

Instructor: Professor Matt Patterson  
E-mail: matt.patterson@ucalgary.ca  
Office: SS 916 (Social Science)  
Office Hours: Wednesday, 12-2 pm (or by appointment)

Session: Winter 2016

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 - 3:15 pm  
Lecture Location: EDC 057

Teaching Assistant: Caroline Claussen (c3inc@shaw.ca)  
Kristen Chaisson (kristen.chaisson@ucalgary.ca)

Labs: Lab 1 (With Caroline Claussen)  
Tuesday, 3:30 - 5:20 pm  
EDC 154

Lab 2 (With Kristen Chaisson)  
Thursday, 3:30 - 5:20 pm  
EDC 172

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### Course Description

This course provides a detailed overview of some of the most common types of research methods used in sociology, the philosophical underpinnings of these methods, and how the methods relate to the establishment of sociological theory. Not only will you be learning about these methods, you will also get a chance to use them for yourselves in weekly lab sessions. Throughout the course you will have a chance to design and propose your own research project that will utilize one or a combination of the research methods discussed in class to answer a research question of your choice.

In addition to becoming familiar with the use of sociological research methods, you will also learn how to read and evaluate sociological research.

### Goals and Learning Outcomes

- Understand the major theoretical approaches to sociological research.
- Understand the differences between various quantitative and qualitative methods, their relative strengths and weaknesses, and how they should be deployed in research.
- Understand the ethical dilemmas of sociological research.

- Learn how to develop research questions that can be answered through empirical inquiry.
- Learn how to gather and analyze data by conducting in-class research exercises.
- Learn how to design a sociological research project that utilizes social research methods to answer an original research question.
- Develop a familiarity with academic literature and an ability to evaluate the major claims made in journal articles and book chapters.

### Textbooks and Other Materials

Readings are assigned from two sources:

- Alan Bryman, Edward Bell, and James J. Teevan. 2012. *Social Research Methods, Third Canadian Edition*. Toronto: Oxford University Press. (Available at the Campus Bookstore)
- Six online journal articles (links provided on D2L)

### Evaluation

	<u>Due Date/Exam Date</u>	<u>% of Final Grade</u>
Mid-Term Test 1	Thursday, February 9 <sup>th</sup>	15%
Research Topic Proposal	Tuesday, February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10%
Mid-Term Test 2	Thursday, March 17 <sup>th</sup>	15%
Research Proposal	Tuesday, April 12 <sup>th</sup>	35%
Lab Exercises	During labs	10%
Final Exam	Exam Period	15%

### *Mid-Terms and Final Exam*

In order to evaluate your general knowledge of course material, three tests are assigned (two midterms and one final exam). These tests will **NOT** be cumulative. The mid-terms will be written during regular lecture time and the final exam will be scheduled for the exam period. The tests will involve a combination of multiple choice, true and false, and/or short answer questions. More specific information on the exact format of the tests will be provided later in the term.

### *Research Topic Proposal and Research Proposal*

At the end of the term, you will be required to submit a research proposal outlining an original sociologically study designed to answer a research question of your choice. This

proposal will include an introduction identifying the research question and its importance to sociology, a literature review discussing how the research question relates to existing sociological knowledge, an outline of the methodology you will adopt to answer your research question, the case or sampling method you will use to gather data, and a conclusion that outlines your expected outcomes and their significance. The research proposal will be a maximum of 15 pages and constitutes 35% of your final grade.

Earlier in the term you will have the opportunity to submit a brief paper (3 pages maximum) outlining your research question and its significance to sociology. This paper will allow the TAs to provide you with feedback designed to assist you with your final research proposal.

More information on both assignments will be provided later in the term.

### *Grade Reappraisal*

You may seek reappraisal of your assignments within two weeks of the date the assignment is returned. To do so, please submit the original graded assignment as well as a fresh copy of the same assignment to the instructor. The fresh copy will be graded by another TA who is unaware of the original grade. It should be noted that a re-assessed grade may be raised, lowered, or remain the same. Once a new grade is assigned it stands and cannot be reassessed.

### *Lab Exercises*

The labs are designed to give you practical experience with the various research methods discussed in class such as conducting interviews and fieldwork and analyzing media clips and images. While attendance will not be taken at labs, you will be expected to submit the results of your lab exercises (typically in the form of rough, handwritten notes) to the TA at the end of the lab. Results from the exercises will be graded on a pass/fail basis. Combined, all of the lab exercises constitute 10% of your grade.

A detailed schedule of labs and lab exercises will be provided on D2L.

### Grading Scale

A+	95-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-69%	D+	55-58%
A	90-94%	B	75-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-54%
A -	85-89%	B -	70-74%	C -	59-62%	F	< 50%

## Contact and Office Hours

Please include "SOC313" in the subject of your e-mails. The instructor and TAs aim to respond to e-mails within 24 hours during the working week. To ensure a quick response, it is best to keep e-mails simple and straight to the point. More complicated questions should be asked in person during office hours. You are also encouraged to ask questions during or right after lectures and labs.

The instructor and TAs hold two hours of pre-scheduled office hours each week. The instructor is also available by appointment outside the pre-scheduled office hours. You do not need an appointment to see the instructor or TAs during pre-scheduled office hours.

Please note that your lab TA will grade your written assignments. Therefore, they are in the best position to advise you and answer any questions with regard to the assignments.

## LECTURE SCHEDULE & READING LIST

### WEEK ONE

### Introduction

Tuesday, Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>

Lecture I: Introduction to the Course

Thursday, Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>

Lecture II: Theory and Research

Readings:

- Textbook, Chapter 1: General Research Orientations

### WEEK TWO

### Designing Research

Tuesday, Jan 19<sup>th</sup>

Lecture I: Research Designs

Readings:

- Textbook, Chapter 2: Research Designs
- Textbook, Chapter 15: Breaking Down the Qualitative/Quantitative Divide

Thursday, Jan 21<sup>st</sup>

Lecture II: Ethics, Access, and Politics

Readings:

- Textbook, Chapter 11 – Research Ethics

WEEK THREE

Quantitative Methods I

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Tuesday, Jan 26<sup>th</sup>

Lecture I: Quantitative Research

Readings:

- Textbook, Chapter 3: The Nature of Quantitative Research

Thursday, Jan 28<sup>th</sup>

Lecture II: Survey Research I

Readings:

- Textbook, Chapters 4: Survey Research: Structured Interviewing and Questionnaires
- Textbook, Chapter 5: Asking Questions

WEEK FOUR

Quantitative Methods II

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Tuesday, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>

Lecture I: Survey Research Case Study

Readings:

- Bethany Bryson (1996) "Anything But Heavy Metal': Symbolic Exclusion and Musical Dislikes." *American Sociological Review* 61(5): 884-899. (D2L)

Thursday, Feb 4<sup>th</sup>

Lecture II: Structured Observation/Review Class

Readings:

- Textbook, Chapter 6: Structured Observation

WEEK FIVE

Qualitative Methods I

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**Tuesday, Feb 9<sup>th</sup>**

**IN-CLASS MID-TERM TEST 1**

Thursday, Feb 11<sup>th</sup>

Lecture II: Qualitative Research

Readings:

- Textbook, Chapter 8: The Nature of Qualitative Research

WEEK SIX

READING WEEK

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WEEK SEVEN

Qualitative Methods II

Tuesday, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>

Lecture I: Ethnography and Case Study

**TOPIC PROPOSAL DUE**

Readings:

- Textbook, Chapter 9: Ethnography and Participant Observation
- Jooyoung Lee (2009) "Battlin' on the Corner: Techniques for Sustaining Play." *Social Problems* 56(3): 578-598. (D2L)

Thursday, Feb 25<sup>th</sup>

Lecture II: Qualitative Interviews

Readings:

- Textbook, Chapter 10: Interviewing in Qualitative Research

WEEK EIGHT

Unobtrusive Methods

Tuesday, Mar 1<sup>st</sup>

Lecture I: Unobtrusive Sources of Data

Readings:

- Textbook, Chapter 7: Other Sources of Data

Thursday, Mar 3<sup>rd</sup>

Lecture II: Content and Discourse Analysis

Readings:

- Textbook, Chapter 16: Content Analysis
- Josée Johnston and Judith Taylor (2008) "Feminist Consumerism and Fat Activists: A Comparative Study of Grassroots Activism and Dove Real Beauty Campaign." *SIGNS: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 33(4): 941-966.

WEEK NINE

Sampling

Tuesday, Mar 8<sup>th</sup>

Lecture I: Quantitative Sampling

Readings:

- Textbook, Chapter 12: Sampling

Thursday, Mar 10<sup>th</sup>

Lecture II: Qualitative Sampling

Readings:

- Mario Small (2009) "'How Many Cases Do I Need?' On Science and the Logic of Case Selection in Field-Based Research." *Ethnography* 10(1): 5-38.

WEEK TEN

Mid-Term Review

Tuesday, Mar 15<sup>th</sup>                      Lecture I: Review Class

**Thursday, Mar 17<sup>th</sup>**                      **IN-CLASS MID-TERM TEST 2**

WEEK ELEVEN

Quantitative Analysis

Tuesday, Mar 22<sup>nd</sup>                      Lecture I: Quantitative Analysis

Readings:

- Textbook, Chapter 13: Quantitative Data Analysis

Thursday, Mar 24<sup>th</sup>                      Lecture II: Quantitative Analysis Case Study

Readings:

- TBA on D2L

WEEK TWELVE

Qualitative Analysis

Tuesday, Mar 29<sup>th</sup>                      Lecture I: Qualitative Analysis

Readings:

- Textbook, Chapter 14: Qualitative Data Analysis

Thursday, Mar 31<sup>st</sup>                      Lecture II: Qualitative Analysis Case Study

Readings:

- TBA on D2L

WEEK THIRTEEN

Writing up Your Research

Tuesday, Apr 5<sup>th</sup>                      Lecture I: Writing up Social Research

Readings:

- Textbook, Chapter 17: Writing up Social Research

Thursday, Apr 7<sup>th</sup>                      Lecture II: Conducting Research

Readings:

- Textbook, Chapter 18: Conducting a Research Project

Tuesday, Apr 12<sup>th</sup>

Lecture I: Review Class

**NOTE: RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE**

*Note: Every attempt will be made to follow this schedule, but it is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.*

Other Important Information

*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 provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

*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 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: [http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Sp\\_Su\\_DFE\\_App.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Sp_Su_DFE_App.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).

### *Late Papers*

A late penalty of 5% per day (including weekends) will be imposed on all assignments handed in after the due date without a valid reason (see above under Deferrals).

### *Student Representation*

The 2015-16 Students' Union VP Academic is Stephan Guscott: email: [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 **Education Block - Food Court**. 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 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/](http://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\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf)