UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE/SECTION	**SOCIOLOGY 313 (L 01)**	
TITLE	**INTRODUCTORY SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS**	
SESSION	**Fall, 2015**	
INSTRUCTOR	**Lloyd L. Wong**	
OFFICE	**SS 928**	
CONTACT	**Phone: 403-220-6504: Email: llwong@ucalgary.ca**	
OFFICE HOURS	**MWF: 11:00 to 11:50 am, or by appointment**	
LECTURES	**MWF: 12:00 – 12:50 pm in SA 119**	
LABS	**Lab B01 W: 15:00 – 16:50 pm in EDC 289** **Lab B02 W: 15:00 – 16:50 pm in SS209**	
D2L	**https://d2l.ucalgary.ca**	
TEACHING ASSISTANTS	**Kristen Chaisson**	**Caroline Claussen**
OFFICE	**SS 913**	**SS 911**
CONTACT	**Kristen.chaisson@ucalgary.ca**	**c3inc@shaw.ca**
OFFICE HOURS	**TBA**	**TBA**
SOCIOLOGY WEBSITE	**http://soci.ucalgary.ca**	
SOCIOLOGY DEPT. OFFICE	**The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.**	
SAFEWALK SERVICES	**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.**	

EMERGENCY EVACUATIONS

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point by the Social Science Food Court. Please check these assembly point locations for your other classes at: http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints

STUDENT REPRESENTATION

The 2015-16 Students' Union VP Academic's email is: Stephan Guscott: email: suvpaca@ucalgary.ca. The Faculty of Arts has four SU representatives who may be contacted at any of the following email addresses: arts1@ucalgary.ca, arts2@ucalgary.ca, arts3@ucalgary.ca, and arts4@ucalgary.ca. You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds/role

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services ; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf

EMAIL

Feel free to contact me over email at any time. Please put your course number and section in your email's subject line, and include a proper salutation, your full name, student ID, and a proper closing in the body of your email. All emails violating customary email conventions will be ignored. All other emails will be answered within one business day. Normally I do not answer emails over the weekend. Please take that into account when emailing me questions pertaining assignments or exams. If you have a course-related question, please check the course outline first. Questions that can be answered by consulting the course outline will not be answered. Also, please e-mail me for administrative purposes only, for example to set up an appointment. Please do not use e-mail as a replacement for an office visit, if there is something you want to discuss. Questions about the course content and readings, concerns about grades, or any other personal issues should be dealt with in person during my office hours.

TECHNOLOGY USE

Please note that the use of laptops, tablets, cell phones or other electronic devices is **not encouraged** during lectures. Students who require the use of electronic devices for academic accommodation purposes are exempt from this policy, but must provide documentation from Student Accessibility Services to the instructor. Please be sure to mute your cell phone and refrain from using it during class.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Bryman, A., Bell, E. & Teevan, J. (2012). *Social Research Methods (Third Canadian Edition).* Don Mills: Oxford University Press.

COURSE DESCRIPTION, OBJECTIVES, AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

The overall course objective is to introduce students to the variety of research methods used by sociologists in the research process. As the course descriptions states: The research processes includes the problem definition, data collection and analyses, and quantitative and qualitative strategies. Another course objective is for students to acquire methodological skills through reading about and doing lab assignments that simulate sociological research.

The learning outcomes for students, upon completion of this course, include the ability to:

- understand the major facets and procedures of qualitative and quantitative research;
- recognize weaknesses and strengths of qualitative and quantitative research;
- outline the connection and linkage between theory and methodology;
- understand the ethical issues related to social research;
- interpret and critique social research findings;
- evaluate scholarly articles from a methodological standpoint; and
- design a thorough social research project.

The class format involves primarily lectures. There will be occasional class discussions and audio-visual presentations to discuss and illustrate specific cases or issues. The major objective of this course is the reading and understanding of a sociological literature on sociological research methods. Students will be asked to demonstrate their understanding of course material by writing two mid-term examinations, a final examination, and completing a series of lab assignments.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS, STUDENT EVALUATION, AND REGULATIONS

The final grade for this course will be based on two mid-term examinations, a final examination, and 4-6 lab assignments.

1. Mid-term Exams and the Final Examination

The two mid-term examinations will be held in class on **October 9th** and **November 6th** and they are each worth 25% of the course grade respectively. The final examination, worth 25% of the course grade, will be scheduled by the Registrar's office and it will occur between **December 11th – 22nd.** These exams will consist of multiple-choice questions and some true/false questions. They are not cumulative with respect to course content.

2. Lab Assignments

There will be 4-6 lab assignments for this course and they will be of equal weight as per the Lab Outline. Lab assignments will be handed out at least one week before they are due and in total they will be worth 25% of the course grade. There will be a penalty of 5% per day (of the assigned grade) for late assignments except in cases of documented illness or extenuating circumstances.

3. Academic Misconduct

Please refer to the website listed below for information on University of Calgary policies on Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct: http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html

4. Handing in Assignments

1. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
2. **Protection of Privacy:** The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) legislation does not allow students to retrieve any course material from public places. Anything that requires handing back will be returned directly during class or office hours. If students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

5. Deferrals

When possible, please provide advance notice if you are unable to write an exam or complete/turn-in assignments on time. All requests for deferral of a course component 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 health issue rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements, misreading the syllabus, and scheduling conflicts with other classes or employment are not valid reasons for requesting a deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

If you have missed a test for a legitimate reason, the instructor can require you to write a "make up" test as close in time to the original test as possible or can choose to transfer the percentage weight to another course component. If the instructor schedules a "make up" test for you, its date and location will be at the convenience of the Department of Sociology.

Deferred Final Exam Form: Please note that requests to defer a Registrar scheduled final exam are dealt with through the Registrar's Office. Further information about deadlines, and where paperwork should be taken, is available on the form, which can be found at:
http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Sp_Su_DFE_App.pdf

Deferred Term Work Form: Deferral of term work past the end of a term also requires a form to be filled out. It's available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.pdf

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the form should be taken to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS 110) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).

6. 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 Faculty 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.

7. Breakdown, Weight, and Due Date of Student Evaluation

	Weight	Due Date
Mid-term Exam #1	25%	Oct. 9th
Mid-term Exam #2	25%	Nov. 6th
Lab Assignments	25%	As per Lab Outline
Final Examination	25%	tba (Dec. 11th – 22nd)
Total	100%	

8. Letter Grade Assignment

95-100 = A+	67 - 71 = C+
90 - 94 = A	63 - 66 = C
85 - 89 = A-	59 - 62 = C-
80 - 84 = B+	54 - 58 = D+
76 - 79 = B	50 - 53 = D
72 - 75 = B-	00 - 49 = F

9. Grade Reappraisal

Within two weeks of the date the exam/assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of examinations or assignments must submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for reconsideration of one's mark. The instructor will reconsider the grade assigned and will then book a time with the student to discuss his or her work and rationale. It should be noted that a re- assessed grade may be raised, lowered, or remain the same

CLASS SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week	Dates	Topics	Readings (BBT = Bryman, Bell & Teevan)
1	Sept. 09	Introduction to course General Research Orientations	BBT-ch. 1
2	Sept. 14	Research Designs The Nature of Quantitative Research	BBT-ch. 2 BBT-ch. 3
3	Sept. 21	Survey Research: Structured Interviewing and Questionnaires	BBT-ch. 4
4	Sept. 28	Asking Questions Structured Observation	BBT-ch. 5 BBT-ch. 6
5	Oct. 5 Oct. 9	Structured Observation ***Catch-up and Review Class*** ***Midterm Exam #1***	BBT-ch. 6
6	Oct. 12 15	***Thanksgiving – no class*** Other Sources of Data	BBT-ch. 7
7	Oct. 19	Then Nature of Qualitative Research Ethnography and Participant Observation	BBT-ch. 8 BBT-ch. 9
8	Oct. 26	Interviewing in Qualitative Research Ethics	BBT-ch. 10 BBT-ch. 11
9	Nov. 2 ***Nov. 6***	Sampling ***Catch-up and Review Class*** ***Midterm Exam #2***	BBT-ch. 12
10	Nov. 9 ***Nov. 11*** ***Nov. 13***	Quantitative Data Analysis ***Reading Days – no class*** ***Reading Days – no class***	BBT-ch. 13
11	Nov. 17	Quantitative Data Analysis – cont'd Qualitative Data Analysis	BBT-ch. 13 cont'd BBT-ch. 14
12	Nov. 24	Breaking Down the Quantitative/Qualitative Divide Content Analysis	BBT-ch. 15 BBT-ch. 16
13	Nov. 30	Writing Up Social Research Conducting a Research Project	BBT-ch. 17 BBT-ch. 18
14	Dec. 07	***Catch-up and Review Class*** ***Scheduled Final Examination (Dec. 11th – 22nd)***	