

**The University of Calgary**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**SOCI 313 – Lecture 20**  
**Introductory Social Research Methods**  
***Spring 2008***

**Instructor:** Mark Durieux. **Email:** [mbdurieux@shaw.ca](mailto:mbdurieux@shaw.ca);

**Office:** SS 952; **Phone:** 220-6501 (*Main office -- you are much better off emailing me!*).

**Lecture:** MW 14:00 - 16:50; room: ST 131

**Office hours:** ½ hour before classes or by appointment.

**Course Duration:** 2008/5/14 - 2008/6/26 (*Final Exam Date: TBA*)

**Teaching assistant:** TBA

**Lab Hours and Locations:** TR 14:00 - 16:50; ST 131

**Lecture Notes, Course Calendar, and Other Postings will be available through the University of Calgary Blackboard system. [www.blackboard.ucalgary.ca](http://www.blackboard.ucalgary.ca)**

**COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES:**

This course is an introduction to the philosophy and practice of social research. Its aim is to help students examine their assumptions about the reality of the social world and its workings, explore some of the choices and dilemmas encountered in any research undertaking, and learn about some of the quantitative and qualitative methods available to sociologists pursuing research questions. Aside from providing an introductory opportunity to learn about the practice of sociology, though, this course also aims to enable students to become more informed consumers and readers of social research as they become more aware of its framing and the criteria by which it is judged.

This is a challenging course. Along with readings, exams and quizzes, several lab assignments emphasize the practice of social research. But this can be an interesting course, too, if you keep up with the readings and participate thoughtfully in class and lab discussions as well as the exercises.

**TEXTS:**

Palys, Ted and Atchison, Chris (2008). *Research Decisions: Quantitative and Qualitative Perspectives*. (4<sup>th</sup> Edition). Toronto: Nelson/Thomson.

Selected class handouts, lecture notes, and readings are also considered required materials and will be presented as needed.

- **Full PowerPoint lecture notes are posted in the appropriate location on the University of Calgary Blackboard system. Every effort is made to post draft lecture notes at least one hour before class.**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:**

The grade for this course will be determined by one mid-term exam (**20%**), four quizzes (3.75% each, total **15%**), a registrar-controlled final exam (**20%**), and three lab assignments (**#1 = 10%; #2 = 15%; #3 = 15%**) to be completed during the term. Participation in labs also accounts for a small part of the grade (**5%**). The materials covered in lectures and labs, as well as the assigned readings, are the basis of all of the above course requirements.

Students should note the regulations in the current University of Calgary calendar concerning deferral of examinations. Those regulations also apply in this class to tests and assignments. Students who are unable to write tests or submit assignments at the scheduled time because of illness, domestic affliction, or religious conviction must inform the instructor that they are seeking a deferral, and must produce medical certificates or other appropriate documentation as specified in the calendar. In such cases, make-up tests are usually set for the week following the scheduled test date. Students who for legitimate reasons (e.g., prolonged illness) are unable to write the test in the following week will be required to write it on the last day of class. Late assignments will be penalized at the rate of five percent per day.

**ALL TESTS AND LAB ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE.**

### **Letter Grade Assignment**

Letter grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

A+	95 – 100 %		
A	90- 94	C	63-66
A-	85-89	C-	60-62
B+	80-84	D+	57-59
B	75-79	D	53-56
B-	70-74	D-	50-52
C+	67-69	F	0-49

### **TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE**

**Weekly Schedule:** Monthly planners posted at the Blackboard location ([www.blackboard.ucalgary.ca](http://www.blackboard.ucalgary.ca)) provide a schedule for the daily progression of this course.

**Exam Policies:** You must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take an exam. All requests for deferral of an examination due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferred exams may be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. If you have missed an exam for a legitimate reason, you will be able to write a “make up” exam as close to the original exam as possible. The date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferred exam. Deferred exams will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

**Ethics Research:** Students are advised that any research with human subjects--including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation--must have the approval of the Departmental Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

**Academic Misconduct:** cheating is regarded as a serious academic offense. Students are advised to consult the University Calendar, which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct.

**The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP)** legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside an instructor’s office or the Department main office. Term assignments must be returned to students individually, during class, or during the instructor’s office hours; if a student is unable to pick up her/his assignment s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

**Safewalk:** The University of Calgary provides a “safe walk” service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the “Help” phones located around Campus.

### **Academic Accommodation**

Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, telephone 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. **It is a student’s responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.**

## Handing in Papers Outside of Class, Return of Final Papers, and Release of Final Grades

1. When students are unable to submit papers at class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant rather than at the Sociology Department main office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the Sociology Department main office. The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, (i.e., outside an instructor's office, the department office, etc.). Students who want their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise final papers will only be available for pick-up during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology department. They are only available online.