

University of Manitoba
Department of Sociology
Fall/Winter Term (6 Credit Hour Course) 2009-2010

SOC 2290 RESEARCH METHODS A02

Instructor: Dr. Tracey Peter
Office: 309 Isbister Building
Phone: 474-9416
E-mail: Tracey_Peter@UManitoba.ca
Class: Tuesday/Thursday 10-11:15 (137 Isbister)
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11:30-12:30

Required Texts:

Babbie, Earl and Lucia Benaquisto (2009) *Fundamentals of Social Research*. Second Canadian Edition. Scarborough: Thomson Nelson.

I-Clicker – for sale at the U of M Bookstore.

Course Objectives and Description:

Sociology 2290 introduces students to social science research methods, which are essential skills for constructing knowledge, developing sociological theories, and designing effective social policy. The goal of this course is to provide students with a general understanding of sociological research methods in order to enhance students' ability to undertake research and to be informed consumers of published research.

The first half of the course explores the study of assumptions, principles, and techniques of various research methods used in sociology. The intended outcome is for students to become familiarized with the general principals of research methods and their application in the collection of data for analysis. The second half of the course will cover basic statistical methods and techniques for data analysis. The primary goal here is to enhance students' statistical literacy.

There is a formal lab component for this course, which is worth 25% of your final grade. Students must receive 60% or greater in order to pass the entire course. More information regarding lab preparation and evaluation will be given to you by the lab instructor during your scheduled lab session.

Please note that this is not a math course. You will be using a calculator in order to systematically work through basic problems and concepts. You do not require any advanced mathematical training to do well in this course. Given that most students will not be familiar with statistical techniques, regular class attendance is essential. Course material is presented in a logical sequence; therefore, missing class may result in difficulty with future material.

Course Evaluation

Grades:

Percentage	Letter Grade	Descriptive Scale	GPA
93 to 100	A+	Exceptional	4.5
85 to 92	A	Excellent	4.0
80 to 84	B+	Very Good	3.5
70 to 79	B	Good	3.0
66 to 69	C+	Satisfactory	2.5
60 to 65	C	Adequate	2.0
50 to 59	D	Marginal	1.0
0 to 49	F	Failure	0.0

Note: Senate Policy #1307 requires "A post-examination review of final grades in multi-sectioned courses that will encourage 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 such equity and, therefore, your final grade may be changed.

Test 1:	October 20 th and 22 nd , 2009	17.5%
Test 2:	December 1 st and 3 rd , 2009	17.5%
Test 3:	February 23 rd and 25 th , 2010	17.5%
Test 4:	April 6 th and 8 th , 2019	17.5%
In-Class Participation/I-Clicker		5%
Lab:		25%

Tests: There are four unit tests covering class lectures and assigned readings. Each test will include a mixture of multiple choice and written responses and/or mathematical problem solving. The specifics of each test will be discussed in class. Each test will contain a mixture of assigned readings and class lectures. Please note: The second half of the course covers basic statistical methods and techniques for data analysis, which are not discussed in great detail in the course textbook. For this reason, class attendance is critical.

Required Reading:

- Test 1: Chapters: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- Test 2: Chapters: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14
- Test 3: Chapters: 15, 16
- Test 4: Chapter: 7, 16

Missed Tests: Any student who misses a test or exam must provide a doctor's note (or appropriate equivalent). **This will be strictly enforced.** No student will be allowed to write a make-up test without a doctor's note (or some form of written documentation). Any student who does not inform me (by phone/voice mail) **prior** to test time (that they

will be absent for the test) **will not** be allowed to write a make-up test. This also will be strictly enforced.

Lab: This is a separate lab component for the course, which will have its own course outline. All preparation and evaluation will be done by the methods lab instructor.

I-Clicker Participation: Participation marks will be based on i-clicker responses. I-clicker will be used for short in-class quizzes, which could occur unannounced during any class. A student will receive full marks (i.e. 5/5) if s/he achieves the correct answer on one half or more questions throughout the fall and winter term. A student will receive a mark of zero if s/he does not get 50% of the questions correct.

Student Conduct and Academic Regulations of the University

Voluntary Withdrawal: The final date for voluntary withdrawal from this course is March 19th, 2010. There are no refunds on this date – see the Fall/Winter Calendar for details.

Academic Dishonesty: Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on 'Examination: Personations' (section 4.2.8) and 'Plagiarism and Cheating' (7.1) found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Electronic Devices: Students are required to silence all electronic devices (cellular phones, PDAs, pagers, ipods, etc.) when in the classroom.

Classroom Disruptions: Students should recognize that excessive talking or early departures from the classroom are disrupting for both the instructor and classmates. Please be considerate of others in the class. Continual disruption by a student may result in disbarment from the course. Please notify the instructor at the onset of class if you need to leave early.

Accommodations

Special Needs: Special needs services are provided through Disability Services (474-6213). Students with special needs (who require aids, other supports, or require extra time to write a test) should introduce themselves to the instructor at the beginning of the term in order to arrange suitable testing times.

Religious Holidays: The university recognizes the right of all students to observe recognized holidays of their faith, which fall within the academic year. With instructor discretion, necessary arrangements can be made to ensure studies are not jeopardized. The instructor should be notified of a student's intended absence in advance. At least one week notice of absence should normally be given where special arrangements are sought.