

The University of Manitoba

Department of Sociology

SOC 2290 Introduction to Research Methods, May-June Day 2015

1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., Monday to Friday

Section A01, CRN 30108

Room 202 Isbister

Instructor: Karen Kampen

Phone: 474-8903

Office: 308 Isbister

Credit hours: 6

Email: karen.kampen@umanitoba.ca

Office Hours: By appointment

* Please consider my door open any time. I am normally in the office every day.

Required Materials

- Textbook: Babbie, Earl and Lucia Benaquisto (2014). *Fundamentals of Social Research* (3rd Canadian edition). Scarborough: Thomson/Nelson.
- An external device on which to save your lab work (i.e. a Memory Stick)
- A standard, non-programmable calculator

Course Objectives and Description

"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 potential producers of research.

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.

Classroom Format

- A thematic lecture based upon on the relevant material, or occasional films
- Conceptual and statistical hands-on exercises that apply lecture material
- Substantial class time will be set aside for assistance with lab assignments

Evaluation

1) Unit tests (18.75% per test x 4 tests = 75%). Each test will be based upon the Babbie and Benaquisto textbook readings as well as in-class material. Tests are not strictly cumulative, but you will need to remember earlier concepts in order to comprehend later ones. Test format may include a variety of formats such as multiple choice and short-answer questions. Please note that during tests, *only a basic, non-programmable calculator (and not iPhones or similar electronic devices) is permitted for use during tests.*

Test #1 (Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5): **May 12**

Test #2 (Chapters 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11): **May 27**

Test #3 (Chapter 14 & 15, & Chapter 16 pp. 436-443): **June 9**

Test #4 (Chapter 16 pp. 443-459, & Chapter 6): **June 25, 202 Isbister, 1-4 p.m.** (this is not a Final Exam but a term test held during Exam Period in order to give you additional study time)

2) Lab Component (25%). This course has a mandatory lab component. Evaluation will be based upon two assignments. Each assignment is worth 12.5% of your final grade. The first assignment (due on **May 27**) will involve collecting your own data during class (see schedule below for dates.) The second assignment (due on **June 23**) will involve analysing an existing set of data. Both assignments must be submitted via Dropbox in UMLearn (formerly called D2L), in MS Word (which you will find on our lab computers.) The instructor is not responsible for assignments that are not openable on the lab computers or that are otherwise not submitted successfully on UMLearn. The policy for all sections of SOC 2290 dictates that **students must receive a passing grade of 50% 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.

Policy on Missed Tests/Assignment Activities, Late Assignments

Assignments are due by the end of class on the dates specified above. Late assignments are accepted, but in fairness to fellow classmates, they are subject to a **10 percent per day penalty including weekends**. Students who request extensions for documented medical or compassionate reasons must submit to me their current assignment draft to me along with a written request for an extension. **Requests for make-up tests** similarly require documentation of medical or compassionate reasons and must be submitted in writing within 24 hours of the missed date. For Assignment #1, an **alternate data collection date** can be arranged for those students with documented medical or compassionate reasons; students who do not collect data during our class period cannot otherwise receive credit for the affected portions of the assignment.

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.

Grade Distribution

90-100%	A+
80-89%	A
75-79%	B+
70-74%	B
65-69%	C+
60-64%	C
50-59%	D
<50%	F

Please note that the *University of Manitoba Senate Policy #1307* requires a "post-examination review of final grades in multi-sectioned courses that will ensure an equitable correspondence between grades and level of performance in all sections." 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.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

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://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/index.html>.

Website and Email

- The data required in Term 2 and other necessary information will be made available through UMLearn (<https://universityofmanitoba/desiretolearn.com>). Mass email communication from me will be based upon contact information that you have provided to the university and thus accessible to me via my class list in Aurora. Please also be reminded of the university's Electronic Communications with Students policy, effective September 1, 2013. This policy requires that all official communication between instructors and students be done using University of Manitoba email accounts (<http://umanitoba.ca/claimid>.) See http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/electronic_communication_with_students_policy.html for details. A reasonable turnaround time for responses to student emails is normally 24 hours during weekdays.

Additional Considerations

- * Students are expected to read the relevant chapter before class, and to participate in any in-class exercises.
- * Electronic recording of any classroom activities (e.g. taking photographs of the board or the use of other recording devices) is prohibited. Such recordings are a violation of an instructor's copyright of classroom materials as well as the privacy of other students.
- * Students with special learning needs (who for legitimate reasons require extra time to write a test, or who require aids or other supports) should identify themselves to the instructor at the beginning of the term in order to arrange suitable accommodation.
- * In accordance with university policy, term work (assignments and tests) will be held for four months from the end of the final examination period. At the end of that period, these works become property of the Faculty of Arts and will be destroyed according to FIPPA guidelines and using confidential measures for disposal.
- * Please bring something on which to save your work (e.g. a Memory Key), as well as a valid INS userid and password. If you do not have these yet, you can get them at www.umanitoba.ca/claimid. Please test them out before the lab to ensure that they are in working order. You will not be able to access SPSS without them.
- * A final note: U1 recommends that for every 1 hour spent in the classroom, students should spend 2 hours on independent study. *You should be prepared for a commitment of 30 hours per week in order to be successful in this course.*

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

- Note: The standard themes used in all sections of SOC 2290 are listed on the following calendar, and are accompanied by the relevant chapter reading(s).

May 2015				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4 Science as a Way of Knowing (Ch. 1)	5 Doing Social Research (Ch. 2)	6 Research Design and Causation (Ch. 4)	7 Principles in Social Science Research (Ch. 5)	8 Principles in Social Science Research, continued (Ch. 5)
11 Review / Finish up Last Week	12 Test #1	13 Unobtrusive Research (Ch. 9); Assignment #1: Pre-Testing	14 Assignment #1: Data Collection	15 Assignment #1: Data Collection
18 (NO CLASS)	19 Assignment #1: Data Entry & Analysis	20 Experimental Research & Ethics (Ch. 3 & 7)	21 Experimental Research & Ethics (Ch. 3 & 7)	22 Survey Research (Ch. 8)
25 Survey Research (Ch. 8)	26 Qualitative Research (Ch. 10, 11)	27 Test #2; Assignment #1 DUE	28 (NO CLASS)	29 (NO CLASS)
June 2015				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Intro. to Statistics (Ch. 14, pp. 394-402)	2 Measures of Central Tendency & Dispersion (Ch. 14, pp. 403-411)	3 Normal Curve & z-scores (no readings)	4 (continued) Normal Curve & z-scores (no readings)	5 Bivariate relationships; Lambda & Gamma (Ch. 14, pp. 411-420; Ch. 16, pp. 437-443)
8 Review / Finish Up Last Week	9 Test #3	10 Work on Assignment #2	11 Work on Assignment #2	12 Work on Assignment #2
15 Work on Assignment #2	16 Multivariate relationships & the Elaboration Model (Ch. 15)	17 Correlation & Regression (Ch. 16, pp. 443-447)	18 Introduction to Inference: Sampling and probability (Ch. 6)	19 Sampling & probability (Ch. 6)
22 Chi-square (Ch. 16, pp. 447-459)	23 Course Review; Assignment #2 DUE	24 (NO CLASS)	25 (FINAL EXAM PERIOD) Test #4 1-4 p.m. 202 Isbister	26 (FINAL EXAM PERIOD);

Note: Deadline for Full (100%) Refund: **May 6, 2015**; Deadline for Voluntary Withdrawal: **June 11, 2015**