

**University of Manitoba**  
**Department of Sociology**

**SOC 2290 A02**  
**RESEARCH METHODS**  
**2008-2009**

**Instructor:** Dr. L.W. Roberts & Dr. T. Peter  
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**Office:** 321 Isbister Building  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday, 11:30-12:30, or by appointment.  
**Classroom:** Room 137 Isbister  
**Credit Hours:** 6 (Fall/Winter)

Note: The telephone, email, office location, and office hours listed are for the fall term. Dr. Peter will supply you with updated information for the second term.

**Required Textbook & Interactive Materials**

- Bryman, Alan and James J. Teevan  
2005 *Social Research Methods (Canadian Edition)*. Oxford University Press.
- i-Clicker response unit (available at the Bookstore)

**Objectives**

This course introduces you to the ideas and practice of social scientific inquiry. The course surveys a wide variety of topics, ranging from philosophy of science considerations to computer-assisted statistical analysis. The course aims to make you a more intelligent consumer of social science research, and will give you the opportunity to grasp and integrate several kinds of information. Some areas of the course may tax both your mind and endurance, but with steady work I am confident we shall all find the experience rewarding.

**Course Requirements**

Your grade in this course will be assigned based on your mastery of the contents of the lectures and the readings, as well as your application of the ideas contained in these sources.

Lecture Periods: Our class periods will usually be composed of lectures, although sometimes we shall include application activities. The lectures will either cover topics not included in the textbook or will examine textbook topics from a different perspective. The in-class applications will provide opportunities for you to practice using the abstract concepts and principles you are learning.

Reading Requirements: You are responsible for mastering the reading material for each unit. Because of the textbook organization, some tests cover more chapters than others. In addition, during the second term, the reading requirements will include supplements made available to you.

*For the first term*, the readings covered on each unit test are as follows:

Test 1: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 8, 14

Test 2: Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 16

The reading requirements for the tests in the *second term* will be provided to you early in the new year.

Your mastery of the textbook readings might be assisted by consulting the Student Resources associated with the book's companion website. The link to toolkit of materials, including multiple choice questions, is <http://www.oup.com/uk/orc/bin/9780199264469/>.

Unit Tests: There will be 4 unit tests on the contents of the reading and lecture material. Please note that the tests will cover the reading, lecture, and application materials. Each unit test will take up two class periods and will be composed of both objective and written answer questions.

The dates reserved for testing and contribution toward your final grade are as follows:

	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Test 1	October 21 & 23	17.5%
Test 2	November 27 & December 2	17.5%
Test 3	February 24 & 26	17.5%
Test 4	April 7 & 9	17.5%

*Note:* During tests, only a basic, non-programmable calculator is permitted; no other electronic devices are allowed.

Class Participation: Our class will be using the i-Clicker response system technology. This technology will be used to both assess your understanding of the course material and provide feedback to the professor.

Class participation through the i-Clicker system will compose *5 percent* of your final grade in the course. Participation includes both "activity" and "accuracy" components. Activity means you are present in class and participating in response to the questions. Accuracy refers to the quality of your participation. The system for combining activity and accuracy into your "class participation" grade will be explained at the beginning of the term.

Class participation requires that you purchase an i-Clicker from the Bookstore and register it with the system. (Since other courses use this technology, if you have an i-Clicker there is no need to purchase a second one.) Complete instructions regarding the i-Clicker will be provided to you in class. When the course is finished, you may return the i-Clicker to the Bookstore for resale.

Applications: To do well in this course it is not enough that you *know* the material; you must be able to *apply* what you know. The application component of the course occurs in the weekly lab periods. You should all have registered for a lab section. The lab instructor will introduce you to the lab requirements and assignments. Your performance in the labs will account for *25 percent* of your final grade in the course.

For now, several things about the *lab component* of the course need to be highlighted.

1. The lab instructor is completely responsible for delivering the labs and assigning your grade in the lab component of the course. Therefore, *any questions or issues you have with the lab component of the course should be directed to the lab instructor*. Each week, however, part of our time in class will be spent preparing you for the following week's lab.
2. The lab component comprises 25 percent of your final grade in the course. Laboratory attendance is compulsory. The details and requirements of the labs will be provided by the lab instructor. For now you need to note the following critical point: **You must achieve a grade of 60 percent) in the lab component to pass the course.** In other words, *achieving 60 percent in the lab is required, independent of how you do in the other course components*. Students who fail to achieve the lab standard, and therefore fail the course, will be required to retake the entire course (not just the lab component) in order to achieve credit in SOC2290.

3. Your "lab grade" (i.e. 25% of your final grade) is based upon four tests. The first test is worth 5.5% of your final lab grade and the rest are each worth 6.5%. Make-up tests for documented reasons (e.g. illness, bereavement) must be arranged with the Lab Instructor within two days of the missed test. Make-up tests may differ in content and format from the tests given to the rest of the students. Further details will be provided in your Lab Manual. Please review the attendance policy (point 4 below), since it has serious consequences.

The dates for the lab tests are as follows:

Lab Test # 1: Week of **October 20-24**, 2008\*

Lab Test # 2: **TBA** (during December Exam Period)

Lab Test # 3: Week of **February 23-27**, 2009\*

Lab Test # 4: **TBA** (during April Exam Period)

\* Students will write during their normally scheduled lab time that week. You must write on the day/time for which you are registered.

4. **Students are not permitted to miss more than two labs per term.** Students may miss up to two labs per term for undocumented reasons. Where appropriate documentation is provided, the missed lab will not count as an absence. Examples of appropriate documentation include: for an illness, the original signed note from a physician specifying the dates of the illness; or for a bereavement, the death certificate or obituary. Students missing more than two labs without appropriate documentation during a single term will fail the course. Students wishing to appeal their removal from the lab must make an appointment with the course coordinator (Dr. Lori Wilkinson, Undergraduate Director) to make your case for reinstatement. To be considered for an appeal, students are required to provide an explanation for the reasons for the third absence within one week of the third missed lab.

### Some Final Notes

- 1) Only documented reasons are acceptable for not meeting course requirements, which includes class attendance (see Undergraduate Calendar).
- 2) In addition to appropriate documentation, to be eligible for a make-up test you must contact the instructor through voice mail or email *not later than* 12 hours of the completion of the test.
- 3) If you miss either Test 1 or 2 and qualify for a make-up test, the test will be written on *December 9, 2008*, beginning at 9:00 a.m. No other make-up tests will be scheduled for the first term tests.
- 4) You are responsible for mastering the contents of the readings through independent study. Therefore, please get started early and plan your study time accordingly.
- 5) Class will not be held on the following dates: November 11 (Remembrance Day) and February 17 & 19 (Mid-Term Break).
- 6) Voluntary withdrawal deadline date: March 19, 2009.
- 7) As a cautionary note, students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on Academic Integrity, including 'Personation at Examinations' (Section 4.2.8) and 'Plagiarism and Cheating' (Section 7.1) found in the Undergraduate Calendar.
- 8) On the issue of politeness: Disruptions due to talking or early departures from the classroom are disrupting. Please be considerate and respectful of the needs and rights of others in the class. Students should be aware that persistent disruption may result in disbarment from the course. Any student who has a legitimate reason for leaving the class early should inform the instructor at the beginning of class.
- 9) Students always ask how the percentage grades received on tests, exams, and projects are translated into the letter grades awarded at the end of the year. The

procedure is straightforward. Each course component is weighted according to its contribution toward your final grade and the weighted products are added together. Then the following key is applied:

Total Percentage	Letter Grade
90+	A+
80-89	A
75-79	B+
70-74	B
65-69	C+
60-64	C
50-59	D
0-49	F

*Note: Senate Policy #1307 requires "a post-examination review of final grades in multi-sectioned courses that will ensure an 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 this equity and, therefore, your final grade may be changed.*

### **Fall Term Thematic Outline**

Below is a list of dates, themes and suggested readings for the fall term. A list for the winter term will be distributed in the new year.

#### September

4: Introduction and Orientation

9 & 11:

Lecture Theme: Philosophy of Science

Readings: Chapter 1

16 & 18:

Lecture Theme: Place and Importance of Theory

Readings:

23 & 25:

Lecture Theme: Accounting for Observed Differences

Readings: Chapters 8 & 14

Sept. 30 & Oct. 2

Lecture Theme: Causal Thinking

Readings:

#### October

7 & 9:

Lecture Theme: Measurement Issues

Readings: Chapter 3

14 & 16:

Lecture Theme: Quantitative Research Designs

Readings: Chapter 2

21 & 23: Unit Test 1

28 & 30:  
Lecture Theme: Survey Research  
Readings: Chapters 4, 5, 10

November

4 & 6:  
Lecture Theme: Sampling  
Readings: Chapter 11

11 & 13:  
Note: No class November 11, Remembrance Day  
Lecture Theme: Field Research  
Readings: Chapter 6

18 & 20:  
Lecture Theme: Unobtrusive Techniques  
Readings: Chapters 7, 9, 16

25:  
Lecture Theme: Ethical Issues  
Readings:

Nov. 27 & Dec. 2: Unit Test 2