

University of Manitoba
Department of Sociology
Summer Session (6 Credit Hour Course) 2009

SOC 2290 RESEARCH METHODS A01

Instructor: Dr. Tracey Peter
Office: 309 Isbister Building
Phone: 474-9416
E-mail: Tracey_Peter@UManitoba.ca
Class: May-June Day 1:30-3:30 Monday to Friday (236 University College)
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 12:30-1:30

Required Texts:

Babbie, Earl and Lucia Benaquisto (2009) *Fundamentals of Social Research*. Second Canadian Edition. Scarborough: Thomson Nelson.

Roberts, Lance W., Karen Kampen, and Tracey Peter (2009) *The Methods Coach: Learning Through Practice*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

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 (May Term) 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 (June Term) will cover basic statistical methods and techniques for data analysis. The primary goal here is to enhance students' statistical literacy.

Although there is no formal lab component for this course, we will be working on 'lab-like' material. The Roberts et al. text will be your lab manual for the May term. I will be providing you with a manual for the second term. In order to remain consistent with the regular fall/winter sections of SOC 2290, evaluation of these lab materials will be worth 25% of your final grade in the course. There is also one critical point you need to be aware of: **You must achieve a grade of 60% on the lab evaluation in order to pass the course.** In other words, achieving 60% on this component of the course is required, *independent* of how you do in the other course components. Students who fail to achieve this lab evaluation standard, and therefore fail the course, will be required to retake the entire course (and not just the lab component) in order to achieve credit in SOC 2290.

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:

A+ = 90% and over	4.5
A = 80% to 89%	4.0
B+ = 76% to 79%	3.5
B = 70% to 75%	3.0
C+ = 66% to 69%	2.5
C = 60% to 65%	2.0
D = 50% to 59%	1.0
F = Under 50%	0.0

Students should be aware that the above grades are only guidelines. Different cut-off percentages may be used depending on final grade distributions.

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:	May 13 th , 2009	18.75%
Test 2:	May 27 th , 2009	18.75%
Test 3:	June 11 th , 2009	18.75%
Test 4:	June 23 rd , 2009	18.75%
May Term Lab Component:	May 25 th , 2009	12.5%
June Term Lab Component:	June 19 th , 2009	12.5%

Tests: There are four 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. Please note: The second half of the course covers basic statistical methods and techniques for data analysis, which are not discussed in great detail in the course textbook. For this reason, class attendance is critical.

May Term Lab Component: This will consist of a ‘lab’ test, which will be based on the Roberts et al textbook. Details of specific chapters as well as the test format will be discussed in class.

June Term Lab Component: This will consist of an individual class project. Details of the project will be discussed in class.

Required Reading:

Test 1: Chapters: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Test 2: Chapters: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14

Test 3: Chapters: 15, 16

Test 4: Chapter: 7, 16

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) **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.

Student Conduct and Academic Regulations of the University

Voluntary Withdrawal: The final date for voluntary withdrawal from this course is June 11th, 2009. There are no refunds on this date – see page 4 of the Summer Session Calendar for details.

Academic Dishonesty: Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on 'Examination: Personations' (p. 26) and 'Plagiarism and Cheating' (p. 27) found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Electronic Devices: Students are required to silence all electronic devices (cellular phones, PDAs, pagers, etc.) when in the classroom.

Classroom Disruptions: Students should recognize that excessive talking 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.

Accommodations

Special Needs: Special needs services are provided through Disability Services (474-6213). Students with special needs (who require aids, other supports, or require extra time to write a test) should introduce themselves to the instructor at the beginning of the term in order to arrange suitable testing times.

Holy Days: 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. At least one week notice of absence should normally be given where special arrangements are sought.