University of Manitoba
Department of Sociology
Fall/Winter Term (6 Credit Hour Course) 2011-2012

SOC 2290 RESEARCH METHODS A03 (CRN 11066)

Instructor: Dr. Tracey Peter
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Class: Tuesday/Thursday 11:30-12:45 (137 Isbister)
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:30-11:15

Required Texts:
Babbie, Earl and Lucia Benaquisto (2010) *Fundamentals of Social Research.* Second Canadian Edition. Scarborough: Thomson Nelson.

Course Objectives and Description:
Sociology 2290 introduces students to social science research methods, which are essential skills for constructing knowledge, developing sociological theories, and designing effective social policy. The goal of this course is to provide students with a general understanding of sociological research methods in order to enhance students' ability to undertake research and to be informed consumers of published research.

The first half of the course explores the study of assumptions, principles, and techniques of various research methods used in sociology. The intended outcome is for students to become familiarized with the general principals of research methods and their application in the collection of data for analysis. The second half of the course will cover basic statistical methods and techniques for data analysis. The primary goal here is to enhance students' statistical literacy.

There is a mandatory lab component for this course (where laboratory attendance is compulsory), which is worth 25% of your final grade. Students must receive 60% or greater in order to pass the entire course. More information regarding lab preparation and evaluation will be given to you by the lab instructor during your scheduled lab session.

Please note that this is not a math course. You will be using a calculator in order to systematically work through basic problems and concepts. You do not require any advanced mathematical training to do well in this course. Given that most students will not be familiar with statistical techniques, regular class attendance is essential. Course material is presented in a logical sequence; therefore, missing class may result in difficulty with future material.

Course Evaluation

Grades:

Percentage	Letter Grade	Descriptive Scale	GPA
93 to 100	A+	Exceptional	4.5
85 to 92	A	Excellent	4.0
80 to 84	B+	Very Good	3.5
70 to 79	B	Good	3.0
66 to 69	C+	Satisfactory	2.5
60 to 65	C	Adequate	2.0
50 to 59	D	Marginal	1.0
0 to 49	F	Failure	0.0

Note: Senate Policy #1307 requires "A post-examination review of final grades in multi-sectioned courses that will encourage equitable correspondence between grades and level of performance in all sections." Accordingly, the final grade distribution in this course may be raised or lowered to achieve such equity and, therefore, your final grade may be changed.

Test 1:	October 18th and 20th, 2011	18.75%
Test 2:	December 1st and 6th, 2011	18.75%
Test 3:	February 14th and 16th, 2012***	18.75%
Test 4:	April 3rd and 5th, 2012	18.75%
Lab:		25.00%

*** Please note: these unit tests will **not** be rescheduled to permit longer spring breaks under any circumstances!

Tests: There are four unit tests covering class lectures and assigned readings. Each test will include a mixture of multiple choice and written responses and/or mathematical problem solving. The specifics of each test will be discussed in class. Each test will contain a mixture of assigned readings and class lectures. Please note: The second half of the course covers basic statistical methods and techniques for data analysis, which are not discussed in great detail in the course textbook. For this reason, class attendance is critical.

Required Reading:
Test 1: Chapters: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6
Test 2: Chapters: 4, 7 (pp. 176-189; 198-217), 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14
Test 3: Chapters: 15, 16
Test 4: Chapter: 7, 16

Missed Tests: Any student who misses a test or exam must provide a doctor's note (or appropriate equivalent). **This will be strictly enforced.** No student will be allowed to write a make-up test without a doctor's note (or some form of written documentation). Any student who does not inform me (by phone/voice mail/office hours) **prior** to test time (that they will be absent for the test) **will not** be allowed to write a make-up test. This also will be strictly enforced. Missed tests must be written within one week of original test date. The instructor will inform the student of when and where the make-up test will be written.

Lab: There is a separate lab component for the course, which will have its own course outline. All preparation and evaluation will be done by the methods lab instructor.

Student Conduct and Academic Regulations of the University

Voluntary Withdrawal: The final date for voluntary withdrawal from this course is March 16th, 2012. There are no refunds on this date – see the Fall/Winter Calendar for details.

Academic Integrity: Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on 'Personations at Examinations' (section 5.2.9) and 'Plagiarism and Cheating' (8.1) found online under UManitoba Catalogue 2011-2012 (General Academic Regulations, Section 8. Academic Integrity). The Faculty of Arts also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.

Electronic Devices: Students are required to silence all electronic devices (cellular phones, Blackberries, I-phones, pagers, ipods, etc.) when in the classroom. If there is a reason that you require your device to remain on 'ring' mode (i.e., sick child at daycare), please inform me at the start of the class. Students are not permitted to send or receive text messages during class. A student found texting during class will be asked to leave. Students are welcome to bring laptop computers to class for note-taking purposes only. Students found using social networking sites or surfing the Internet during class will be asked to leave.

Classroom Disruptions: Students should recognize that excessive talking, late arrival, or early departures from the classroom are disrupting for both the instructor and classmates. Please be considerate of others in the class. Continual disruption by a student may result in disbarment from the course. Please notify the instructor at the onset of class if you need to leave early or if you have to come late to the next class.

Accommodations

Special Needs: Students with special learning needs (who for legitimate reasons require extra time to write a test, or who require aids or other supports) should identify themselves to the instructor at the beginning of the term in order to arrange suitable accommodation.

Religious Holidays: The university recognizes the right of all students to observe recognized holidays of their faith, which fall within the academic year. With instructor discretion, necessary arrangements can be made to ensure studies are not jeopardized. The instructor should be notified of a student's intended absence in advance and at least three weeks notice of absence should normally be given where special arrangements are sought.

Course Schedule

Date(s)	Event	Chapter(s)
September 8, 2011	First day of class	N/A
September 8-21	Revision period	N/A
September 13 & 15	Science as a way of knowing	Chapter 1
September 20 & 22	Theory construction	Chapter 2
September 27 & 29	Ethics	Chapter 3
October 4 & 6	Measurement, part 1	Chapters 5 & 6
October 11 & 13	Measurement, part 2	Chapters 5 & 6
October 18 & 20	**Unit Test #1 (Tuesday & Thursday)**	**Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, & 6**
October 25 & 27	Causation	Chapter 4
November 1 & 3	Quantitative research designs	Chapter 8
November 8 & 10	Qualitative research designs and analysis	Chapters 11, 12, & 14
November 15 & 17	Sampling	Chapter 7 (pp. 176-189; 198-217)
November 22 & 24	Survey research	Chapter 9
November 29	Unobtrusive research	Chapter 10
December 1 & 6	**Unit Test #2 (Thursday & Tuesday)**	**Chapters 4, 7 (pp. 176-189), 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, & 14**
December 7	Last day of class for fall term	N/A

December 23 – January 2	University closed	N/A
January 4	First day of class for winter term	N/A
February 14 & 16	**Unit Test # 3 (Tuesday & Thursday)**	**Chapters 15 & 16**
February 20 – 24	Mid term break – no classes	N/A
March 16	Last day for voluntary withdrawal for fall/winter term courses	N/A
April 3 & 5	**Unit Test #4 (Tuesday & Thursday)**	**Chapters 16 & 7**
April 5	Last day of class for winter term	N/A