

University of Manitoba  
Department of Sociology

**SOC 4580 Research Methods (A01)**

Winter term: January 7 - April 10, 2013, 3 credit hours  
(Wednesday @ 11:30 - 2:30 PM in Room 335 Isbister)

**Instructor:** Mary-Anne Kandrack      **Office:** 301E Isbister Building  
**Phone:** 474-9665      **Office hours:** by appointment  
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**Objectives of the course:**

This course introduces students to issues in the philosophy of science and the design of social research.

**Required text:**

Singleton, R. C. And B.C. Straits. Approaches to Social Research, (5<sup>th</sup> edition)  
Oxford, New York: 2010.

Additional readings will be assigned and will be provided by the Instructor.

**Course requirements:**

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

- 1) Attendance/Class Participation (10%)\*
- 2) In-class Group Ethics Review (20%): February 6/13
- 3) Topic Selection/Literature Review (20%): due February 27/13
- 3) In-class Presentation (10%): TBA
- 4) Research Proposal (40% of final grade): Wednesday, April 17/13

**\*Attendance at seminars is expected of all students and 2 (two) points will be deducted for each undocumented absence.** Requirements for the group exercise, topic selection presentation and research proposal will be detailed in separate hand-outs.

The course requirements will be based on the readings, lectures and class discussions. Students are expected to complete the readings in advance of the seminars so that any problems, concerns or issues can be raised for discussion in class. Class participation is expected.

**Late or missed assignments will not be considered unless appropriate documentation has been received.** Requests for special consideration must be made well in advance and travel is not a legitimate reason for an extension.

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 winter term half courses is March 20/13.**

**Grade distribution:**

A+ 95-100	B+ 80-85	C+ 65-71	D 50-59
A 86-94	B 72-79	C 60-64	F <50

**Class Schedule:**

This is a tentative class schedule and may be modified as we proceed. Our progress through the course materials will be monitored to determine whether any changes are appropriate.

**January 9: Introduction and overview of the course**

**January 16 - February 11:**

The first section of the course examines preliminary considerations that are critical to the design and execution of social research. This will include ways of knowing, theory and methods in social research, ethical issues, research design, measurement and sampling.

**Readings:** Singleton and Straits, **Approaches to Social Research.**  
chapters 1 -5 and 13.

**Wednesday, February 6: In-class Group Ethics Review (20% of final grade)**

**MIDTERM BREAK: February 18 - 22 NO CLASSES**

**February 27 - April 10:**

The second section of the course engages a focused examination of research methods, including: experimental research, surveys/interviews, field research, secondary analysis and evaluation research.

**Readings:** Singleton and Straits, **Approaches to Social Research**  
chapters 8 - 12 and 14.