

**University of Calgary**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**Sociology 613 – Seminar in Quantitative Research Methods**  
**Winter, 2017**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Jenny Godley	<b>Class Hours:</b> W 9:00-12:00
<b>Office:</b>	SS922	<b>Location:</b> SS921
<b>Office Hours:</b>	by apptmt.	
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\* Please use email for administrative concerns only. Substantive issues should be addressed in person, either in class, during office hours, or during an appointment time.

NOTE: this course outline is subject to revision. All changes will be announced in class.  
*Last revised 14 January, 2017*

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**Overview:**

This course is a graduate-level seminar in quantitative research methods. We will examine issues related to the logic and process of social research, including research design, research ethics, sampling, data collection, measurement, and data analysis. Emphasis will be placed on surveys, secondary data analysis, social network analysis, and bibliometrics. Course requirements include class participation, ten weekly lab assignments, and the completion of a research proposal. The weekly lab assignments will involve reading and critiquing recent articles published in international sociology journals, and practicing new data analytic techniques. The proposal will be due in stages throughout the semester.

**Objectives:**

- To introduce you to the logic and process of social research.
- To (re-) familiarize you with issues that arise in quantitative research design, including research ethics, sampling, data collection, measurement, and data analysis.
- To highlight several quantitative methods of data collection and analysis including surveys, secondary data analysis, social network analysis, and bibliometrics.
- To enable you to prepare a research proposal for an independent research project.

**Requirements:**

A. **Reading:**

Readings are assigned for each day of class. Please come to class every day having read the materials. Bring any questions or comments you have about the readings with you to share with your classmates. Please bring your copies of the texts to class, as we will refer to them often. We will be using one textbook for reference throughout the semester. All of the articles will be available for downloading through the class D2L site. Additional readings may be assigned throughout the semester; they will be announced in class and / or on email.

Textbook: Singleton and Straits. *Approaches to Social Research (5<sup>th</sup> Edition)*. 2010. Oxford University Press. (Abbreviated as S&S in the course schedule).

B. **In-Class Participation:**

You are encouraged to participate as fully as possible in classroom activities. This class is a seminar, which requires participation of all members. Please take classroom participation seriously; respect your peers' contributions, and provide feedback as constructively as possible. Class participation is worth 10% of your final grade.

C. **Lab Assignments:**

There will be ten lab assignments. You are encouraged to work together on the lab assignments, but the material that you hand in must be your own work. The assignments are each worth 5% of your final grade, for a total of 50%. The lab assignments will be handed out on Wednesdays and will be due by noon the following Monday. You may email me your lab assignments.

D. **Research Proposal:**

Each student will be required to develop a research proposal. The research proposal, due in stages throughout the semester, will be worth 40% of your final grade. A full description of what is expected for each section of the research proposal will be provided in class. The sections of the research proposal are due according to the following schedule:

Research Interests One-Pager	Feb. 1	5%
Literature Review, Theory, Research Questions	March 1	10%
Data, Variables, Hypotheses	March 22	5%
Proposed Methods	April 5	5%
Full Proposal	April 21	15%

### **Grades:**

Your final grade will be computed as follow:

- Lab Assignments	50%
- Class Participation	10%
- Research Proposal	40%

I will use the following scale to convert percentage grades to letter grades for this class.

A+ = 95-100	A = 90-94	A- = 85-89
B+ = 80-84	B = 75-79	B- = 70-74
C+ = 65-69	C = 60-64	C- = 55-59
D+ = 50-54	D = 45-49	
F = below 45		

The following description of letter grades comes from the University of Calgary Calendar.

- An A indicates superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.
- A B indicates clearly above average performance, with knowledge of the subject matter generally complete.
- A C indicates satisfactory performance, with a basic understanding of the subject matter.
- A D indicates marginal performance and generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
- An F indicates unsatisfactory performance, or failure to meet course requirements.

### **Additional Information:**

#### **Handing in Papers, Assignments**

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

**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. 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.

### **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-2-1.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.

If you have missed a test for a legitimate reason, the instructor can require you to write a “make up” test as close in time to the original test as possible or can choose to transfer the percentage weight to another course component. If the instructor schedules a “make up” test for you, its date and location will be at the convenience of the Department of Sociology.

**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 about deadlines, and where paperwork should be taken, is available on the form, which can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/student-forms>

**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](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 2016-17 Students’ Union VP Academic is Alicia Lunz ([suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)). The Faculty of Arts has four SU representatives who may be contacted at any of the following email addresses: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca), [arts2@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@ucalgary.ca), [arts3@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@ucalgary.ca), and [arts4@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@ucalgary.ca). You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds/role>

### **Emergency Evacuations**

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at **the Professional Faculties Food Course (Primary Assembly Point) or the Education Block Food Course (Alternate Assembly Point)**. Please check these assembly point locations for all of your classes at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

### **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**

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should contact Student Accessibility Services (MC 293, phone 403-220-8237) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities available at <http://ucalgary.ca/access/>. Please provide academic accommodation letters to the instructor as early in the semester as possible and no later than two weeks after the course begins.

## **Schedule:**

### **Week One – 11 January**

*Topic:* Introduction  
Overview of the Course

### **Week Two – 18 January**

*Topic:* Is Sociology a Science? What “counts” as evidence?  
Research Ethics

*Readings:* a. S&S Chapters 1-2: The Nature of Science  
b. S&S Chapter 3: Research Ethics

### **Lab A – Due 23 January**

*Topic:* Ethics  
a. Course on Research Ethics (CORE) Tutorial (for those who have not yet completed it)  
[http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/ethics/CORE\\_Tutorial](http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/ethics/CORE_Tutorial)  
b. Ethics case study

### **Week Three – 25 January**

*Topic:* Research Questions, Variables and Relationships, Measurement

*Readings:* a. S&S Chapter 4: Elements of Research Design  
b. S&S Chapter 5: Measurement  
c. Walby, S. and Armstrong, J. (2010). “Measuring equalities: data and indicators in Britain.” *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, 13,3:237-249.

### **Lab B – Due 30 January**

*Topic:* Research Questions, Variables, Measurement  
(Case Study: Kraaykamp, G. and Van Eijck, K. (2010). “The intergenerational reproduction of cultural capital: A threefold perspective.” *Social Forces*, 89,1:209-232.)

#### **Week Four – 1 February**

*Topic:* Sampling

*Readings:* a. S&S Chapter 6: Sampling  
b. Reichel and Morales (2017). “Surveying immigrants without sampling frames – evaluating the success of alternative field methods.” *Comparative Migration Studies* 5:1.  
c. <http://www.respondentdrivensampling.org/>

#### **Lab C – Due 6 February**

*Topic:* Sampling case study (Reading TBA)

#### **Week Five – 8 February**

*Topic:* Surveys

*Readings:* a. S&S Chapter 9: Survey Research  
b. S&S Chapter 10: Survey Instrumentation  
c. Mingnan, L. (2017). “Data collection mode differences between national face-to-face and web surveys on gender inequality and discrimination questions.” *Women's Studies International Forum*, 60: 11–16.

#### **Lab D– Due 13 February**

*Topic:* Survey case study (Reading TBA)

#### **Week Six – 15 February**

*Topic:* Secondary Data Analysis

*Readings:* a. S&S Chapter 12: Research Using Available Data  
b. O’Hara, Shattuck, and Goerge. (2016). “Linking Federal Surveys with Administrative Data to Improve Research on Families” *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 669, Issue 1, pp. 63 - 74

#### **Lab E – Due 20 February (Note, this is during reading week)**

*Topic:* Secondary Data Analysis  
(Case Study: King, M.D. and Bearman, P.S. (2011). “Socioeconomic status and the increased prevalence of autism in California.” *American Sociological Review*, 76,2:320-346.)

#### **Week Seven - 1 March**

*Topic:* Social Network Analysis, I

*Readings:* TBA

#### **Lab F – Due 6 March**

*Topic:* SNA I (ego centered)

**Week Eight - 8 March**

*Topic:* Social Network Analysis, II  
Practice presentations for Grad Symposium  
*Readings:* TBA

**Lab G – Due 13 March**

*Topic:* SNA II (whole networks)

**Week Nine – 15 March**

*Topic:* Social Network Analysis, III  
*Readings:* TBA

**Lab H – Due 20 March**

*Topic:* SNA III (visualizations)

**Week Ten – 22 March**

*Topic:* Bibliometrics  
*Readings:* TBA

**Lab I – Due 27 March**

*Topic:* Bibliometrics

**Week Eleven – 29 March**

*No class this week*

**Week Twelve – 5 April**

*Topic:* Integrating Methods and Evaluation Research  
*Readings:* a. S&S Chapter 13: Multiple Methods  
b. S&S Chapter 14: Evaluation Research  
c. *The Future of Mixed Methods: A Five Year Projection to 2020* ([www.mmira.wildapricot.org](http://www.mmira.wildapricot.org)).  
d. Creswell, John W. (2016). “Reflections on the MMIRA *The Future of Mixed Methods* Task Force.” *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*, 10(3) 215-219.

**Lab J – Due 10 April**

*Topic:* Mixed Methods

**Week Thirteen – 12 April**

*Topic:* Summary, Wrap Up, Presentation of Proposals

***Final research proposals due: Friday 21 April, noon, SS922***



