

University of Manitoba

SOC 4580 A01

Dept. of Sociology

RESEARCH METHODS

Term 2 – 2011/12 - 3 credit hours

335 Isbister - Slot 2 (M/W/F 9:30 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.)

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Office hours by appointment

Texts: Singleton and Straits Approaches to Social Research 5th edition

Additional readings will be made available by the instructor.

COURSE OBJECTIVE: To familiarize students with the philosophy and methods of social research.

OUTLINE AND READINGS

1. Introduction to the Philosophy of Science

- a) Ways of knowing
- b) Theories, explanations, and hypotheses
- c) Relationship between theories and methods

Readings:

Singleton Chapters 1, 2

2. Finding a Research Topic

3. The Production of Data

- a) Experiments Chapters 7, 8
- b) Evaluation research Chapter 14
- b) Surveys Chapters 9, 10
- c) Sampling Chapter 6
- d) Secondary Analysis Chapter 12
- e) Structured Observation Chapter 11
- f) Field Research Chapter 11
- g) Historical Research Chapter 12
- h) Case Studies Chapter 11

4. Formulating a Problem for Investigation

- a) Findings
- b) Available Data
- c) Claims
- d) Theory

5. Basic Plan of Data Organization

- a) Reliability
- b) Validity
- c) Operationalization
- d) Multimethod Approaches

Readings:

Singleton

Chapters 3,4, 13

6. Ethics of Social Research

Readings:

Singleton

Chapter 3

EVALUATION:

Evaluation will consist of 1 test and 1 final exam each worth 25% and one term paper worth 30%. A group assignment will be worth 20% of the grade. The mid-term test will be held on March 2. The final exam will be held on April 9 if this does not conflict with other exams.

Grades are assigned as follows:

90%+	A+	70%	C+
85%	A	60%	C
80%	B+	50%	D
75%	B	Below 50%	F

VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE

March 16, 2012.

Exam Regulations

Students who miss a mid-term will be required to have a valid excuse such as a medical certificate before writing a make-up examination.

Final examination regulations are found online at http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/academic/454.html

Failure to write one of the term tests or the final examinations will result in a mark of zero for that part of the grade.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students should acquaint 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 2011-2012>General Academic Regulations>Section 8. Academic Integrity

LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND MAKE-UP TESTS

Late assignments will be penalized with a reduction of 1 percent per day. Make-up tests will be allowed if there is a reason such as illness. In the case of illness, a medical certificate is required. Failure to write an examination or to turn in a paper will result in a mark of zero on that part of the grade.

Due Dates: 1 page paper proposal (not graded)	February 8
Paper completed	March 26

Group Assignment: February 17 for Oral Presentation/ February 27