



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Summer 2020

FACULTY OF ARTS

Department of Sociology

Department of Sociology Website: <https://soci.ucalgary.ca/>

| COURSE TITLE: Introductory Social Research Methods | | | |
|---|--|------------------------|--|
| Course Number | SOC 313 | | |
| Pre/Co-Requisites | SOC 201 | | |
| Instructor Name | S. Hamid Akbary | Email | akbary.sayed@ucalgary.ca |
| Instructor Email Policy | <p>Feel free to contact me or the course TA, Mohana, over email at any time. Please 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. We do not answer emails over the weekend. Please take that into account when emailing us questions pertaining assignments or exam. 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 over email. Questions related to the content of lab assignments will NOT be answered over email. We will answer questions related to the content of lab assignments ONLY in labs or office hours. This will help enhance the efficiency of student-TA/Instructor communication and to avoid potential high frequency of email exchanges. However, if you want to discuss your grades or extension requests, please contact only the course instructor, Hamid. Similarly, late assignments must be emailed to Hamid only. The TA will disregard late email submissions if the assignment was not emailed to the instructor first.</p> | | |
| Office Location | N/A | Office Hours | 1:00-2:30 pm Monday (virtual) 1:00-2:30 pm Thursday (virtual) |
| Telephone No. | N/A | | |
| TA Name | Mohana Mukherjee | TA Email | mohana.mukherjee@ucalgary.ca |
| TA Office Location | N/A | TA Office Hours | 9:30-11 am Tuesday (virtual) 11:00-1:30 pm Friday (virtual) |
| Class Dates | June 29 – August 12, 2020 | | |

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| Class Times | <p>Lectures: There is no specific class time for lectures. The lectures will be uploaded on D2L at the beginning of each week. Hence, there is no set schedule and the students are not expected to be available for lectures at any given time.</p> <p>Labs: Students are expected to attend the lab through Zoom at 13:00-14:45 every Wednesday. The course TA, Mohana, will send a Zoom invite to all students prior to the lab to guide the students on course materials and lab assignments. Students are highly encouraged to attend the labs in order to have their questions related to lab assignments and course materials answered by the course TA.</p> |
| Class Location | No specific location, as the course is held online. |

Course Description

The students will be introduced to variety of research methods used by sociologists in the research process. This includes problem definition, data collection and analyses, and qualitative and quantitative strategies. The students will also learn about the distinctions between qualitative and quantitative strategies, which will help them understand the weaknesses and strengths of each methodology in answering research questions about important social phenomena. The students will learn about all this through reading about sociological research strategies in the textbook and lectures as well as weekly lab assignments.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

The course objectives and learning outcomes expected in this course include:

- Understand the nature of the relationship between theory and methodology in social research;
- Understand the ethical dimensions of social research;
- Understand the weaknesses and strengths of qualitative and quantitative research;
- Interpret and critique findings in social research reports;
- Evaluate scholarly publications from a methodological standpoint;
- Understand various research designs and design a thorough social research project;

Course Format

This course requires synchronous student involvement for the labs but asynchronous involvement for the lectures. In other words, the format of the course includes a hybrid of both synchronous and asynchronous student involvement, as the lectures will be entirely asynchronous while the labs –taking place 13:00-14:45 every Wednesday– will be entirely synchronous. The instructor will upload the lectures and other course content (i.e. lab assignments, additional readings/activities) on D2L at the beginning of every week. The lectures will include narrated PowerPoint documents to which the students can attend at their own convenience. However, it is highly recommended that the students go

through the weekly lectures prior to attending the labs, so that they are able to make sense of and complete the lab assignments. Please see the lab outline below, indicating synchronous involvement.

Lab Outline

| Week | Date | Time | Topics | Venue | Format |
|------|-----------------------|---------------|---|----------------|-------------|
| 1 | July 1 st | 13:00 – 14:45 | Research Orientations and Ethical Issues | Virtual (Zoom) | Synchronous |
| 2 | July 8 th | 13:00 – 14:45 | Literature Review | Virtual (Zoom) | Synchronous |
| 3 | July 15 th | 13:00 – 14:45 | Quantitative Research | Virtual (Zoom) | Synchronous |
| 4 | July 22 nd | 13:00 – 14:45 | Quantitative Research | Virtual (Zoom) | Synchronous |
| 5 | July 29 th | 13:00 – 14:45 | Qualitative Research | Virtual (Zoom) | Synchronous |
| 6 | Aug 5 th | 13:00 – 14:45 | Content Analysis | Virtual (Zoom) | Synchronous |
| 7 | Aug 12 th | 13:00 – 14:45 | Mixed-methods Research and Review Session | Virtual (Zoom) | Synchronous |

Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials, Electronic Resources

1. **Bryman, A. & Bell, E. (2019). *Social Research Methods (Fifth Canadian Edition)*. Don Mills: Oxford University Press.**
 - Students can purchase physical and electronic copies from the U of C bookstore
2. **Cisco, J. (2014). Teaching the literature review: A practical approach for college instructors. *The ISSOTL Journal*, 2(2), 41-57.**
 - Students can download a copy of the article through the University of Calgary library online by visiting this link: www.library.ucalgary.ca

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

| Week | Dates | Topics | Readings | Format |
|------|-------------------------------|--|---|--------------|
| 1 | Week of June 29 th | - Introduction to the Course - General Research Orientations - Research Designs - Research Ethics | Bryman & Bell (Ch. 1) Bryman & Bell (Ch. 2) Bryman & Bell (Ch. 3) | Asynchronous |
| 2 | Week of July 6 th | - Conducting a Research Project - Literature Review Lab assignment #1 due | Bryman & Bell (Ch. 16) Article by Cisco (2014) | Asynchronous |
| 3 | Week of July 13 th | - The Nature of Quantitative Research - Quantitative Sampling Lab assignment #2 due | Bryman & Bell (Ch. 4) Bryman & Bell (Ch. 7) | Asynchronous |

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|---|---------------------------------|---|---|--------------|
| 4 | Week of July 20 th | - Structured Observation - Survey Research: Interviews and Questionnaires - Quantitative Data Analysis | Bryman & Bell (Ch. 6) Bryman & Bell (Ch. 5) Bryman & Bell (Ch. 8) | Asynchronous |
| 5 | Week of July 27 th | - The Nature of Qualitative Research - Ethnography and Participant Observation - Interviewing in Qualitative Research Lab assignment #3 due | Bryman & Bell (Ch. 9) Bryman & Bell (Ch. 10) Bryman & Bell (Ch. 11) | Asynchronous |
| 6 | Week of August 3 rd | - Content Analysis - Qualitative Data Analysis Lab assignment #4 due | Bryman & Bell (Ch. 12) Bryman & Bell (Ch. 13) | Asynchronous |
| 7 | Week of August 10 th | - Revisioning Quantitative and Qualitative Lab assignment #5 due | Bryman & Bell (Ch. 14) | Asynchronous |
| 8 | Aug 12-18 | - Final exam period (open book) | All the required readings and lectures | Asynchronous |

Methods of Assessment and Grading Weights

The final grade for this course will be based on five lab assignments and one final exam.

Lab assignments: All the 5 lab assignments will be of equal weight. Each lab assignment will be worth 10%. In total, they will be worth 50% of the course grade. Lab assignments will be posted on D2L by 12:00pm every Tuesday. The students are required to complete and submit the lab assignments to the Dropbox folder on D2L within a week (i.e. by 12:00pm of the following Tuesday), except for the fourth week of the semester when there is no assignment due. It is the responsibility of the students to make sure that their lab assignments have been successfully submitted to the appropriate Dropbox folder on D2L. There will be a penalty of 10% per day (of the assigned grade) for late assignments except in cases of illness or extenuating circumstances.

Exam: The final exam will be worth 50% of the course final grade.

Neither the lab assignments nor the final exam is a group-based activity. Students are strictly advised against working together to complete the lab assignments or the final exam.

Final Exam Information

The format of the final exam will be open book. It will consist of essay-based and/or short-answer questions based on the chapters covered from the textbook as well as lectures. The final exam will be posted on August 12th. The students will have five business days to write and submit their exams to the appropriate Dropbox folder on D2L on August 18th. If the students face difficulties accessing the exam on D2L, they must email the instructor as soon as possible. It is also the responsibility of the students to make sure that their exam has been successfully submitted to the appropriate folder on D2L by the due date. Make-up exams will not be considered unless discussed with the instructor and scheduled in advance, before August 12th.

Breakdown, Weight, and Due Date of Student Evaluation

| Week | Assignment/Exam | Due Date (Time, Day, Date) | Weight |
|------|-------------------|---|--------|
| 1 | NA | NA | NA |
| 2 | Lab assignment #1 | 12:00pm, Tuesday, July 7 th | 10% |
| 3 | Lab assignment #2 | 12:00pm, Tuesday, July 14 th | 10% |
| 5 | Lab assignment #3 | 12:00pm, Tuesday, July 28 th | 10% |
| 6 | Lab assignment #4 | 12:00pm, Tuesday, August 4 th | 10% |
| 7 | Lab assignment #5 | 12:00pm, Tuesday, August 11 th | 10% |
| 8 | Final exam | TBD, Tuesday, August 18 th | 50% |

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. |

Passing Grades

Students need to obtain a cumulative percent that is equivalent to a “D” letter grade as indicated below in order to pass this course. However, it is not necessary to pass all of the evaluation components in the course to obtain a passing grade.

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.

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 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
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

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 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.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf>) 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 unauthorized 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.

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. 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.

Recording of Lectures

Note that the audio or video recording of lectures and taking screenshots of PowerPoint slides during the lecture are not permitted without explicit authorization. The non-authorized media recording of lectures is inconsistent with the Code of Conduct and may result in discipline in accordance with the Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure. For more information click here: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>.

Sharing of Lecture Notes and Exam Questions

Note that publicly sharing lectures notes and exam questions on 3rd party sites such as OneClass, StudyBlue, Quizlet, Course Hero, etc. is not permitted. If you wish to use these helpful studying tools, make sure you adjust your privacy settings accordingly. Any violations are subject to investigation under the UofC Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy. For more information, click here: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>.

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.html>

Absences and Deferrals

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors 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. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

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 can be found at:
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>

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://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/1/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).

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.pdf>

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

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>

Wellness and Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that 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 support 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 Student Wellness Services (Room 370 MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

Student Success Centre

The Student Success Centre provides services and programs to ensure students can make the most of their time at the University of Calgary. Our advisors, learning support staff, and writing support staff assist students in enhancing their skills and achieving their academic goals. They provide tailored learning support and advising programs, as well as one-on-one services, free of charge to all undergraduate and graduate students. For more information visit:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>

Student Ombuds Office

The Student Ombuds Office supports and provides a safe, neutral space for students. For more information, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/ or email ombuds@ucalgary.ca.

Student Union (SU) Information

The SU Vice-President Academic can be reached at (403) 220-3911 or suvpaca@ucalgary.ca; Information about the SU, including elected Faculty Representatives, can be found here:

<https://www.su.ucalgary.ca>.

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points

Assembly points for emergencies have been identified across campus. Assembly points are designed to establish a location for information updates from the emergency responders to the evacuees; from the evacuated population to the emergency responders. For more information, see the University of Calgary's Emergency Management website:

<https://live-risk.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points>

Safewalk

Campus security will escort individuals, day or night, anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences Centre, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). Call 403-220-5333 or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths. Please ensure your personal safety by taking advantage of this service.