SOCIOLOGY 315: B1(90456)

Introduction to Social Methodology
Department of Sociology
University of Alberta

Instructor: Dr. Gillian Stevens
Office: 6-29 Tory Building
Email: gasteven@ualberta.ca
Telephone: (780) 492-4377
Office Hours: 3:30-4:30 Tuesday and Thursday

Teaching Assistant: Emily Gerbrandt
Email: egerbran@ualberta.ca

Lectures and Labs
Lectures: Tuesday & Thursday, 2:00-3:20 PM in T 1 93

Students must also register for one of these two lab sessions:
Lab H1: Monday 9:00 AM – 10:50 PM in BUS B 18
Lab H2: Wednesday 4:00 PM – 5:50 PM in T B 39

No labs will be scheduled during the first two weeks of classes.

Course Description
Research design, data collection and data processing strategies used by sociologists. Topics include research values and ethics, reliability and validity, experiments, survey research techniques, interviewing and ethnography.

Prerequisite
SOC210: Introduction to Social Statistics or consent of instructor.

Course Objectives
The primary goals for this course are to: (1) show students a range of research methods used by sociologists, including quantitative, qualitative, and interpretive approaches; (2) help students understand the advantages and disadvantages of these different methods, 3) assist students in acquiring the baseline skills needed to conduct valid sociological research; and (4) train students to be more discerning assessors of social science research findings frequently encountered in everyday life.

Required Readings
Available for sale at U of A bookstore.


**Creating a Positive Learning Environment**

Most importantly, treat others respectfully, as you want to be treated yourself. This includes:

- Focusing on what is being discussed in class, rather than discussing some other topic with the person sitting next to you
- Engaging in, rather than dominating, classroom discussions
- Being respectful of other students’ opinions, even if you disagree
- Arriving on time for class, if at all possible, and remaining till the end
- Turning off (or silencing) your cell phones
- Turning off the wireless connection on your laptop computer

The instructor will post only some teaching notes and powerpoint slides on Eclass so if you miss a lecture, please arrange to get notes from another student.

**Recording of Lectures**

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).
Resources for Students
The best all-purpose website for student services on campus is: https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students.

Students with a disability affecting mobility, vision, hearing, learning, or mental or physical health, and who might require accommodations to assist them in completing this course, should contact Accessibility Resources, 1-80 SUB, 780-492-3381 for assistance. See https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students/student-accessibility-services/

Examinations and Lab Assignments
Students' final grades for SOC 315 will be based on a midterm test, a final examination, and two lab assignments. Lab assignments will be discussed in class and in the labs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lab Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lab assignment 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>February 15 (4 pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term test</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>February 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab assignment 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>April 5 (4 pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>April 23 (tentative. Please check on beartracks)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The midterm test and the final examination will contain multiple choice questions and questions requiring written answers (of various lengths). Students will be shown examples in class. The final examination will include broad questions on material discussed throughout the semester. Test and exam questions will be based on required readings, lectures, guest lectures, and in-class activities (e.g., class discussions, audio or video presentations).

Grading
Final letter grades will be assigned using the percentage cutoff points listed below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Term %</th>
<th>Pts</th>
<th>Descriptor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97-100</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-96</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>75-79</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>70-74</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>65-69</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>60-64</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>55-59</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-54</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>Minimal Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-49</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The “term percentage” limits for each letter grade will not be moved up. Some of them may be moved down, depending on the distributions of test and assignment scores.
Late or Missing Assignments, Quizzes and Exercises
Students must hand in paper copies of major assignments before or on the due date. Late assignments may be penalized. Any missed quiz will receive a grade of 0.

Absence from Exams
Students are required to contact the instructor within two working days following a missed midterm test (or as soon as you are able, considering the circumstances) to apply for an excused absence. Excused absences are not automatic and are provided at the instructor's discretion. Below is a list of documents that can support an excused absence:

For incapacitating medical illness, students can present one of:
- "University of Alberta Medical Statement" signed by a doctor
- "Medical Declaration Form for Students" (for Faculty of Arts students).
- "Statutory Declaration" (for students in Faculties other than Arts, to be obtained from home Faculty or the Office of the Registrar).

For all other cases, such as domestic afflictions or religious convictions, the student should submit appropriate documentation. This could include the following:
- For a death in the family – a copy of the death certificate
- For a religious conflict – a letter from the church or pastor
- For a car accident – a copy of the accident report
- For other serious afflictions – consult the Instructor or Department about appropriate documents.

Absence from Final Exam
A student who misses a final exam because of incapacitating mental and/or physical illness, severe domestic affliction, or other circumstances described in the University's Discrimination, Harassment and Duty to Accommodate Policy (including religious belief) may apply for a deferred exam. Where the cause is incapacitating mental and/or physical illness and most other cases including severe domestic affliction, a student must present supporting documents explaining the absence to their Faculty office within two working days following the scheduled date of the exam, or as soon as the student is able, considering the circumstances underlying the absence. (Note that the instructor cannot approve or deny requests for deferred final exams. Refer to the Absence from Final Exams information provided in the Attendance section of the University Calendar for full details.)

Students approved for a deferred final exam will write it on May 4, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in BUS 1 10.

University Policy on Academic Integrity and Misconduct
The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards and to uphold the policies of the University. Students are urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (on-line at: www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behavior that could result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an
Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University. All students should consult the Academic Integrity website.

### Tentative Lecture Schedule and Readings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 7</td>
<td>Introduction; Course overview; General research orientations</td>
<td>Bryman, A. and E. Bell, 2016. Ch. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nature of quantitative research</td>
<td>Bryman, A. and E. Bell, 2016. Ch. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 14</td>
<td>Research designs - experimental</td>
<td>Bryman, A. and E. Bell, 2016. Ch. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Carrol, A.E. 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 21</td>
<td>Cannabis and the Canadian Experiment (Alec Skilling, Jan 22)</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Designing surveys</td>
<td>Bryman, A. and E. Bell, 2016. Ch. 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 28</td>
<td>Questionnaires</td>
<td>Bryman, A. and E. Bell, 2016. Ch. 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cont.</td>
<td>U of Alberta. Cannabis Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 4</td>
<td>Analyzing survey data</td>
<td>Bryman, A. and E. Bell, 2016. Ch. 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Official statistics</td>
<td>Bryman, A. and E. Bell, 2016. Ch. 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Structured observation</td>
<td>Pg. 190-192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 18</td>
<td><strong>Reading week</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 25</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Test (February 28)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 4</td>
<td>Nature of qualitative research</td>
<td>Bryman, A. and E. Bell, 2016. Ch. 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Qualitative data analysis: Grounded theory and thematic coding</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Emily Gerbrandt)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 11</td>
<td>Interviewing in qualitative research</td>
<td>Bryman, A. and E. Bell, 2016. Ch. 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cont.</td>
<td>Dorow, S. 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 18</td>
<td>Qualitative data analysis</td>
<td>Bryman, A. and E. Bell, 2016. Ch. 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 25</td>
<td>Ethnography &amp; participant observation</td>
<td>Bryman, A. and E. Bell, 2016. Ch. 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Apr 8 Review TBA Final exam TBA

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) section of the University Calendar.

### Tentative Lab Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 28</td>
<td>Overview of SPSS; introduction to Cannabis Survey data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 4</td>
<td>Quantitative analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 11</td>
<td>Quantitative analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>February 15</strong></td>
<td><em>Assignment 1 due! (hard copy, 4 pm, 5-19 Tory Building)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4</td>
<td>Selection of comments from Cannabis Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 11</td>
<td>Qualitative analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>Qualitative analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 25</td>
<td>Qualitative analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>Qualitative analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>April 5</strong></td>
<td><em>Assignment 2 due! (hard copy, 4 pm, 5-19 Tory Building)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Territorial Statement

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.”