

University of Manitoba
Department of Sociology
SOC 2290 Introduction to Research Methods – Lab Component B01-B05
Fall/Winter Term 2010-2011
6 credit hours

2:30-3:55 Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
Room 202 Isbister Building

Instructor: Jennifer Dengate
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Phone: 474-8903

Office: 308 Isbister
Office Hours: 10:00-12:00 Tues., Thurs.

Lab Objective:

The main purpose of the lab is to take the material learned in class and the textbook and apply it via practical, “hands-on”, problem solving exercises.

Format:

Students work on a small exercise each week and submit it to me at the end of the lab session; it will be returned the following week. Group learning is encouraged and students are welcome to work together, however, **all students are expected to know the class material and be able to apply it themselves**. If you do work with others, you are not obligated to submit the same answers as your classmates.

Preparation:

The assigned textbook readings and/or lecture materials from class constitute a major source of preparation for the lab exercises. Normally, the labs lag about one week behind the associated lecture topic from class. In cases where the lab material does not correspond directly with the previously introduced class material, additional concepts may be introduced in the lab via supplementary readings and/or mini-lectures.

All lab exercises are open book, so feel free to bring whatever class material you find useful, including your textbook. Throughout Term 2, students are required to bring their *Lab Manual* (to be distributed at the end of Term 1) to each lab.

Test your INS userid and password **before** the labs begin in September (www.umanitoba.ca/claimid). **You will be unable to access the Internet and the SPSS statistical package without an active INS userid and password.**

Website and Email:

The data required in Term 2, the Lab Manual, lab marks, and any other necessary information will be made available through Angel. Email communication from me, such as reminders of important dates and announcements of cancelled classes will be based upon the contact information that you have provided to the University.

Evaluation:

Your lab grade is based on four tests, each worth 25% of your lab mark (i.e., 6.25% of your course mark).

Lab Test 1: Week of October 25th-29th (date will depend upon your section)

Lab Test 2: TBA (refer to the December examination schedule)

Lab Test 3: Week of February 28th-March 4th (date will depend upon your section)

Lab Test 4: TBA (refer to the April examination schedule)

All tests will take place in our lab (202 Isbister). They will mainly consist of problem solving questions similar to those in the lab exercises. Your lab manual and completed lab assignments are your primary study materials for these tests.

Grade Conversion

<i>Total Percentage</i>	<i>Letter Grade</i>
90+	A+ (4.5)
80-89	A (4.0)
75-79	B+ (3.5)
70-74	B (3.0)
65-69	C+ (2.5)
60-64	C (2.0)
50-59	D (1.0)
0-49	F (0)

Note: 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.

Policy on Missed Tests:

Students must write tests with the section for which they are registered.

Vacations or car trouble are among the reasons that will not be considered justifications for missing a test.

Students who miss a test for documented medical or compassionate reasons will have two options: 1. Write with one of the other lab sections that same week, if there is space available; or 2. Write a make-up test later on, comprised of a series of essay and/or short answer questions. These make-up tests will be held during a set date/time. **To be eligible for these options, students must contact me in writing within 24 hours of the missed test.** Special accommodations must be made in advance for religious observances.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct:

Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on "Personation at Examinations" (Section 4.2.8) and "Plagiarism and Cheating" (Section 7.1) found in the *Undergraduate Calendar*. 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.

Disruptions due to excessive talking or early departures are especially distracting to large classes, including ringing/talking/texting on cell phones. 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 class early should inform the instructor at the start of class.

Departmental Policies:

Attendance Policy

Students are not allowed 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. Appropriate documentation includes illness (original signed physician's note specifying the dates of the illness) and bereavement notification (death certificate or obituary that includes your name).

*Students missing more than two labs without proper documentation during a single term will fail the course.

Students wishing to appeal their removal from the lab must make an appointment with the Department Head (Sociology) to make the 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.

Grades Policy

Students must receive a passing grade of 60% or higher in the lab component in order to pass this course.

Your grade in the lab is independent of your grade in the remaining course component. Students who fail the lab will fail this course and will be required to retake the entire course (not just the lab component) in order to obtain credit for SOC 2290.

Tentative Schedule for Term 1

The labs will usually lag one week behind the relevant lecture topics.

September 13th-17th – Introduction: film on psychics by “The Amazing Randi”

September 20th-24th – Lab 1: Science as a Way of Knowing

September 27th-October 1st – Lab 2: Theory Construction, Part 1: Variables, Attributes

October 4th-8th – Lab 3: Theory Construction, Part 2: Hypothesis Construction

October 11th-15th – Lab 4: Measurement, Part 1: Levels of Measurement

*No lab October 11th (Thanksgiving): alternate arrangements TBA

October 18th-22nd – Lab 5: Measurement, Part 2: Conceptualization, Operationalization, Validity, and Reliability

October 25th-29th – Lab Test #1

November 1st-5th – Lab 6: Causal Thinking and Units of Analysis

November 8th-12th – Lab 7: Survey Research

*No lab November 11th (Remembrance Day): alternate arrangements TBA

November 15th-19th – Lab 8: Qualitative Research Designs

November 22nd-26th – Lab 9: Content Analysis, Part 1

November 29th-December 3rd – Lab 10: Content Analysis, Part 2

Term 2: Details to follow

Voluntary Withdrawal Deadline: March 18th, 2011