

**University of Manitoba**  
Department of Sociology  
Fall Term (3 Credit Hour Course) 2015

**SOC 4580 SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS A01**

Instructor: Dr. Tracey Peter  
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Class: Monday 11:30 – 2:15 (340 Helen Glass Centre)  
Office Hours: By appointment only

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**Required Text:**

Singleton, R.A. & Straits, B.C. (2015). *Approaches to Social Research*. Fifth Edition. Oxford University Press.

**Course Objectives and Description:**

The central goal of the course is to familiarize students to the philosophy and methods of social research. It will provide the skills required to conduct your current social research, as well as to evaluate the research of others. Main themes of the course include: research philosophy; research approaches; ethics in social research; steps in a research project; and evaluation research. Through an in-depth exploration of these topics, students will gain practical experience that will help develop the skills and strategies required for preparing and conducting social science research.

**Course Evaluation:**

Percentage	Letter Grade	Descriptive Scale	GPA
90 to 100	A+	Exceptional	4.5
80 to 89	A	Excellent	4.0
76 to 79	B+	Very Good	3.5
70 to 75	B	Good	3.0
66 to 69	C+	Satisfactory	2.5
60 to 65	C	Adequate	2.0
50 to 59	D	Marginal	1.0
0 to 49	F	Failure	0.0

**Evaluation Criteria:**

Research Philosophy Assignment	October 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	15%
Research Ethics Application	October 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	15%
Ethics Review	November 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2015	10%
Evaluation Research Proposal	November 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	25%
Ownership of a Research Method Topic	November 9 <sup>th</sup> – December 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	20%
Participation	Ongoing	15%

### **Late assignments:**

Late assignments and papers will be penalized 10% per day (including weekends and holidays) unless permission is granted *prior* to the due date. Late assignments and papers more than five days overdue will not be accepted under any circumstances. I generally do not allow extensions without some form of certificate (e.g., medical note). In this regard, it is essential that you organize your workload (in this class and others) accordingly.

### **Course Schedule**

Note: The course schedule is a general guideline. At times, we will start the next lecture unit midway through class (i.e. a class earlier than listed on the course schedule). It is students' responsibility to ensure that they have all materials for lectures, which are available through the course website.

### **Tentative Course Schedule**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>
September 14 <sup>th</sup>	Science and Research
September 21 <sup>st</sup>	Research Philosophy
September 28 <sup>th</sup>	Research Philosophy
October 5 <sup>th</sup>	Research Ethics
October 19 <sup>th</sup>	Research Ethics
October 26 <sup>th</sup>	Evaluation Research
November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Evaluation Research
November 9 <sup>th</sup>	Elements of Research Design /Measurement
November 16 <sup>th</sup>	Sampling /Experimentation
November 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Experimental Designs /Survey Research
November 30 <sup>th</sup>	Survey Instrumentation /Field Research
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	Research Using Available Data /Multiple Methods

### **Student Conduct and Academic Regulations of the University**

Voluntary Withdrawal: The final date for voluntary withdrawal from this course is November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015. There are no refunds on this date – see the Fall/Winter Calendar for details.

Academic Dishonesty: Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, 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> . Ignorance of the regulations and policies regarding academic integrity is not a valid excuse for violating them. 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.

Electronic Devices: Students are required to silence all electronic devices (cellular/smart phones, Blackberries, I-phones, etc.) when in the classroom. If there is a reason that you require your device to remain on 'ring' mode (i.e., sick child at daycare), please inform me at the start of the class. Students are not permitted to send or receive text messages

during class. A student found texting during class would be asked to leave. Students are welcome to bring laptop computers to class for note-taking purposes only. Students found using social networking sites or surfing the Internet during class will be asked to leave. Finally, please remove earphones during class lectures.

Classroom Disruptions: Students should recognize that excessive talking, late arrival, or early departures from the classroom are disrupting for both the instructor and classmates. Please be considerate of others in the class. Continual disruption by a student may result in disbarment from the course. Please notify the instructor at the onset of class if you need to leave early or if you have to come late to the next class.

Unclaimed term work disposal:

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.

## **Accommodations**

Special Needs: 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.

Religious Holidays: 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.