

University of Calgary
Department of Sociology
Sociology 313 *Introductory Social Research Methods*
Fall, 2016

Instructor:	Dr. Jenny Godley	Class Hours: T, Th 11:00-12:15
Office:	SS922	Class Location: SA245
Office Hours:	T, Th 13:00-14:00, or by appt.	Lab B03: T, 15:30-17:20 CHE202
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Teaching Asst.: Salome Boateng
Office: SS919
Office Hours: W 11:00-12:00
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Emergency evacuation:

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point by the Social Science Food Court.

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/system/files/sca.pdf>

* 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 6 September, 2016

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to research methods in sociology. You will learn about the various stages of conducting a sociological research project, including research design, research project implementation (data collection and analysis), reporting your findings, and evaluating research findings. This course provides the foundation for many of the upper-level courses in our department, where you may be required both to evaluate others' research and to conduct your own research projects.

Course Objectives:

1. To introduce you to the social scientific research process, including research design, data collection, data analysis, and report writing.
2. To demonstrate the link between theoretical questions and empirical investigations in social science.
3. To introduce you to ethical issues encountered by social scientists conducting research with human subjects.
4. To introduce you to basic qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis techniques used by sociologists.
5. To give you practice evaluating social scientific research through critiquing research published in professional journals.

Text:

Bryman, Alan, and Bell, Edward. (2016). *Social Research Methods, Fourth Canadian Edition*. Oxford University Press.

** Available for purchase at the U of C bookstore. Note: textbooks are now organized alphabetically by author in the bookstore. You need to go to the “Br” shelf to find the book.

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 textbooks to class, as we will refer to them often.

B. Exams:

You will have two mid-terms and one final examination. The mid-terms will each be worth 20% of your final grade, and the final will be worth 40% of your final grade. The mid-terms will be held during class time on 11 October and 8 November. The final will take place during the final examination period, and will be scheduled by the Registrar. Exams are cumulative, and mandatory. If you fail to take any of the exams without documentation, you will automatically fail the course.

NOTE: There are NO MAKE UP exams in this class. If you miss the final examination, you must contact the Registrar’s Office immediately. If you miss a mid-term examination, and you provide me with the appropriate documentation, the weight of the mid-term exam will be added to your final examination. The only acceptable reasons for missing an examination in this class, as listed in the Deferral of Final Examinations section of the University of Calgary Calendar

(<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>), are illness, domestic affliction, or religious conviction. 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>.

C. Assignments:

There are four mandatory written assignments throughout the semester. Each of these assignments will be worth 5% of your grade, for a total of 20%. The assignments will be handed out *in the Tuesday lecture and will be due two weeks later at the beginning of the Tuesday lecture (11:00 am)*. The assignments will give you practice reading and critiquing peer-reviewed, published sociological research.

We will not accept e-mail submissions of assignments. Only hard copies of assignments will be accepted. Assignments must be typed and stapled.

Assignments are due: 4 October, 15 October, 15 November, and 6 December.

NOTE: Late assignments will receive a grade reduction of 15% for each day past the deadline. The 15% grade reduction per day also applies to weekend days and holidays. If you hand in your assignment more than FIFTEEN MINUTES past the time it is due (ie after 11:15), it will be considered one day late.

Grades:

Your final grade will be computed as follow:

- Mid Term One	20%
- Mid Term Two	20%
- Assignments	20%
- Final Examination	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.

Department of Sociology Policies:

1. 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.

2. Handing in Papers, Assignments

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

3. 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.

4. Ethics of Research

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.

5. 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>

6. Student Representation

The 2016-17 Students' Union VP Academic is Alicia Lunz (suypaca@ucalgary.ca). The Faculty of Arts has four SU representatives who may be contacted at any of the following email addresses: arts1@ucalgary.ca, arts2@ucalgary.ca, arts3@ucalgary.ca, and 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>

7. 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.

8. 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://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf. 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.

9. Electronic devices

Cell phones, pagers, blackberries, surfing the internet, checking email, and listening to music are disruptive to other students. **No electronic devices** are allowed during class or during lab sessions, with the exception of using a computer to take notes, conduct statistical analysis, or complete lab assignments. If you are using electronic devices for any other reason during class or lab, you will be asked to leave the classroom.

Week	Date	Reading	Topic	NOTES
One				
T	13 Sept.		Course Introduction	
Th	15 Sept.	Chpts. 1, 2	Research Orientations and Designs	
Two				
T	20 Sept.	Chpt. 3	Design - Research Ethics	Hand out Assignment 1
Th	22 Sept.	Chpt. 3	Design - Research Ethics	
Lab		Week 2 lab	Ethics	
Three				
T	27 Sept.	Chpt. 4	Design - Quantitative Research	
Th	29 Sept.	Chpt. 4	Collection – Measurement	
Lab		Week 3 lab	Quant research design	
Four				
T	4 Oct.	Chpts. 5, 6	Collection – Surveys	Assignment 1 DUE
Th	6 Oct.	Chpts. 5, 6	Collection – Surveys	
Lab		No lab this week.		

Five				
T	11 Oct.		Mid Term One	Hand out Assignment 2
Th	13 Oct.	Chpt. 7	Collection - Structured Observation	
Lab		Week 5 lab	Surveys	
Six				
T	18 Oct.	Chpt. 8	Collection - Other Quant Data Sources	
Th	20 Oct.	Chpt. 8	Collection - Other Quant Data Sources	
Lab		Week 6 lab	Surveys, contd.	
Seven				
T	25 Oct.	Chpt. 9	Design - Qualitative Research	Assignment 2 DUE
Th	27 Oct.	Chpt. 9	Design - Qualitative Research	
Lab		No lab this week.		
Eight				
T	1 Nov.	Chpt. 10	Collection - Ethnography and PO	Hand out Assignment 3
Th	3 Nov.	Chpt. 11	Collection – Interviewing	
Lab		Week 8 lab	Qual research design	

Nine				
T	8 Nov.	Chpt.	Mid Term Two	
Th	10 Nov.	No class (mid-term break)		
Lab		No lab this week.		
Ten				
T	15 Nov.	Chpt. 12	Design – Sampling	Assignment 3 DUE
Th	17 Nov.	Chpt. 12	Design – Sampling	
Lab		No lab this week.		
Eleven				
T	22 Nov.	Chpt 13	Analysis – Quantitative Data	Hand out Assignment 4
Th	24 Nov.	Chpt 13	Analysis – Quantitative Data	
Lab		Week 11 lab	Sampling	
Twelve				
T	29 Nov.	Chpt. 14	Analysis – Qualitative Data	
Th	1 Dec.	Chpt. 14	Analysis – Qualitative Data	
Lab		No lab this week.		
Thirteen				
T	6 Dec.	Chpt. 17	Report – Writing	Assignment 4 DUE
Th	8 Dec.	Chpt. 17	Report – Writing	
Lab		No lab this week.		

Final Examination (CUMULATIVE – covers the entire course): Registrar Scheduled during exam time (12-22 December, 2016)
