

University of Manitoba

SOC 4580 A01

Dept. of Sociology

RESEARCH METHODS

Term 1 - 2009 - 3 credit hours

201 Isbister - Slot 6 (M/W/F 11:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.)

Rick Linden

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Office hours by appointment

Texts: Singleton and Straits Approaches to Social Research 5th edition

Additional readings will be assigned. These will be made available by the instructor.

COURSE OBJECTIVE: To familiarize students with the philosophy and methods of social research.

OUTLINE AND READINGS

1.. Introduction to the Philosophy of Science

- a) Ways of knowing
- b) Theories, explanations, and hypotheses
- c) Relationship between theories and methods

Readings:

Singleton Chapters 1, 2

2. The Production of Data

- a) Experiments
- b) Surveys
- c) Sampling
- d) Secondary Analysis
- e) Structured Observation
- f) Field Research
- g) Historical Research
- h) Case Studies
- i) Evaluation Research

Readings:

Singleton

Chapters 5,6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13

3. Formulating a Problem for Investigation

- a) Findings
- b) Available Data
- c) Claims
- d) Theory

4. Basic Plan of Data Organization

- a) Reliability
- b) Validity
- c) Operationalization
- d) Multimethod Approaches

Readings:

Singleton

Chapters 3,4

5. Ethics of Social Research

Readings:

Singleton

Chapter 16

EVALUATION:

Will consist of 1 test and 1 final exam worth 25% and one term paper worth 30%. A group assignment will be worth 20% of the grade. The mid-term test will be held on October 26. The final exam will be held on December 11 if this does not conflict with other exams.

Grades are assigned as follows:

90%+	A+	70%	C+
85%	A	60%	C
80%	B+	50%	D
75%	B	Below 50%	F

VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE

November 18, 2009.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students should be familiar with the University's policy on 'Examinations: Personations' in Section 4.2.8 and 'Plagiarism and Cheating' in Section 7.1 found in the 2009-2010 Undergraduate Calendar. The Faculty of Arts reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND MAKE-UP TESTS

Late assignments will be penalized with a reduction of 1 percent per day. Make-up tests will be allowed if there is a reason such as illness. In the case of illness, a medical certificate is required. Final examination regulations are found in Section 4.2.2 of the 2009/10 Undergraduate Calendar. Failure to write an examination or to turn in a paper will result in a mark of zero on that part of the grade.

Due Dates: 1 page paper proposal (not graded)	October 9
Paper completed	November 25

Group Assignment: 16 November for Oral Presentation/ Paper Due December 2