



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Winter 2021

FACULTY OF ARTS

Department of Sociology

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

Course outline revised as of January 4, 2021

COURSE TITLE: Introductory Social Research Methods			
Course Number	SOCI 313 L01		
Pre/Co-Requisites	SOCI 201		
Instructor Name	S. Hamid Akbary	Email	akbary.sayed@ucalgary.ca
Instructor Email Policy	Feel free to contact me or the course TA over email at any time. When doing so, please consider the following: Please include a proper salutation, your full name, student ID, and a proper closing in the body of your email. All emails will be answered within 24 hours. 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 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 and 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. 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.		
Office Location	N/A	Office Hours	9:30-11:00am Friday (virtual) or by appointment
TA Name	Mohana Mukherjee	TA Email	mohana.mukherjee@ucalgary.ca
TA Office Location	N/A	TA Office Hours	10:00 – 11:00am Wednesday (virtual)
Class Dates	January 11 – April 15, 2021		
Class Times	<p>Lectures: There is no specific class time for lectures. Pre-recorded lectures will be uploaded on D2L at the beginning of each week. Hence, there is no set schedule, and students are not expected to be available for lectures at any given time.</p> <p>Labs: Students are expected to attend the labs through Zoom at 3:00 – 4:50pm every Monday. Students will be provided with a Zoom link through</p>		

	email prior to the start of each lab every week. 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. Please note that, unlike lectures, labs will not be recorded.
Class Location	Online

Course Description

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. 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. 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 3:00-4:50pm every Monday– will be entirely synchronous. The instructor will upload the lectures and other course content (e.g., lab assignments) on D2L at the beginning of every week. The lectures will include narrated PowerPoint documents, which students can attend at their own

convenience. However, it is highly recommended that 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.

Learning 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 of this book from the U of C bookstore
2. **Akbary, S., & Palenberg, A. (2020). Qualitative barriers of integration and access to settlement services: the case of Muslims in Canada and Germany. *Canadian Diversity*, 17(20), 77-81.**
 - A copy of this article will be uploaded on D2L.
3. **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 this article through the University of Calgary library online by visiting this link: <https://muse-jhu-edu.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/article/553992/pdf>

Learning Technologies and Requirements

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

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to 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;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Week	Dates	Topics	Readings	Format
1	Week of Jan 11 th	- General Research Orientations - Research Designs	- Bryman & Bell (Ch. 1) - Bryman & Bell (Ch. 2)	Asynchronous
2	Week of Jan 18 th	- Research Ethics - The Stanford Prison Experiment Lab #1 due	- Bryman & Bell (Ch. 3) - Link will be provided in lab	Asynchronous
3	Week of Jan 25 th	- Literature Review	- Cisco (2014)	Asynchronous
4	Week of Feb 1 st	- Conducting a Research Project Lab #2 due	- Bryman & Bell (Ch. 16)	Asynchronous
5	Week of Feb 8 th	- The Nature of Quantitative Research	- Bryman & Bell (Ch. 4)	Asynchronous
6	Week of Feb 22 nd	- Quantitative Sampling	- Bryman & Bell (Ch. 7)	Asynchronous
7	Week of March 1 st	- Survey Research: Interviews and Questionnaires - Quantitative Data Analysis Lab #3 due	- Bryman & Bell (Ch. 5) - Bryman & Bell (Ch. 8)	Asynchronous
8	Week of March 8 th	- The Nature of Qualitative Research - Ethnography and Participants Observation	- Bryman & Bell (Ch. 9) - Bryman & Bell (Ch. 10)	Asynchronous
9	Week of March 15 th	- Interviewing in Qualitative Research Lab #4 due	- Bryman & Bell (Ch. 11)	Asynchronous
10	Week of March 22 nd	- Content Analysis	- Bryman & Bell (Ch. 12)	Asynchronous
11	Week of March 29 th	- Qualitative Data Analysis Lab #5 due	- Bryman & Bell (Ch. 13)	Asynchronous
12	Week of April 5 th	- Revisioning Quantitative and Qualitative	- Bryman & Bell (Ch. 14) - Akbary & Palenberg (2020)	Asynchronous
13	Week of April 12 th	- Writing Up Social Research Lab #6 due	- Bryman & Bell (Ch. 15)	Asynchronous
14	Week of April 19 th	- Final exam (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 six lab assignments and one final exam.

Lab assignments: All the 6 lab assignments will be of equal weight. Each lab assignment will be worth 12.5%. In total, they will be worth 75% of the course grade. Lab assignments will be posted on D2L. Students are required to complete and submit the lab assignments to the Dropbox folder on D2L by the deadline specified in the table below. 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. Students may work together in groups of two to four individuals to complete the lab assignments. However, this is not a requirement.

Exam: The final exam will be worth 25% of the course final grade. The final exam will be posted on or before April 12th. Students will have until the end of April 19th to write and submit their final exams. It is the responsibility of the students to make sure that their exams have been successfully submitted to the appropriate Dropbox folder on D2L. Students may work together in groups of two to four individuals to complete the final exam. However, this is not a requirement.

Breakdown, Weight, and Due Date of Student Evaluation

Assignment/Exam	Due Date (Time, Day, Date)	Weight
Lab assignment #1	11:59pm, Friday, January 22 nd	12.5%
Lab assignment #2	11:59pm, Friday, February 5 th	12.5%
Lab assignment #3	11:59pm, Friday, March 5 th	12.5%
Lab assignment #4	11:59pm, Friday, March 19 th	12.5%
Lab assignment #5	11:59pm, Friday, April 2 nd	12.5%
Lab assignment #6	11:59pm, Friday, April 16 th	12.5%
Final exam (take home)	11:59pm, Thursday, April 19 th	25%

Final Exam Information

The format of the final exam will be open book. It will consist of short-answer questions based on the chapters covered from the textbook as well as lectures. The final exam will be posted on or before April 12th. The students will have until April 19th to write and submit their exams to the appropriate Dropbox folder on D2L. 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.

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 above 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.

Absences and Deferrals

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 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 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/deferral-of-term-work-2020.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.

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.

Guidelines for Zoom Sessions

Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a "live" video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor's permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the [Code of Conduct](#)). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters.

Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g. [Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#)). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/>.

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

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.

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

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

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>

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.