

The University of Manitoba  
SOC 2290 Introduction to Research Methods (Lab Component)  
2:30-3:55 Mon/Tues/Wed/Thur

Department of Sociology  
Classroom: Room 202 Isbister

Instructor: Karen Kampen  
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Office Hours: 12:00-2:00 Mon., Wed.\*

Phone: 474-8903  
Office: 308 Isbister

\* These are merely my "official" hours, so please consider my door open - as long as I am there, feel free to stop in. I can also make appointments to meet with you.

### Objective of the Labs

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

### Class 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. While group learning is encouraged, all students are expected to know the class material and be able to apply it, and are not obligated to submit the same answers as their classmates.

### Preparation

Your assigned textbook readings and/or lecture materials constitute a major source of preparation for lab exercises. Normally, our labs will lag about one week behind the associated lecture topic from class. However, because in some instances the lab material will not correspond directly with previously introduced class material, additional concepts might be introduced in the lab via supplementary readings and/or mini-lectures. All lab exercises are "open book", so please bring whatever class materials 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.) Make sure to test your INS userid and password *before* the labs begin in September ([www.umanitoba.ca/claimid](http://www.umanitoba.ca/claimid)). You will be unable to access the Internet or the SPSS statistical package without a functioning 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 contact information that you have provided to the university and thus accessible to me via my class list.

## Evaluation

Four tests, each worth 25% of your lab mark, i.e. 6.25% of your course mark:

Lab Test 1: Week of October 26-30 (date depends upon your section)

Lab Test 2: TBA (refer to the December Examination Schedule)

Lab Test 3: Week of March 1-5 (date depends 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 be mainly comprised of problem-solving questions similar to those in the lab exercises. Your lab manual and completed lab exercises are your primary study materials for these tests.

## Policy on Missed Tests

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

- \* Vacations or automobile problems are among the reasons that will not be considered reasonable 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 an extra seat 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 either of these two options, students must contact me in writing within 24 hours of the missed test.

- \* Special accommodations will be made in advance for religious observances.

## Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on "Examinations: Personations" (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 from the classroom are especially distracting to large classes, including ringing/talking 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:

Please take note of the following two important departmental policies:

### (1) Attendance Policy

- \* **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: illness (original signed note from a physician specifying the dates of the illness) or bereavement (death certificate or obituary that includes your name).

- \* 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, or the 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.

### (2) 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

*Notes:* The labs will usually lag one week behind the relevant lecture topics

September 14-18, Introduction: Film on psychics, by "The Amazing Randi"

September 21-25, Lab 1: Science as a Way of Knowing

September 28-October 2, Lab 2: Theory Construction, Part 1: Variables, Attributes

October 5-9, Lab 3: Theory Construction Pt. 2: Hypothesis Construction

October 12-16, Lab 4: Measurement Pt. 1: Levels of Measurement

- No lab October 12 (Thanksgiving); alternate arrangements TBA

October 19-23, Lab 5: Measurement Pt. 2: Conceptualization, Operationalization, Validity and Reliability

October 26-30: Lab Test #1

November 2-6, Lab 6: Causal Thinking and Units of Analysis

November 9-13, Lab 7: Survey Research

- No lab November 11 (Remembrance Day); alternate arrangements TBA

November 16-20, Lab 8: Qualitative Research Designs

November 23-27, Lab 9: Content Analysis, Part 1

November 30-December 4, Lab 10: Content Analysis, Part 2

Term 2: Details TBA.

**\*\*\* Voluntary Withdrawal Deadline: *March 19, 2010* \*\*\***

*I had a lot of fun creating the lab exercises, and I hope that you enjoy them.  
Good luck in the course, and I look forward to meeting you!*