



<b>SOCI 313 (01) Introductory Social Research Methods</b>			
<b>Pre/Co-Requisites</b>	SOCI 201		
<b>Instructor:</b>	Rashid Begg	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	SA 247 (LAB SA 147)
<b>Phone:</b>		<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	MW - 9:00 - 11:45 am
<b>Email:</b>	mohammed.begg@ucalgary.ca	<b>Lab</b>	MW - 1:00 - 2:50 pm
<b>Office:</b>	SS936	<b>Office Hours:</b>	M/W 3:00pm- 4:00pm by appointment
<b>Instructor Email Policy</b>	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.		

### 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 Objectives/Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to provide you with as much hands-on experience with research methods commonly used by sociology scholars. In this course, we will be:

1. learning about and practicing qualitative and quantitative methods,
2. exploring how science is produced and what ideas or conditions influence science,
3. critically thinking about existing scientific research methods,
4. examining content analysis, ethnographies, and participant observation.
5. developing practical skills of research design, and research proposal writing.
6. critically appraising existing research,

7. focusing on ethics of research, critical epistemologies and methodologies in this course.

**Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials, Electronic 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.
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**Schedule of Lectures and Readings**

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.

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

Weeks	Date	Topic and Readings	Labs
1	May 3	<i>Introduction to the Course</i> - Research Orientations Read: Bell, Bryman & Kleinknecht—Chapter 1 <i>Origins of Research Methods in Sociology</i> – Max Weber’s Verstehen Method	
2	May 8	<i>Research Designs and Ethics</i> Read: Bell, Bryman & Kleinknecht—Chapter 2 and 3 <i>Writing a Research Proposal</i> – Rashid Begg	<i>Lab 1: Research Questions &amp; Experiments</i>
	May 10	<i>Nature of Quantitative Research—Concepts &amp; Measurements</i> Read: Bell, Bryman & Kleinknecht—Chapter 4 <i>Constructing a Research Statement</i> – Rashid Begg	
3	May 15	<i>Data Collection: Survey Research</i> Read: Bell, Bryman & Kleinknecht— Chapter 5	<i>Lab 2: Questionnaire Intro to SPSS</i>
	May 17	<i>Quantitative Sampling &amp; Data Analysis</i> Read: Bell, Bryman & Kleinknecht— Chapter 7 & 8	
4	May 22- Holiday	(No Class)	

	May 24	<i>Nature of Qualitative Research</i> Read: Bell, Bryman & Kleinknecht— Chapter 9	<i>Lab 3: Observation</i>
5	May 29	<i>Data Collection: Interviewing in Qualitative Research</i> Read: Bell, Bryman & Kleinknecht— Chapter 11	<i>Lab 4: Interview</i>
	May 31	<i>Data Collection: Ethnography and Participant Observation</i> Read: Bell, Bryman & Kleinknecht— Chapter 10	<i>Midterm Exam- May 31</i>
6	June 5	Unobtrusive Research- Content Analysis Read: Bell, Bryman & Kleinknecht— Chapter 12	<i>Lab 5: Content Analysis</i> <i>Intro to NVivo</i>
	June 7	<i>Qualitative Data Analysis</i> Read: Bell, Bryman & Kleinknecht—Chapter 13	
7	June 12	Mixing Methods Read: Bell, Bryman & Kleinknecht—Chapter 14	
	June 14	Conducting a Research Project Read: Bell, Bryman & Kleinknecht—Chapter 15	

### Methods of Assessment and Grading Weights

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES/DAY
Research Topic & Question	5%	May 15 <sup>th</sup>
Labs (5)	25%	Lab 1: May 8 at 11:59 pm Lab 2: May 15 at 11:59 pm Lab 3: May 24 at 11:59pm Lab 4: May 29 at 11:59 pm Lab 5: June 5 at 11:59 pm
Midterm Exam	30%	May 31 at 1:00 pm
Research Proposal	40%	June 22 at 11:59 pm
Total	100%	

#### 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. 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 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. In-Class lecture will cover the details of this project.

### **Grading Scale**

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

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percent range</b>	<b>Grade Point Value</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>A+</b>	96 – 100%	4.0	Outstanding performance
<b>A</b>	90 – 95.99%	4.0	Excellent performance
<b>A-</b>	85 – 89.99%	3.7	Approaching excellent performance
<b>B+</b>	80 – 84.99%	3.3	Exceeding good performance
<b>B</b>	75 – 79.99%	3.0	Good performance
<b>B-</b>	70 – 74.99%	2.7	Approaching good performance
<b>C+</b>	67 – 69.99%	2.3	Exceeding satisfactory performance
<b>C</b>	63 – 66.99%	2.0	Satisfactory performance
<b>C-</b>	59 – 62.99%	1.7	Approaching satisfactory performance
<b>D+</b>	55 – 58.99%	1.3	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
<b>D</b>	50 – 54.99%	1.0	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
<b>F</b>	<50%	0	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

### **Missed or Late Coursework**

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. 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.

### **Libraries & Cultural Resources**

To contact your librarian or find out about the resources and services available to sociology students go to the Sociology Library guide: <https://library.ucalgary.ca/guides/sociology>

To access the main Library website, go to: <https://library.ucalgary.ca>

## **IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION**

### **Absence From a Mid-term Examination**

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of that email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor.

**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 at: [https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/14/P22\\_deferral-of-term-work\\_lapseGrade.pdf](https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/14/P22_deferral-of-term-work_lapseGrade.pdf)

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.

### **Deferral of a Final Examination**

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

### **Reappraisal of Grades:**

*For Reappraisal of Graded Term Work, see Calendar 1.2*

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

*For Reappraisal of Final Grade, see Calendar 1.3*

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

### **Academic Misconduct:**

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior that compromises proper assessment of students' 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, Procedure and Academic Integrity, please

visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html>

### **Plagiarism And Other Forms Of Academic Misconduct**

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

### **Recording of Lectures:**

Recording of lectures is prohibited, except for audio recordings authorized as an accommodation by SAS or an audio recording for individual private study and only with the written permission of the instructor. Any unauthorized electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, their transcription, copying, or distribution, constitutes academic misconduct. See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>.

### **Academic Accommodations:**

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

### **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 subject research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

### **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 (FOIP) Act:**

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. Assignments can only be returned to the student and will be accessible only to authorized faculty and staff. For more information, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>

### **Copyright Legislation:**

See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

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.

### **Evacuation Assembly Points**

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points> and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

### **Important Dates:**

Please check: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>.

### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call them at 403-220-3580, or email them at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>, which has detailed information on common academic concerns, including program planning and advice.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them in the MacKimmie Tower.

### **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](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca),  
[arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)  
Students' Union URL: [www.su.ucalgary.ca](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca)

Graduate Students' Association  
Phone: 403-220-5997  
Email: [askgsa@ucalgary.ca](mailto:askgsa@ucalgary.ca)  
URL: [www.ucalgary.ca/gsa](http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa)

Student Ombudsman  
Phone: 403-220-6420  
Email: [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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/>.