

*University of Manitoba - Department of Sociology*

Qualitative and Historical Methods in Sociology

**SOC 3820**

**Section A01, Slot 5, 3 credit hours**

January - April 2016

**Instructor:** Dr. Jane Ursel  
**Office:** 108 Isbister Bldg.  
**Telephone:** 474-8979  
**Email:** [Jane.Ursel@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Jane.Ursel@umanitoba.ca)

**Class Time:** 10:00 –11:15 pm Tuesday and Thursday  
**Class Room:** Rm. 308 Tier Bldg.  
**Office Hours:** 2:30–4:30 pm Tuesdays & Thursdays (**or by appointment**)

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**Required Readings:**

Required readings consist of one book listed below and related articles relevant to the topics we discuss will be provided to students. This will involve reading one or two chapters per week, on average, to keep up to date. In addition, the major written assignment will involve research and review of historical or current secondary qualitative sources.

**Books:**

1. Qualitative Research in Action: a Canadian Primer- Deborah K. van den Hoonaard, Oxford University Press, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 2015

**DESCRIPTION:** Current research in sociology and other social sciences relies on historical and qualitative methods as well as the more traditional quantitative approach to mapping and understanding social reality. This course explores the place of historical and field research methods as tools for enhancing our understanding of social dynamics and societal structures. The course will examine the benefits of mixed methods in social research. We will explore how the research question determines the methodological approach and the various research questions one can ask to understand a particular social phenomenon. This course will follow a seminar format which requires active student participation, including presentations of course readings and presentations of your major research project.

**Assignment/Assessments:**

Class participation	10%
One class presentation on assigned reading	10%
A four page analysis of presented reading	15%
Paper Outline submission	10%
Paper Outline presentation	10%
Major paper presentation	15%
Final Paper	30%

**Note: March 18** - Last date for voluntary withdrawal without academic penalty from first term half courses. You will have returned grades before that date.

**University of Manitoba 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.

**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 the property of the faculty of Arts and be destroyed according to FIPPA guidelines and using confidential measures for disposal.

**Policy on Grades and Tests:**

The following letter/percentage/GPA/descriptive scale will be used.

A+	90 - 100%	4.5	Exceptional
A	80 - 89%	4	Excellent
B+	75 - 79%	3.5	Very Good
B	70 - 74%	3	Good
C+	66 - 69%	2.5	Satisfactory
C	60 - 65%	2	Adequate
D	50 - 59%	1	Marginal
F	49% or less	0	Failure

Only documented reasons will be accepted for missing a test or for late submissions of written assignments. It is the student’s responsibility to inform me as soon as possible of requests for deferrals for reasons of health, compassion or disability. Ordinarily, tests must be made-up within one week. With prior approval from instructor a late submission will be marked without penalty. **Without prior approval** a late submission will be docked one grade point per day overdue. A missed test, in which no makeup test has been arranged, will result in no grade for the missing test and/or assignment.

The University acknowledges the right of all students to observe Holy Days of their faith which fall within the academic year. I should be notified ahead of your intended absence.

If you have special learning needs (if you require extra time to write an exam, aids or other supports) please introduce yourself to me at the beginning of the term and suitable testing arrangements will be made.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence, with grave consequences. You should acquaint yourself 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 Arts Student Resources web site at:

<http://www.umanitoba.ca/facutlies/arts/student/index.html>. **Ignorance of the regulations and policies regarding academic integrity is not a valid excuse for violating them.**

Group Work: Group projects are subject to the rules of academic dishonesty and group members must ensure that a group project adheres to the principles of academic integrity.

## SCHEDULE

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### JANUARY

- Thurs. 7      An introduction to the course,  
Student presentation sign up sheet.  
**Readings:** D. van den Hoonard, Chapter 1
- Tues. 12      Asking questions and Identifying goals  
**Readings:** D. van den Hoonard , Chapter 2
- Thurs. 14      Research question workshop – developing your project
- Tues. 19      Strategies for Designing Research  
**Readings:** D. van den Hoonard, Chapter 3
- Thurs. 21      Archive Tour
- Tues. 26      Ethics on the Ground: a Moral Compass  
**Readings:** D. van den Hoonard, chapter 4
- Thurs. 28      Guest lecture –Dr. Cheryl Fraehlich  
Designing a qualitative research project-

### FEBRUARY

- Tues. 2      RESEARCH PROJECT OUTLINE DUE
- Observing Social Life Through Field Research  
**Readings:** D. van den Hoonard Chapter 5
- Thurs. 04      Guest Lecture – Jacob Simoens – Observation Research

- Tues. 09      In-depth Interviewing  
**Readings:** D. van den Hoonard, Chapter 6
- Thurs. 11      Research Project Outline presentations
- Feb . 15-19    MID TERM BREAK
- Tues. 23      Research Project Outline presentations
- Thurs. 25      Social Historical Research and Oral Traditions  
**Readings:** Bruce Berg & Howard Lune Chapter 9
- MARCH**
- Tues. 1        Doing Historical Research  
Guest Speaker: Dr. Russell Smandych
- Thurs. 3        Unobtrusive Research  
**Readings:** D. van den Hoonard, Chapter 7
- Tues. 8        New Directions in Qualitative Research  
**Readings:** D. Van den Hoonard, Chapter 8
- Thurs 10       Multiple Methods Research – How the Police do It  
Guest speaker – Sheri Bell, Crime Analyst
- Tues. 15       Analyzing Qualitative Data  
**Readings:** D. Van den Hoonard Chapter 9
- Thurs. 17      Writing Up Qualitative Research  
**Readings:** D. Van den Hoonard Chapter 10
- Fri. 18        DEADLINE FOR VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL without penalty
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- Tues. 22       Strategies for data Analysis
- Thurs. 24      Final Research Paper – Student presentation
- Tues.29       Final Research Paper – Student presentation
- Thurs. 31      Final Research Paper - Student Presentation

**APRIL**

Tues 05      Final Research Paper workshop

Thurs 07      RESEARCH PAPER DUE