

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

Sociology 313.01
Introductory Social Research Methods
Winter 2015

Instructor: Kristen Desjarlais-deKlerk
Class: SS 113
Office: SS 903
Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:00 pm – 1:50 pm, or by appointment
Email: kdesjarl@ucalgary.ca
TAs: Alicia Polachek (ajpolach@ucalgary.ca)
Pernille Goodbrand (ptgoodbr@ucalgary.ca)
Class: 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm

Labs: Tuesday/Thursday; 3:30 PM

Safewalk: 220-5333 (24 hours)

Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to examine sociological research methods in terms of the decision-making processes involved in various stages of the research process. This course involves lab assignments where you will be required to interpret research articles based on materials covered in lectures and in the text. It is expected that in doing these lab assignments, you will be able to answer questions and identify issues that arise in the context of conducting sociological research.

Required Text:

Neuman, W. Lawrence (2011). Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches (7th Edition). Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Assigned Readings:

Lab #1. Stack, Steven and Jim Gundlach (1992). "The Effect of Country Music on Suicide." Social Forces, 71:211-218.

Lab #2. Foschi, Martha, Lai, Larissa, and Kirsten Sigerson (1994). "Gender and Double Standards in the Assessment of Job Applicants." Social Psychology Quarterly, 57 (4): 326-339.

Lab #3. Marjorie DeVault (2000). "Producing Family Time: Practices of Leisure Activity Beyond the Home." Qualitative Sociology, 23 (4): 485-503.

Lab #4. Radley, Alan, Hodgetts, Darrin, and Andrea Cullen (2005). "Visualizing Homelessness: A Study in Photography and Estrangement." *Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology*, 15: 273-295.

Class Schedule

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND METHODOLOGY

Class:	Topic:	Reading:
January 13	Course Introduction	NA
January 15	Why do Research?	Chapter 1
January 20	Types of Social Science Research	Chapter 2
January 22	Theory and Research	Chapter 3
January 27 & 29	The Meanings of Methodology	Chapter 4
February 3	Ethics	Chapter 5
February 5 & 10	Strategies of Research Designs	Chapter 6
February 12	Exam #1	

TYPES OF DESIGNS AND MEASURES

Class:	Topic:	Reading
February 24	Experimental Research	Chapter 9
February 26	Sampling	Chapter 8
March 3 & 5	Measurement	Chapter 7
March 10	Exam #2	

METHODS OF COLLECTING AND ANALYZING DATA

Class:	Topic:	Reading:
March 12 & 17	Nonreactive Research	Chapter 11
March 19 & March 24	Survey Research	Chapter 10
March 26	Analyzing Quantitative Data	Chapter 12
March 31 & April 3	Field Research	Chapter 13
April 7 & 9	Historical-Comparative	Chapter 14
April 14	Analyzing Qualitative Data	Chapter 15
TBA Registrar Scheduled	Exam #3	

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Assignment Schedule and Outline

	Date Due	% of Final Grade
4 Reading Quizzes	Unannounced	20
4 Lab Assignments	See Tutorial Outline	20
Midterm 1	February 12	20
Midterm 2	March 10	20
Final Exam	TBA	20

Unannounced Reading Quizzes (20%; 5% each)

Class attendance, preparation, and participation are important to the quality of the class and your experience in it. To encourage attendance, you will write 4 unannounced reading quizzes that will cover the readings assigned for the day of the quiz. Quizzes will be written at the beginning of class. If you are late for one of the legitimate reasons outlined in the course policies, the average of the remaining quizzes will be entered as your grade for the quiz missed. In all other cases, those that are late or absent will receive a grade of 0.

4 Lab Assignments (20%; 5% each)

Labs are important for you to apply material covered in class and aid in your understanding and application of course material. Attendance in labs is required. Grades for this component are based on labs assigned by your graduate Teaching Assistants. More information about these will be provided at your first lab.

3 Exams (60%; 20% each)

The course is divided into three distinct sections. Each of these sections represents course topics that fit together thematically. At the end of each section, there will be an exam. While exams may require cumulative knowledge, they will focus on the particular section being tested. Exams will include both multiple choice and written response and will reflect content covered in both lectures and labs.

Grading Scale

A+	95-100	B+	80-84%	C+	67-69%	D+	55-58%
A	90-94%	B	75-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-54%
A-	85-89%	B-	70-74%	C-	59-62%	F	< 50%

The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.

Course Policies

Technology

You may use your laptops/tablets in class, however, if you are using technology, please sit in the back so as not to distract students behind you. Please only use your laptop/tablet/phone for course purposes. Using it for recreational purposes including shopping, surfing the net, emailing, checking facebook, updating tweets, etc. is distracting to those around you. Permission to use laptops/tablets may be withdrawn if they are being used inappropriately. Please mute your cell phone and do not use it during class.

Attendance and Participation

Reading assigned material and participating actively in class is important for your success in this class. Attendance is important in any class. If you miss a class, you miss important material relevant to your success. Attending classes regularly is your responsibility. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain covered material from one of your classmates (not the instructor or your TAs). If you need to leave class early, please sit somewhere that you will not disrupt others.

Emails

Please contact me over email at any time, but include the course number in your email's subject line. It is courteous to include a proper salutation, your full name, student ID, and a proper closing in the body of your email. Emails without customary email conventions (see previous sentence) will be ignored. This is true for TA emails as well. Emails will be answered within one business day, but may not be answered over the weekend. Emails should be only for administrative purposes such as scheduling an appointment. Please do not use email as a replacement for an office visit. Questions about course content and readings, concerns about grades, or other personal issues should be dealt with in person during my office hours.

Assignments and Deferrals

It is your responsibility to complete and submit all assignments on time. If possible, you must tell the course instructor in advance if you are unable to take a test or hand in an assignment at the required time. All requests for exam or assignment deferrals due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar, and should be obtained while you are experiencing the physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed due to illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements, misreading of the syllabus, and scheduling conflicts with other classes or employment responsibilities are not valid reasons for requesting a deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if just cause is not shown by the students. There are NO EXCEPTIONS.

If you miss an exam for a legitimate reason, you may be required to write a make up test or choose to transfer the exams weight to another course component. If I schedule a 'make up' exam, the date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department.

Late assignments (as of the beginning of class on dates indicated in the assignment schedule) without excuse are subject to a **5 percentage point deduction for each day past the due date** (i.e. 90% instead of 95%). Assignments not submitted within 7 calendar days of the due date without approval for extension will receive a grade of 0.

Deferred Term Work Form:

Requests to defer a final paper are dealt with through the Registrar's Office. Further information about deadlines, and where paperwork should be taken, is available on the form: http://wcm.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred_termwork.pdf

Handing In Assignments Outside of Class, and Release of Final Grades

1. When students cannot hand assignments in during class, they should make arrangements to hand them in directly to their TA. Electronic submissions via email or D2L, papers placed under the TA or instructor's doors, or those submitted to the administrative assistants in the department's main office are NOT accepted.
2. Assignments will not be returned through the Sociology Department Office. The Freedom of Information and Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows students picking up assignments from public places (i.e. outside offices, department office, etc.). Assignments will be available for pick-up only during TA's office hours.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

Ethics Research

Any research involving human subjects – including any interviewing (even friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the Faculty Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, you must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing your plans with your instructor, to determine if approval is required.

Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism, cheating, and other academic misconduct are considered serious academic offences. Please consult the University Calendar which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties of cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct.

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. You can also contact Campus Security from any of the “Help” phones located around campus.

Academic Accommodation

Students who require academic accommodation, must register with Student Accessibility Services (formerly the Disability Resource Center) at MC 452 (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/> or phone 403-220-8237). 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 Student Accessibility Services and to request academic accommodation if required.

Academic Appeals

If you choose to challenge a grade you receive on an assignment, please refer to the UofC Calendar for more information and follow the procedures outlined therein.
