



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Faculty of Arts

Department of Sociology

Sociology Department Home Page: <http://www.soci.ucalgary.ca>

Sociology 313 Introductory Social Research Methods

Instructor: Dr. Jenny Godley

Office: SS922

Office Hours: T, Th 14:00-15:00, or by appt.

E-mail: jgodley@ucalgary.ca

Class Hours: T, Th 12:30-13:45

Class Location: TI STUDIO E

Lab: Th 15:30-17:20 (ST126)

Teaching Asst.: Mohana Mukherjee

Office: SS943

Office Hours: F 12:00-13:00

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NOTE: this course outline is subject to revision. All changes will be announced in class.

Last revised: 22 August 2018

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to research methods in sociology. You will learn about the various stages of conducting a sociological research project, including research design, research project implementation (data collection and analysis), reporting your findings, and evaluating research findings. This course provides the foundation for many of the upper-level courses in our department, where you may be required both to evaluate others' research and to conduct your own research projects.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

1. To introduce you to the social scientific research process, including research design, data collection, data analysis, and report writing.
2. To demonstrate the link between theoretical questions and empirical investigations in social science.
3. To introduce you to ethical issues encountered by social scientists conducting research with human subjects.
4. To introduce you to basic qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis techniques used by sociologists.

Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials

Carr, Deborah et al. (2018). *The Art and Science of Social Research*. Norton.

** Available for purchase at the U of C bookstore. Note: textbooks are organized by department and course. Please go to the shelf marked 'SOC1313.2 Godley' to find the textbook.

Readings are assigned for each day of class. Please come to class every day having read the materials.

Methods of Evaluation

Exams: You will have two mid-terms. The mid-terms will each be worth 30% of your final grade. The mid-terms will be held during class time on 9 October and 22 November. Exams are cumulative, and mandatory. If you fail to take any of the exams without documentation, you will automatically fail the course.

NOTE: There are NO MAKE UP exams in this class. If you miss the first mid-term examination, and you provide me with the appropriate documentation, the weight of the first mid-term exam will be added to your second mid-term examination. If you miss the second mid-term examination, and you provide me with the appropriate documentation, you will be assigned a research paper worth 30% of your grade, which will be due on the final day of classes (6 Dec.). The only acceptable reasons for missing an examination in this class, as listed in the Deferral of Final Examinations section of the University of Calgary Calendar (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>), are illness, domestic affliction, or religious conviction.

Assignments: There are four mandatory written assignments throughout the semester. Each of these assignments will be worth 10% of your grade, for a total of 40%. The assignments will be handed out *in the Thursday lab and will be due two weeks later at the beginning of the Thursday lab (15:30) with the exception of the final Assignment which will be due in class on the last day of class (12:30)*. We will not accept e-mail submissions of assignments. Only hard copies of assignments will be accepted. Assignments must be typed and stapled. Assignments are due: 27 September, 18 October, 8 November, and 6 December.

NOTE: Late assignments will receive a grade reduction of 15% for each day past the deadline. The 15% grade reduction per day also applies to weekend days and holidays. If you hand in your assignment more than FIFTEEN MINUTES past the time it is due (ie after 15:45), it will be

considered one day late.

Your final grade will be computed as follows:

- Mid Term One 30%
- Mid Term Two 30%
- Assignments 40%

Grading Scale

Letter grades will be assigned and submitted to the registrar based on the following scale:

Grade	Percent range	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	96 – 100%	4.0	Outstanding performance
A	90 – 95.99%	4.0	Excellent-superior performance
A-	85 – 89.99%	3.7	
B+	80 – 84.99%	3.3	
B	75 – 79.99%	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance
B-	70 – 74.99%	2.7	
C+	67 – 69.99%	2.3	
C	63 – 66.99%	2.0	Satisfactory - basic understanding
C-	59 – 62.99%	1.7	
D+	55 – 58.99%	1.3	
D	50 – 54.99%	1.0	Minimal pass - marginal performance
F	<50%	0	unsatisfactory performance

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

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.

Technology Use

Cell phones, pagers, blackberries, surfing the internet, checking email, and listening to music are disruptive to other students. **No electronic devices** are allowed during class or during lab sessions, with the exception of using a computer to take notes, conduct statistical analysis, or complete lab assignments. If you are using electronic devices for any other reason during class or lab, you will be asked to leave the classroom.

Emergency Evacuations

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point Mac Hall North Courtyard.

Handing in Papers, 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.

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.

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-5.html>

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.

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

https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred_termwork15_0.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).

Student Representation

The 2018-19 Students' Union VP Academic is Jessica Revington (suvpaca@ucalgary.ca).

For more information, and to contact other elected officials with the Student's Union, please

visit this link: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/>

You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/contact>

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

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Student Resources

[SU Wellness Centre](#)

[Campus Mental Health Strategy](#)

Week	Date	Reading	Topic	NOTES
One Th	6 Sept.		Course Introduction No Lab this week	
Two T Th	11 Sept. 13 Sept.	Chpt. 1	Art and Science of Social Research No class	
Lab	13 Sept.	Week 2 Lab	Sociological Imagination and Research Design	Hand out Assignment 1
Three T Th	18 Sept. 20 Sept.	Chpt. 2 Chpt. 3	Linking Theory and Research Research Ethics	
Lab	20 Sept.	Week 3 Lab	Theory and Ethics	
Four T Th	25 Sept. 27 Sept.	Chpt. 4 Chpt. 4	Concepts to Models Hypotheses, Operationalization, Measurement	
Lab	27 Sept.	Week 4 Lab	Concepts, Operationalization, Measurement	Assignment 1 DUE

Five				
T	2 Oct.	Chpt. 5	Reliability and Validity	
Th	4 Oct.	Chpt. 5	Reliability and Validity	
Lab	4 Oct.	Week 5 Lab	Reliability and Validity	Hand out Assignment 2
Six				
T	9 Oct.	Mid term	MID TERM ONE (Covers Chpts. 1-5)	
Th	11 Oct.	Chpt. 6	Sampling	
Lab	11 Oct.	Week 6 Lab	Sampling	
Seven				
T	16 Oct.	Chpt. 7	Surveys	
Th	18 Oct.		No class	
Lab	18 Oct.	Week 7 Lab	Surveys	Assignment 2 DUE
Eight				
T	23 Oct.	Chpt. 8	Experiments	
Th	25 Oct.	Chpt. 9	Evaluation Research	
Lab	25 Oct.	Week 8 Lab	Experiments and Evaluation Research	Hand out Assignment 3

Nine				
T	30 Oct.	Chpt. 10	Ethnography	
Th	1 Nov.	Chpt. 11	Interviews	
Lab	1 Nov.	Week 9 Lab	Ethnography and Interviews	
Ten				
T	6 Nov.	Chpt. 12	Secondary Data Analysis	
Th	8 Nov.	Chpt. 13	Social Network Analysis	
Lab	8 Nov.	Week 10 Lab	Secondary Data	Assignment 3 DUE
Eleven				
T	20 Nov.	Chpt 13	Social Network Analysis	
Th	22 Nov.	Mid term	MID TERM 2 (Covers Chapters 1-13)	
Lab	22 Nov.	Week 11 Lab	Social Network Analysis	Hand out Assignment 4
Twelve				
T	27 Nov.	Chpt. 14	Analyzing Quantitative Data	
Th	29 Nov.	Chpt. 14	Analyzing Quantitative Data	
Lab	29 Nov.	Week 12 Lab	Assistance with Assignment 4	
Thirteen				
T	4 Dec.	Chpt. 16	Analyzing Qualitative Data	
Th	6 Dec.	Chpt. 17	Communicating Research Findings	Assignment 4 DUE (in class)
Lab		No lab this week		

