



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Spring 2022
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Sociology
Department of Sociology Website: <https://soci.ucalgary.ca/>

COURSE TITLE:			
Course Number	SOC1 313- Introductory Social Research Methods		
Pre/Co-Requisites	SOC1 201		
Instructor Name	Chene Redwood	Email	Chene.redwood@ucalgary.ca
Instructor Email Policy	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. Emails will be answered within one business day. 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. 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.		
Office Location	Social Sciences 943	Office Hours	M/W 3:00pm- 4:00pm or by appointment
Telephone No.	1 (403) 220-4850		
Class Dates	May 4- June 15, 2022,		
Class Times	LEC 1: Monday & Wednesday - 9:00 - 11:45 am LAB 1: Monday & Wednesday - 1:00 - 2:50 pm		
Class Location	ST 128		

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an understanding of sociological research methods and is designed to enhance students' ability to undertake social research. It asks students to question, how do we know what we know about the social world? We tackle this question by exploring the various research methods used by social scientists to observe, analyze, solve social problems, and create knowledge about various social phenomenon and institutions. Students will be asked to think critically about the role of research in society and distinguish between the quantitative and qualitative approaches to social enquiry. Also, students will explore research processes including problem definition, data collection and analyses, quantitative and qualitative strategies.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course students will be able to:

- distinguish between qualitative and quantitative research and assess the quality of social research
- understand various research methods employed in the social sciences, as well as the strengths, limitations, and ethical concerns of each research strategy
- practice a range of skills and research strategies through conducting research assignments and developing a research proposal
- understand the opportunities and challenges faced by social scientists in their attempts to conduct social research
- practice basic research, writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills.

LEARNING RESOURCES

Required Text: Edward Bell; Alan Bryman; Steven Kleinknecht. 2022. *Social Research Methods, Sixth Canadian Edition*. Oxford University Press. ISBN-13: 9780190165796 (available at campus bookstore)

LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS

There is a D2L site for this course which contains relevant class resources and materials (see d2l.ucalgary.ca).

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students should have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

COURSE FORMAT

This course has both a lecture and a lab component. Lectures will cover central methodological concepts and research components, while labs enable application of some of the methods and issues discussed in lecture. To do well in this course you will have to attend lectures and labs, take good notes, and carefully read assigned readings.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Schedule is subject to change and revision at the discretion of the instructor.

Weeks	Date	Topic and Readings	Labs
1	May 4	<i>Introduction to the Course</i> - Research Orientations Read: Bell, Bryman & Kleinknecht—Chapter 1	
2	May 9	<i>Research Designs and Ethics</i> Read: Bell, Bryman & Kleinknecht—Chapter 2 and 3	<i>Lab 1: Research Questions & Experiments</i>
	May 11	<i>Nature of Quantitative Research— Concepts & Measurements</i> Read: Bell, Bryman & Kleinknecht—Chapter 4	
3	May 16	<i>Data Collection: Survey Research</i> Read: Bell, Bryman & Kleinknecht— Chapter 5	<i>Lab 2: Questionnaire</i>
	May 18	<i>Quantitative Sampling & Data Analysis</i> Read: Bell, Bryman & Kleinknecht— Chapter 7 & 8	
4	May 23- Holiday	(No Class)	
	May 25	<i>Nature of Qualitative Research</i> Read: Bell, Bryman & Kleinknecht— Chapter 9	<i>Midterm Exam- May 25</i> <i>Lab 3: Observation</i>
5	May 30	<i>Data Collection: Interviewing in Qualitative Research</i> Read: Bell, Bryman & Kleinknecht— Chapter 11	<i>Lab 4: Interview</i>
	June 1	<i>Data Collection: Ethnography and Participant Observation</i> Read: Bell, Bryman & Kleinknecht— Chapter 10	
6	June 6	Unobtrusive Research- Content Analysis Read: Bell, Bryman & Kleinknecht— Chapter 12	<i>Lab 5: Content Analysis</i>
	June 8	<i>Qualitative Data Analysis</i> Read: Bell, Bryman & Kleinknecht—Chapter 13	
7	June 13	Mixing Methods Read: Bell, Bryman & Kleinknecht—Chapter 14	
	June 15	Conducting a Research Project Read: Bell, Bryman & Kleinknecht—Chapter 15	

EXAMINATIONS

All materials covered in lectures, labs, and required readings are subject to examination. The Midterm exam will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions and short answer questions. Example of questions will be reviewed in class and made available on D2L. The use of aids such as textbooks, course notes or electronic devices will not be permitted during the exam.

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

Assessment of learning outcomes will take place through a variety of methods. Below are the assessment components and required assignments and the percent value of each assignment for determining your course grade.

Assessment Component/Assignment	Due Date	Weight
Research Topic & Question	May 16 at 11:59 pm	5 %
Labs (5)	Lab 1: May 13 at 11:59 pm Lab 2: May 20 at 11:59 pm Lab 3: June 1 st at 11:59 pm Lab 4: June 7 at 11:59 pm Lab 5: June 13 at 11:59 pm	25%
Midterm Exam	May 25 at 1:00 pm	30%
Research Proposal	June 22 at 11:59 pm	40%

Research Topic Proposal (5%)

Initial Research Proposal/Research Question: Identify a research question you want to answer. Discuss why this question is important. Be as specific as you can be about the research approach you are considering and population for which you hope to answer your question and some possible limitations or pitfalls you might encounter in your research.

Labs 5 (each worth 5%)

Lab assignments require students to apply the concepts, theories, or methods they are learning in class. This may be an application of what you learned in the present session or previous labs. The labs are facilitated by a Teaching Assistant (TA). Labs will be submitted through D2L dropbox. You will have one week to complete the lab activity from the date they are posted.

Midterm Exam (30%)

The Midterm exam will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions and short answer questions. Example of questions will be reviewed in class and made available on D2L. The use of aids such as textbooks and course notes will not be permitted during the exam.

Research Proposal (40%)

The research proposal is a comprehensive project on a topic of interest to the student. Quite often, in the designing a research project you'll have to lay out the details of your plan for someone else's review and approval. This assignment is designed to give you the opportunity to practice grant writing. The sections will include an Introduction, Identification of the Problem, Subject for Study, Literature Review, Measurement Data Collection Method, and Ethical Considerations to undertake the research. Details on the major assignment can be found on D2L.

MISSED OR LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Students who miss class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructor as soon as possible. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, the instructor may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test.

Deferred Term Work Form: Deferral of term work past the end of a term requires a form to be filled out by the student and submitted, along with any supporting documentation, to the instructor. The form is available [here](#).

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the instructor will email the form to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (ascarts@ucalgary.ca) for approval by the Associate Dean.

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 performance
A-	85 – 89.99%	3.7	Approaching excellent performance
B+	80 – 84.99%	3.3	Exceeding good performance
B	75 – 79.99%	3.0	Good performance
B-	70 – 74.99%	2.7	Approaching good performance
C+	67 – 69.99%	2.3	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C	63 – 66.99%	2.0	Satisfactory performance
C-	59 – 62.99%	1.7	Approaching satisfactory performance
D+	55 – 58.99%	1.3	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
D	50 – 54.99%	1.0	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F	<50%	0	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITING

All written assignments (including, to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Sources used in research papers must be properly documented. If you need help with your writing, you may use the writing support services in the Learning Commons. For further information, please refer to the official online University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, E. Course Information, E.2: Writing Across the Curriculum:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to attend class and labs regularly and to be fully present and engaged in class activities and discussions.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.

1. **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 can provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary
2. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.
3. All assignments will be submitted via D2L Dropbox. Please review the due dates.

GRADE REAPPRAISAL

Within two weeks of the date an assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of 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.

CONDUCT

Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. As members of the University community, students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

RESEARCH ETHICS

Research Ethics 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 Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board. 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.

USE OF INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES IN CLASS

The use of laptop and mobile devices is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. Please refrain from accessing websites and resources that may be distracting to you or for other learners during class time. Students are responsible for being aware of the University's Internet and email use policy, which can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-electronic-resources-and-information-policy>

COURSE EVALUATIONS AND STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the standard University Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) and Faculty course evaluation forms. A midterm evaluation may also be included to provide students an opportunity to provide feedback, for the instructor to adjust their approaches to teaching and learning, and to continuously improve the course. Students are welcome to discuss the process and content of the course at any time with the instructor.

Media Recording for Study Purposes (Students)

Students who wish to audio record lectures for personal study purposes need to follow the guidelines outlined in [Section E.6 of the University Calendar](#). Unless the audio recording of lectures is part of a student accessibility requirement, permission must be sought by the course instructor to audio record lectures.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy>

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-non-academic-misconduct-procedure>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

ACADEMIC ACCOMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>. Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>). 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.

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/.

RESEARCH ETHICS

(if applicable) Students are advised that any research with human participants – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the [Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board](#) or the [Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board](#). 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. Some courses will include assignments that involve conducting research with human participants; in these cases, the instructor will have applied for and received ethics approval for the course assignment. The instructor will discuss the ethical requirements for the assignment with the students.

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/sexual-and-gender-based-violence-policy>

Important Contact Information

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)
Phone: 403-220-5333

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives
Phone: 403-220-6551
Email: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
Students' Union URL: www.su.ucalgary.ca

Graduate Students' Association
Phone: 403-220-5997
Email: askgsa@ucalgary.ca
URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman
Phone: 403-220-6420
Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca

Campus Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the following resources:

SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

Student Wellness Services:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>

Campus Mental Health Strategy website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>.