

SOCIOLOGY 2Z03
Introduction to Sociological Research

Fall
2019

Instructor: Professor Karen Robson

Day and Time of Classes:

Lecture	
Tuesdays 1130am- 1220pm	T34 103
Thursdays 1130am- 1220pm	T34 103
Tutorials	
Tutorial 1 Monday 1230-120pm	HH 217
Tutorial 2 Wednesday 930am-1020am	HH 217
Tutorial 3 Wednesday 130-	HH 217
Tutorial 4 Tuesday 130pm-	HH 217

Office Hours: Thursdays 1230pm- 130pm
Email Address: klrobson@mcmaster.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OUTLINE, TEXTS AND METHOD OF EVALUATION:

This course gives an overview of the types of research methods used in sociological inquiry. Half of the course addresses quantitative approaches and the remaining half covers various qualitative techniques.

Organization of the Course

The course involves formal lectures by the Instructor and weekly tutorial sessions. The lectures will be supplemented by films and videos, where possible. Tutorial meetings will be the main

locus for discussion of required and recommended reading and assignments in the course, as well as applications of the research methods discussed in lecture. The required readings are central to the course. The lectures and tutorials will serve to enrich, clarify, and illustrate crucial issues from the assigned readings

The purpose of this course is to assist teach students the major approaches to data collection and analysis in the social sciences with a focus on application of concepts to real life situations.

The specific objectives of the course are that students will be able to:

- understand the major approaches to data collection and analysis in the social sciences and the assumptions within which they are grounded
- be able to critique the research methods of social sciences
- demonstrate the ability to apply the concepts learned in class to real world examples of research
- develop their ability to be critical of science as reported in the media.

Course Text / Readings

Additional readings may be assigned or recommended during the course.

Required textbook

Neuman, W. Lawrence and Robson, Karen (2020) Revel for Basics of Social Research, Fourth Canadian Edition, Pearson Canada. (e-book)

Evaluation

Test 1	– 25%
Test 2	– 25%
Test 3	– 25%
Tutorials	– 25% (as assessed by teaching assistant)

About the tests

Tests are administered **ONLINE** on **AVENUE TO LEARN** and are based upon applied application of the course materials. They are necessarily open book, however, that does not mean they are easy. Memorizing the textbook will not help you succeed in the tests. Comprehension of applications demonstrated in class and in tutorial is critical for success in the class. Methods are something you learning by “doing”, not that you learn by rote memorization.

Date	Notes	Required Reading
September 3	Doing Social Research	Chapter 1
September 5	Theory and Social Research	Chapter 2
September 10	Ethics in Social Research	Chapter 3
September 12	Ethics in Social Research	Chapter 3
September 17	Reviewing the Literature	Chapter 4

September 19	Reviewing the Literature	Chapter 4
September 24	Designing a Study	Chapter 5
September 26	Designing a Study	Chapter 5
	EXAM 1 OPENS ONLINE ON SEPTEMBER 26 at 230 pm and closes on OCTOBER 1 at 10am. This exam covers topics associated with chapters 1 to 5 inclusive.	
October 1	Measurement	Chapter 6
October 3	Measurement	Chapter 6
October 8	Sampling	Chapter 7
October 10	Sampling	Chapter 7
October 15	FALL READING WEEK	
October 17	FALL READING WEEK	
October 22	Survey Research	Chapter 8
October 24	Survey Research	Chapter 8
October 29	Experimental Research	Chapter 9
October 31	No class	
November 5	Nonreactive Quantitative Research	Chapter 10
November 7	Nonreactive Quantitative Research	Chapter 10
	EXAM 2 OPENS ONLINE ON NOVEMBER 7 at 230 pm and closes on November 11 at 10am. This exam covers topics associated with chapters 6 to 10 inclusive.	
November 12	Analysis of Quantitative Data	Chapter 11
November 14	Analysis of Quantitative Data	Chapter 11
November 19	Qualitative Interviewing	Chapter 12
November 21	Field Research and Nonreactive Qualitative Research	Chapter 13 &14
November 26	Analysis of Qualitative Data	Chapter 15
November 28	Analysis of Qualitative Data	Chapter 15
December 3	Combining Methods	Chapter 16
	EXAM 3 OPENS ONLINE ON December 7 at 12am and closes on December 11 at 9am. This exam covers topics associated with chapters 11 to 16 inclusive.	

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can

result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work. **YOU ARE NOT PERMITTED TO WORK TOGETHER ON ONLINE QUIZZES OR EXAMS.**
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course addresses three University Undergraduate Degree Level Expectations (see <http://ccl.mcmaster.ca/COU/degree/undergraduate.html>).

First, sociological research methods are diverse in their claims and in their focus. Gaining knowledge of these diverse approaches will expand the student's depth and breadth of knowledge. Second, there is no single sociological research method that is accepted as the final or best approach. As such, this course requires that students consider and critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of each approach. In so doing, students will gain an awareness of how different forms of knowledge and evidence are created. Finally, this course requires students to apply the different social research methods to real life examples, with the application of these different approaches being emphasized throughout the course.

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DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Do NOT fax assignments. Please see your instructor for the most appropriate way to submit assignments.

The Sociology staff do NOT date-stamp assignments, nor do they monitor the submission or return of papers.

The McMaster Student Absence Form (<http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>) is a self reporting tool for Undergraduate Students to report absences that last up to 3 days and provides the ability to request accommodation for any missed academic work. Please note, this tool cannot be used during any final examination period.

You may submit a maximum of 1 Academic Work Missed request per term. It is YOUR responsibility to follow up with your instructor immediately regarding the nature of the accommodation.

If you are absent more than 3 days, exceed 1 request per term, or are absent for a reason other than medical, you MUST visit your Associate Dean's Office (Faculty Office). You may be required to provide supporting documentation.

This form should be filled out when you are about to return to class after your absence.

Students should check the web, the white board and the Undergraduate Bulletin board outside the Sociology office (KTH-627) for notices pertaining to Sociology classes or departmental business (eg. class scheduling information, location of mailboxes and offices, tutorial information, class cancellations, TA job postings, etc.).

Computer use in the classroom is intended to facilitate learning in that particular lecture or tutorial. At the discretion of the instructor, students using a computer for any other purpose may be required to turn the computer off for the remainder of the lecture or tutorial.

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

It is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances (RISO)

The University recognizes that, on occasion, the timing of a student's religious, Indigenous, or spiritual observances and that of their academic obligations may conflict. In such cases, the University will provide reasonable academic accommodation for students that is consistent with the Ontario Human Rights Code. Please review the [RISO information for students in the Faculty of Social Sciences](#) about how to request accommodation.