

University of Manitoba  
Department of Sociology

**SOC 3100 Practicum in Criminological/Sociological Research**

(A01 6 credit hours)

**Fall/Winter September 6, 2012 - April 10, 2013 M/W @ 2:30-3:45 p.m.**

**Fall 2012 Part A (CRN 15070) in Room 335 Isbister.**

**Winter 2013 Part B (CRN 24758) in Room 305 Tier**

Instructor: Mary-Anne Kandrack      Office: 301E Isbister Building

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**Objectives of the course:**

This course provides students with the opportunity to put their studies of Sociology/Criminology into practice through a research practicum placement. More specifically, this will involve participation in the programs and/or services offered through a number of justice and/or social service agencies to complete a research project salient to the mandate of the organization and the students' interests.

This course builds on the previous courses students have taken in Sociology and/or Criminology and offers a 'hands on' opportunity to practice the methods of social science research. Students will be required to define an area of interest, specify a research, policy or program question, develop the research design and carry out the study and finally, to present the findings in a research forum at the end of the course.

One of the principle aims of the course is to better equip students to become critical consumers and producers of knowledge. This will involve understanding the context in which Sociological/Criminological research is conducted, how it is shaped by a complex set of considerations, including political commitments, fiscal/funding issues, the needs and priorities of these agencies/departments as well as the clientele with whom they work.

**Required texts:**

Kirby, S., L. Greaves, and C. Reid. Experience, Research, Social Change: Methods Beyond the Mainstream. Garamond, Toronto: 2006.

\*Additional readings may be assigned throughout the course. Students may also find it useful to purchase a writing guide for the preparation of essays and/or a basic statistical package if the research involves quantitative data analysis.

**Course requirements:**

The final grade for the course will be based on the following:

- 1) In-class group exercises/Seminar Leadership (20%): TBA
- 2) Topic Selection/Literature Review (20%): October 29, 2012
- 3) Research Proposal (20%): January 21, 2013
- 4) Research Presentation/ Exposition (10%): April 17, 2013
- 5) Placement Evaluation (10%): TBA
- 6) Final Research Report (20%):
  - first draft due in-class March 18, 2013
  - revised/final report due in-class April 10, 2013

The course content and requirements will be based on lectures and seminar discussions as well as placement experiences. Students are expected to attend class and to complete any assigned readings/activities in advance so that any problems, concerns or issues can be raised for discussion in class. Participation in class discussion is both welcomed and encouraged.

**Please note that absences from class/group exercises and late papers will not be rescheduled and/or accepted unless appropriate documentation has been received.** Requests for special consideration must be made well in advance.

Requirements for the in-class activities/exercises and seminar leadership will be detailed in class. In addition, you will be provided with detailed instructions for the remaining course requirements in a separate handout.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students should familiarize themselves with the University's policy on 'Personation at Examinations (Section 5.2.9) and 'Plagiarism and Cheating (Section 8.1) found online under Umanitoba Catalog 2012-2013>General Academic Regulations>Section 8.Academic Integrity. The Faculty of Arts also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.

**The voluntary withdrawal date for Fall/Winter full courses is March 20, 2013**

**Grade distribution:**

A+ 95-100	(Exceptional)	C+ 65-71	(Average)
A 86-94	(Excellent)	C 60-64	(Satisfactory)
B+ 80-85	(Very Good)	D 50-59	(Marginal)
B 72-79	(Good)	F <50	(Fail)

**Please note that the research practicum is unlike a traditional lecture based course in that student success is directly related to his/her level of commitment, initiative and effort. You will have difficulty with this course if you do not attend class regularly and remain current in assigned readings and class activities. As noted above, students are expected to attend class and fulfill their placement commitment of 4-5 hours per week and will risk disbarment from the course if there have been 5 or more unexcused absences.**

**DISRUPTIONS:** On the issue of politeness, please note that disruptions due to talking, late arrivals and/or early departures to and from the classroom are disruptive especially because this is a seminar of 15 students. Please be considerate and respectful of the needs and rights of others in the class. Students should be aware that persistent disruption may result in disbarment from the course. Any student who has a legitimate reason for leaving the class early should inform the instructor. Similarly, arriving late should be avoided and/or explained to the instructor.

**It should also be noted that lap top computers may only be used for the purpose of taking notes; any other uses will result in this privilege being withdrawn. Cell phones are to be turned off during class and text messaging is strictly prohibited. Students will be excused from the class if s/he refuses to comply with these restrictions.**

### **Class Schedule:**

This is a tentative class schedule and provides a list of topics to be covered and approximate time lines.

**September 10: Introduction and overview of the course**

### **September**

- Sociological/Criminological Research
- Programs and Services: Establishing Familiarity with Practicum Placements
- The Research Process
- Ethics

### **October**

- Defining a topic/problem for investigation
- Theoretical perspectives
- Reviewing the literature and secondary research

Class schedule continued...

**Wednesday, October 8, 2012: Thanksgiving Day no class**

**Wednesday, October 29, 2012: Topic Selection/Literature Review due In-class (20% of final grade)**

### **November**

- Analytical/Conceptual tools – definition and measurement
- Research Design: Quantitative and Qualitative Methods I
- Sampling

**Monday, November 12, 2012: University closed in lieu of Remembrance Day**

**\*First term ends on December 5, 2012**

### **January**

- Outstanding issues/questions
- Review of first term
- Quantitative and Qualitative Methods II

**Wednesday, January 21, 2013: Research Proposal due in-class (20% of final grade).**

### **February**

- Data analysis
- Presentation of Findings/Research Reporting

**February 18-22: Reading Week no classes**

### **March/April**

- completion of research reports and preparation of presentations
- individual consultations with instructor as required

**Wednesday, March 20, 2012: Last day for Voluntary Withdrawal from full courses.**

**Wednesday, April 17, 2013: Research Exposition 1:00 - 4:00 pm (10% of final grade)**