

University of Manitoba
Department of Sociology
Fall/Winter Term (6 Credit Hour Course) 2014-2015

SOC 2290 RESEARCH METHODS A03 (CRN 10749)

Instructor: Dr. Tracey Peter
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Class: Tuesday/Thursday 11:30-12:45 (308 Tier)
Office Hours: By appointment only – a teaching assistant will also be available and contact information will be announced in class

Required Texts:

Babbie, E. & Benaquisto, L. (2014). *Fundamentals of Social Research (3rd Edition)*.

Course Objectives and Description:

Sociology 2290 introduces students to social science research methods, which are essential skills for constructing knowledge, developing sociological theories, and designing effective social policy. The goal of this course is to provide students with a general understanding of sociological research methods in order to enhance students' ability to undertake research and to be informed consumers of published research.

The first half of the course explores the study of assumptions, principles, and techniques of various research methods used in sociology. The intended outcome is for students to become familiarized with the general principals of research methods and their application in the collection of data for analysis. The second half of the course will cover basic statistical methods and techniques for data analysis. The primary goal here is to enhance students' statistical literacy.

There is a mandatory lab component for this course, which is worth 25% of your final grade. You must receive a passing grade of 50% or higher in the lab component in order to pass the course. You should all have registered for a lab section. You will be receiving an outline for the lab component when you attend your first lab session.

Please note that this is not a math course. You will be using a calculator in order to systematically work through basic problems and concepts. You do not require any advanced mathematical training to do well in this course. Given that most students will not be familiar with statistical techniques, regular class attendance is essential. Course material is presented in a logical sequence; therefore, missing class may result in difficulty with future material.

Course Evaluation

Grades:

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

Note: Senate Policy #1307 requires "A post-examination review of final grades in multi-sectioned courses that will encourage 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 such equity and, therefore, your final grade may be changed.

Test 1:	October 7 th , 2014	12.5%
Test 2:	November 6 th , 2014	12.5%
Test 3:	December 2 nd , 2014	12.5%
Test 4:	February 3 rd , 2015	12.5%
Test 5:	March 10 th , 2015	12.5%
Test 6:	April 9 th , 2015	12.5%
Lab:		25.0%

Tests: There are three unit tests covering class lectures and assigned readings. Each test will include a mixture of multiple choice and written responses and/or mathematical problem solving. The specifics of each test will be discussed in class. Each test will contain a mixture of assigned readings and class lectures.

Required Reading:

Test 1: Chapters 1, 2, 4, & 5 and lecture units 1, 2, 3, & 4

Test 2: Chapters 3, 7, 8, & 9 and lecture units 5, 6, 7, & 8

Test 3: Chapters 10, 11, & 13 and lecture units 9, 10, 11, 12, 13

Test 4: TBA

Test 5: TBA

Test 6: TBA

Missed Tests: Any student who misses a test or exam must provide a doctor's note (or appropriate equivalent). **This will be strictly enforced.** No student will be allowed to write a make-up test without a doctor's note (or some form of written documentation). Any student who does not inform me (by phone/voice mail/office hours) **prior** to test time (that they will be absent for the test) **will not** be allowed to write a make-up test. This also will be strictly enforced. Missed tests must be written within one week of original test date. The instructor will inform the student of when and where the make-up test will be written. No alternate date will be given; as such, it is the student's responsibility to show up at the specified date and time, without exception.

Lab: There is a separate lab component for the course, which will have its own course outline. The methods lab instructor will do all preparation and evaluation.

Student Conduct and Academic Regulations of the University

Voluntary Withdrawal: The final date for voluntary withdrawal from this course is March 19th, 2015. There are no refunds on this date – see the Fall/Winter Calendar for details.

Academic Integrity: Students should acquaint themselves with the University’s policy on plagiarism, cheating and 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 phones, Blackberries, I-phones, pagers, 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.

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 the 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.

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.

Date(s)	Event	Chapter(s)
Sept. 4	First day of class	N/A
Sept. 4 – 17	Registration revision period	N/A
Sept. 9 & 11	Science as a way of knowing	Lecture unit 1 and chapter 1
Sept. 16 & 18	Doing social research	Lecture unit 2 and chapter 2
Sept. 23 & 25	Research design and causation	Lecture unit 3 and chapter 4
Sept. 30 & Oct. 2	Principles in social research	Lecture unit 4 and chapter 5
Oct. 7	Unit Test #1	Lecture units 1, 2, 3, & 4, chapters 1, 2, 4, & 5
Oct. 9 & 14	Ethics in social research	Lecture unit 5 and chapter 3
Oct. 16 & 21	Quantitative research designs: Experiments	Lecture unit 6 and chapter 7
Oct. 23 & 28	Quantitative research designs: Surveys	Lecture unit 7 and chapter 8
Oct. 30 & Nov. 4	Quantitative research designs: Unobtrusive methods	Lecture unit 8 and chapter 9
Nov. 6	Unit Test #2	Lecture units 5, 6, 7, & 8, chapters 3, 7, 8, & 9
Nov. 13	Qualitative research designs: Introduction	Lecture unit 9
Nov. 13 & 18	Qualitative research designs: Field research	Lecture unit 10, chapters 10 & 11
Nov. 20 & 25	Qualitative research designs: Grounded theory	Lecture unit 11 and chapter 13
Nov. 27	Qualitative research designs: Others	Lecture unit 12
Nov. 27	Qualitative data analysis	Lecture unit 13
Dec. 2	Unit Test #3	Lecture units 9, 10, 11, 12, & 13, chapters 10, 11, & 13
Jan. 6	First day of class for winter term	N/A
Feb. 3	Unit Test # 4	Units & Chapters TBA
Feb. 16 – 20	Mid term break – no classes	N/A
Mar. 10	Unit Test # 5	Units & Chapters TBA
Mar. 19	Last day for voluntary withdrawal for fall/winter term courses	N/A
Apr. 9	Unit Test #6	Units & Chapters TBA
Apr. 10	Last day of class for winter term	N/A