

The University of Calgary  
Department of Sociology  
SOC 313 – 60  
Introductory Social Research Methods  
Spring 2011

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Lecture Hours and Locations: TuTh 11:00 - 13:50, SS 105

Office hours: 1/2 hour before classes or by appointment.

Course Duration: 2011/7/4 - 2011/8/17 (Final Exam Date: TBA)

Teaching assistant: Gary Barron (Office: SS941)

Lab Hours and Locations: TR 14:00 - 16:50; SS 105

**Course outline, calendar and other required or supplementary materials will be available through the University of Calgary Blackboard system - [www.blackboard.ucalgary.ca](http://www.blackboard.ucalgary.ca)**

### **COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES:**

This course is an introduction to the philosophy and practice of social research. Its aim is to help students examine their assumptions about the reality of the social world and its workings, explore some of the choices and dilemmas encountered in any research undertaking, and learn about some of the quantitative and qualitative methods available to sociologists pursuing research questions. Research processes including problem definition, data collection and analyses; quantitative and qualitative strategies. Students are expected to acquire skills through doing research. Aside from providing an introductory opportunity to learn about the practice of sociology, though, this course also aims to enable students to become more informed consumers and readers of social research as they become more aware of its framing and the criteria by which it is judged.

This is a challenging course. Along with readings, exams and quizzes, three lab assignments emphasize the practice of social research. But this can be an interesting course, too, if you keep up with the readings and participate thoughtfully in class and lab discussions as well as the exercises.

### **TEXTS:**

Babbie, Earl and Benaquisto, Lucia (2009) *Fundamentals of Social Research* (2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Edition). Toronto: Nelson Education.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:**

The grade for this course will be determined as follows: 1) two exams worth 15% each. The midterm is tentatively set for Tuesday, July 26, 2011, and the final is Registrar controlled with date TBA; 2) regular text chapter quizzes administered in lab (total 20%), 3) discussion sparks for each chapter (10%, students provide brief chapter commentary prior to associated lectures), 4) three lab assignments (#1 = 10%; #2 = 15%; #3 = 15%) to be completed successively throughout the term. The first assignment will involve a basic orientation to research resources, the second will see the production of a short survey instrument, and the third will entail a qualitative content analysis of publicly available web-based resources. The materials covered in lectures and labs, as well as the assigned readings, are the basis of all of the above course requirements. Late assignments will be penalized at the rate of five percent per day. Otherwise, students should note the regulations outlined later in this outline.

### **LETTER GRADE ASSIGNMENT**

Letter grades will be assigned based on the following percentage scale:

A+ = 95-100	B+ = 80-84	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 54-58
A = 90-94	B = 75-79	C = 63-66	D = 50-53
A- = 85-89	B- = 70-74	C- = 59-62	F = 49 or less

**Emergency evacuations:**

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom/lab, please proceed to the assembly points below:

Building	Primary Assembly Point	Alternate Assembly Point
Social Sciences	Prof. Faculties Food Court	Education Block Food Court

**Deferrals:**

If at all possible you must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take a test or pass in an assignment or essay 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 physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus 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:

[http://ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/APP%20FOR%20DF%20EXAM\\_0.pdf](http://ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/APP%20FOR%20DF%20EXAM_0.pdf)

**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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.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).

**Ethics 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 Departmental 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:** Plagiarism, cheating and other academic misconduct are regarded as serious academic offences. Students are advised to consult the University Calendar which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct.

**The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation** disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside an instructor's office or the Department main office. Written assignments must be returned to students individually, during class, or during the instructor's office hours; if a student is unable to pick up her/his assignment s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

**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 with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, phone 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. It is a student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.

***Handing in papers outside of class, return of final papers, and release of final grades:***

1. When students are unable to submit papers in class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant. Papers will not be accepted in the main Sociology Department office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the main Sociology Department office. The Freedom of Information and Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place (i.e. outside an instructor's office, the department office etc.) Students who want their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise final papers will be available for pick-up only during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or at the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are available only online.