach you "how to do the calculations"
- \* Make attending class worthwhile; for example, key material will be discussed in class and/or written on a board, rather than merely posted online
- \* Make the classroom experience as interactive and dynamic as possible

## Course Evaluation Methods

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**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 (or in the case of the first test, material since the start of the term.) 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 (20%):** These assignments will be done online through the Aplia system; details are provided below.

**Classroom participation (10%):** During selected classes, you will be asked to respond to in-class questions using interactive classroom technology from TopHat Inc. Doing so allows me to know how well students have mastered existing material, and whether or not they are ready to move on to new material. TopHat requires an internet-enabled electronic device capable of communication, such as a smartphone, iPad, or laptop. If you do not have one of these devices enabled during class, there will be desktop computers in the room for you to use instead. We will test out the TopHat system during our second class. It is the student's responsibility to check their own participation score on TopHat on a regular basis, in the event that any technical problems arise.

Students should login to *uofm-secure* WiFi network before they answer TopHat questions in class. Be prepared to know how to access *uofm-secure* independently by our second class.

The following link might be helpful:

<http://www.umanitoba.ca/computing/ist/connect/wireless/securewirelessinstructions.html>.

Please contact the IST Help and Solutions Centre at 474-8600 if you need further assistance.

Please be reminded about the penalties for academic dishonesty, including personation. It is permissible to consult with one another about which specific answers to give to TopHat questions, but your actual responses should be submitted to TopHat independently, i.e. by yourself only, in our classroom.

Assessment Tool	Date and Materials	Value of Final Grade
Test #1	May 11 (Babbie/Roberts Ch. 1,2,4,5)	17.5%
Test #2	May 24 (Babbie/Roberts Ch. 3,7,9,10,11)	17.5%
Test #3	June 7 (Hayward/TopHat Ch., 1,2,3; Babbie/Roberts Ch. 16 pp. 405-410)	17.5%
Test #4	June 20 (Hayward/TopHat Ch. 4, 8,13, 14; Babbie/Roberts Ch. 15)	17.5%
Lab Assignments	Every 1-2 classes (due dates will appear in Aplia)	20%
Class Participation	Throughout the course (selected days as needed)	10%

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## Grading

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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

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**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 the links to your Aplia and TopHat materials. You will also be given a demonstration of Aplia during the first week of class.

**Collaboration:** Group learning is encouraged, and students are welcome to collaborate with one another in solving Aplia problems during these lab sessions. 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. Therefore collaboration enhances the learning experience, but please bear in mind that you must complete and submit the lab yourself.

**Grading:** There will be a total of 12 Aplia assignments throughout the course; 6 in Term 1 and 6 in Term 2. Aplia assignments are self-grading, so you will *normally* receive marks and feedback

every time that you submit an assignment through the “Grade it Now” feature. 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. Occasionally, there will be questions that do not facilitate the Grade it Now feature, in which case your mark would likely be received shortly after the due date.

**Due dates:** Lab assignment due dates will be displayed on the Aplia website. They will normally be open by 10:00 a.m. and due at 11:45 p.m. two days thereafter, unless we have not had sufficient time to cover the topic in class. If you do not see a new assignment open by class time, that means there is no new assignment for that day. Our first lab assignment is slated to be posted by May 2. Please note that Aplia does not accept late work. In order to account for things such as illness or bereavement, marks for *the best 7 out of 8* lab assignments per term will be used to contribute towards your lab component for the course. In other words, your lowest lab assignment mark for each term (including labs not submitted by the deadline) will be dropped. Therefore there should be no need for extensions on lab assignments, as everyone in the class will have an opportunity to miss (or do relatively poorly on) two labs without penalty, regardless of reason.

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## Referencing Style

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There will be no outside references required for this course.

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## Grading Times and Feedback

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Test marks are normally available within 1 week, depending upon the amount of open-ended answers on the test in question. Students are welcome to keep their “bubble sheets” (if we use them) but the instructor will remain in possession of the test questions. You are always welcome to come and view your test and the answer key in my office. Lab assignments are self-grading, so you will see marks and feedback via Aplia as you progress throughout the term.

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.

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## Assignment Extension and Late Submission Policy, and Missed Tests

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Students who miss a test for *documented medical or compassionate reasons only* (normally a Dr.’s note, or a death certificate) will have the option of answering a series of open-ended, essay, and/or multiple choice and true/false questions on that test’s course material, to be



scheduled during the second term's Final Exam Period. I will arrange the dates, times and locations as necessary.

Late or non-submitted lab assignments receive a mark of zero, regardless of reason. Please refer to the previous page for lab assignment policy, since your lowest assignment mark per term will be dropped, including those that are late or not submitted. 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. That documentation would also be needed in order to prevent any loss of class participation marks.

Please be reminded that missing a test in university is extremely serious. The university's ROASS policy requires that instructors grade students fairly, and as such, there is no "wiggle room" to deviate from this policy; course policy cannot apply to some students but not others.

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.

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## 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](mailto:um_copyright@umanitoba.ca).

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## Recording Class Lectures

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.

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## 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](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.

\* Please also note the following:

- (i) Group projects are subject to the rules of academic dishonesty;
- (ii) Group members must ensure that a group project adheres to the principles of academic integrity.
- (iii) Students should also be made aware of any specific instructions concerning study groups and individual assignments;
- (iv) The limits of collaboration on assignments should be defined as explicitly as possible; and
- (v) All work is to be completed independently unless otherwise specified.

## Class Schedule

This schedule of topics and readings is **subject to change** at the discretion of the instructor and/or based on the learning needs of the students. The schedule includes chapter readings. Term 1 dates (up to May 24) refer to chapters from the *Babbie/Roberts textbook*. The remaining dates (Term 2) refer to chapters from the *Hayward et al (TopHat) textbook*, unless otherwise specified. See the preceding section on corresponding lab assignments.

May-June 2017				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>May 1</b> Introduction to the Course	2 Human Inquiry and Science (Babbie/Roberts Ch. 1)	3 Paradigms, Theory, and Research (Ch. 2)	4 Paradigms, Theory, and Research (cont'd)	5 Research Design & Causation (Ch. 4)
8 Research Design and Causation, (cont'd)	9 Conceptualization, Operationalization, and Measurement (Ch. 5)	10 Conceptualization, Operationalization, and Measurement (cont'd)	<b>11 Test #1</b>	12 Experiments & Ethics (Ch. 3 & 7)
15 Experiments & Ethics (cont'd)	16 Survey Research (Ch. 9)	17 Survey Research (cont'd.)	18 Unobtrusive Research (Ch. 9)	19 Qualitative Research (Ch. 10 & 11)
<b>22 No class</b>	23 Qualitative Research (cont'd)	<b>24 Test #2</b>	<b>25 No class</b>	<b>26 No class</b>
29 Introduction to Statistics, Part 1 (Hayward Ch. 1)	30 Frequency Tables, Charts and Graphs, and Standardizing Data (Ch. 2)	31 Measures of Central Tendency & Dispersion (Ch. 2)	<b>June 1</b> The Normal Distribution (Ch. 3)	2 Z-scores (Ch. 3)
5 Bivariate Relationships (Babbie/Roberts Ch. 16 pp. 405-410)	6 Catch-up & Review (time permitting)	<b>7 Test #3</b>	8 The Elaboration Paradigm (Babbie/Roberts Ch. 15)	9 Correlation (Ch. 14)
12 Regression (Ch. 14)	13 Sampling & Probability (Ch. 4)	14 Sampling & Probability, cont'd	15 Confidence Intervals (Ch. 8)	16 Chi-square (Ch. 13)
19 Catch-up & Review (time permitting)	<b>20 Test #4</b>	21	22	23

Note: The Voluntary Withdrawal (VW) deadline is June 8, 2017. The deadline for a full refund of fees is May 3, 2017.