

SOCIOLOGY 315: B1 (80795)
Introduction to Social Methodology – Winter, 2017
Department of Sociology, University of Alberta

Tuesday & Thursday, 2:00 – 3:20 PM
Tory 1-93

Course Outline ¹

Instructor: Dr. Harvey Krahn
Office: 6-24 Tory Building
Email: harvey.krahn@ualberta.ca
Telephone: 780-492-3322

Office Hours: Wednesday, 1:00 – 3:00 PM, or by appointment (contact Dr. Krahn by e-mail)

Teaching Assistant: Adam Belton, MA

Labs (students must register for one of these two weekly lab sessions)

H1: Monday, 9:00 – 10:50 AM Arts 118

H2: Wednesday, 4:00 – 5:50 PM Tory B-39

NOTE: Lab sessions (9 in total) will begin the week of January 16-20. See the detailed **Schedule of Lectures and Labs** (page 5) for the remaining weeks in which labs will be held.

Course Description:

Research design, data collection and data processing strategies used by sociologists. Topics include research values and ethics, reliability and validity, experimentation, survey research techniques, historical methods, field research, and content analysis.

Prerequisite course:

SOC210: *Introduction to Social Statistics* or consent of instructor

Course Objectives:

The primary goals for this course are to: (1) expose students to the 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, as well as the need to choose a method that best answers a particular research question; (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 they frequently encounter in everyday life.

¹ University policy about course outlines can be found in [Course Requirements, Evaluation Procedures and Grading](#) of the University of Alberta Calendar.

Required Textbook:

Bryman, Alan, & Edward Bell. 2016. Social Research Methods. (4th Canadian edition). Toronto: Oxford University Press. [ISBN: 978-0-19-900978-7]

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

Not surprisingly, students who attend class regularly tend to get better grades. Completing assigned readings in advance of the classes in which they will be discussed is also helpful. The instructor will not be posting his teaching notes or Powerpoint slides on line, so taking notes in class is another way of improving one's grade. If you have to miss a lecture, arrange to get notes from another student who was present.

If you are having problems with this class, talk to the instructor sooner rather than later. If you fall too far behind in a course, you might be better to withdraw and take the course again, rather than get a *Fail* on your transcript. If you withdraw from the course by **February 5**, you will have 50% of your fee refunded. You can still withdraw up until **April 5**, but you will not receive a tuition refund.

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).

Students with Disabilities or Special Needs:

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 *Student Accessibility Services (SAS)*, 1-80 SUB, 780-492-3381 for assistance; <http://www.ssds.ualberta.ca/>

Please contact your instructor within the first two weeks of this course to tell him about any accommodations recommended by SAS. Students registered with SAS who will be using accommodations in the classroom, or who will be writing exams through SAS, are required to provide a “Letter of Introduction” to the instructor by **January 23**. Students who need accommodated exams must submit their “Exam Instructions and Authorization” (orange) form at least one week before each exam.

Examinations and Lab Assignments:

Your final grade for SOC 315 will be based on two examinations and two lab assignments. Lab assignments will be discussed in class and in the labs. Each exam is non-cumulative (i.e., it is based only on the material covered in the previous half of the course), although general knowledge obtained earlier in the course will likely assist you in subsequent exams.

Mid-term Exam	30%	March 2 (in class)
Lab Assignment 1	20%	February 17
Lab Assignment 2	20%	April 3
Final Exam (<i>tentative date & time</i>)	30%	April 21 (2:00 – 4:00 PM; <i>location TBA</i>)

Both examinations (mid-term and final) will include a combination of multiple choice and written answer (of various lengths) questions. Students will be provided with examples in class, one week in advance of the mid-term examination. Examination questions will be based on required readings, lectures, guest lectures, and any additional in-class activities (e.g., class discussions, audio or video presentations). The date and time for the Final Exam are tentative. Students are responsible for confirming the Final Exam date, time and location on Beartracks.

Grading:

Using the percentage weights noted above for the mid-term examination, the final examination, and two lab assignments, final letter grades for this section of SOC 315 will be assigned as follows:

	<u>Total Term Percentage</u>	<u>Final Letter Grade</u>	<u>4-Point Value</u>
Excellent	90 – 100	A+	4.0
	86 – 89	A	4.0
	82 – 85	A-	3.7
Good	78 – 81	B+	3.3
	74 – 77	B	3.0
	70 – 73	B-	2.7
Satisfactory	66 – 69	C+	2.3
	62 – 65	C	2.0
	58 – 61	C-	1.7
Poor	54 – 57	D+	1.3
Minimal Pass	50 – 53	D	1.0
Fail	0 – 49	F	0.0

NOTE: The “total term percentage” cutting points for each letter grade noted above will not be moved up. Some of them might be moved down, depending on the distributions of term examination and final examination percentages.

Absence from Exams:

“Excused absence for a missed exam is not automatic and is granted at the discretion of the instructor (in the case of term exams) or the student’s Faculty (in the case of final exams). Instructors and Faculties are not required to grant excused absences for unacceptable reasons that include, but are not limited to personal events such as vacations, weddings, or travel arrangements. *When a student is absent from a term or final exam without acceptable excuse, a final grade will be computed using a raw score of zero for the exam missed.* Any student who applies for or obtains an excused absence by making false statements will be liable under the Code of Student Behaviour. [See [Attendance](#) in University Calendar]

To request an excused absence from a mid-term exam, you must let the Instructor know within two working days of the exam date (or as soon as possible, given the circumstances). If the reason for the requested excused absence is illness, medical documentation is not required. However, students may choose to present a Medical Declaration Form for Students available at: <https://www.ualberta.ca/arts/student-services/undergraduate-student-services/forms-for-students> If the absence is for non-medical reasons, appropriate documentation can be requested by the Instructor (e.g., court attendance form for jury duty; death certificate for bereavement).

If a mid-term exam is missed, and a documented excuse is provided to the satisfaction of the instructor, a re-write will be allowed on the following set dates. If the rewrite is missed, the student will receive a grade of zero for this mid-term exam.

Mid-term Exam Rewrite date: **Saturday, March 4, 9:00 AM in Tory 6-7**

The Instructor cannot approve requests for a deferred final exam. Instead, students must report to their Faculty Office within two working days following the date of the missed exam, or cancelling their exam during the exam period (or as soon as possible, given the circumstances). Deferred exams are intended to accommodate students who have experienced an incapacitating illness or severe domestic affliction; applications based on minor inconsequential ailments will not be approved. In Arts and Science, students must provide appropriate documentation or, in the case of illness, swear out a Statutory Declaration in support of their request. If approved by the student’s Faculty, the deferred final exam will be held on **Saturday, May 6, 2017** at 9:00 AM in Business 1-10.

Late or Missing Assignments:

Assignments 1 and 2 are due (hard copy) on February 17 and April 3, respectively. Late lab assignments will be penalized 10% per day late (excluding weekends). In other words, if your assignment is turned in 11 working days late (or not at all), it will receive a 0% final mark.

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 regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (on-line at: <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/>) and avoid any behavior which could result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University. For further information about academic integrity, visit the Student Conduct and Accountability website at: <http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/en/Students.aspx>

Schedule of Lectures & Labs with Assigned Readings:

<u>Date</u>		<u>Required Reading in Textbook</u>
Tuesday, Jan. 10	Introduction & Course Overview	Chapter 1
Thursday, Jan. 12	Research Designs	Chapter 2
Tuesday, Jan. 17	The Nature of Quantitative Research	Chapter 4
Lab 1 (January 16 & 18) - TOPIC TBA		
Thursday, Jan. 19	Sampling (Quantitative Research)	Chapter 12
Tuesday, Jan. 24	(continued)	
Lab 2 (January 23 & 25) - TOPIC TBA		
Thursday, Jan. 26	Designing Surveys	Chapter 5
Tuesday, Jan. 31	(continued)	
Lab 3 (January 30 & February 1) - TOPIC TBA		
Thursday, Feb. 2	Questionnaire Construction	Chapter 6
Tuesday, Feb. 7	(continued)	
Lab 4 (February 6 & February 8) - TOPIC TBA		
Thursday, Feb. 9	(continued)	
Tuesday, Feb. 14	Quantitative Data Analysis	Chapter 13
Lab 5 (February 13 & February 15) - TOPIC TBA		
Thursday, Feb. 16	(continued)	
<i>1st lab assignment due Friday, February 17 (4:00 PM)</i>		

February 20 – 24 *Winter Term Reading Week*

Tuesday, Feb. 28 Official Statistics & Other Data Sources Chapter 8

Thursday, March 2 **Mid-term Exam**

Tuesday, March 7 Structured Observation Chapter 7

Lab 6 (March 6 & March 8) - TOPIC TBA

Thursday, March 9 Content Analysis Chapter 16 (& pp. 247-8)

Tuesday, March 14 The Nature of Qualitative Research Chapter 9

Lab 7 (March 13 & March 15) - TOPIC TBA

Thursday, March 16 Sampling in Qualitative Research Chapter 12 (pp. 245-47 only)

Tuesday, March 21 Interviewing in Qualitative Research Chapter 11

Lab 8 (March 20 & March 22) - TOPIC TBA

Thursday, March 23 (continued)

Tuesday, March 28 Ethnography & Participant Observation Chapter 10

Lab 9 (March 27 & March 29) - TOPIC TBA

Thursday, March 30 (continued)

2nd lab assignment due Monday, April 3 (4:00 PM)

Tuesday, April 4 Research Ethics Chapter 3

Thursday, April 6 Breaking Down the Quant/Qual Divide Chapter 15

Tuesday, April 11 Review

Classes end on Wednesday April 12

Tentative **Final Exam:** Friday, April 21, 2:00 PM

Saturday, May 6 Deferred Final Exam (Business 1-10)