



School of Arts & Science
SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT
SSRM 280- 01
Social Science Research Methods
2007W

COURSE OUTLINE

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This introductory course develops students' research and analytical skills. Topics include: sources and kinds of information, types and testing of theories and hypotheses, problem design and analysis, enquiry modes, data analysis and reporting, and ethics and politics of social research. (T)

Prerequisite(s): MATH 116 and a C+ in English 12 or assessment.

Ω *Please note: this outline will be electronically stored for five (5) years only. It is strongly recommended students keep this outline for your records.*

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Josephine MacIntosh
Office Hours:
Location: Paul 233
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Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Identify the main differences and similarities of, and problems with, quantitative and qualitative research methodologies.
2. Formulate and justify relevant questions based on their critique of the required textbook with regard to the fundamental concepts and principles of research methods.
3. Design research questionnaire and collect data with it.
4. Analyze survey data using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS).
5. Produce quantitative research reports.
6. Apply the basic concepts and principles of social science research to real life and hypothetical research situations.

Required Materials

Texts **Neuman, W. Lawrence.** (2007). The Basics of Social Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches (2nd Edition). Pearson/Allyn & Bacon: Toronto.

Course Content and Schedule

COURSE OUTLINE (subject to change)			
WEEK		TOPIC	Required Reading^{1, 2}
Jan 9	T	Introduction to the course	Ch 1
Jan 11	Th	Doing social research	
Jan 16	T	Theory and research	Ch 2 ³
Jan 18	Th	Philosophical foundations	
Jan 23	T	Ethics in social research	Ch 3
Jan 25	Th	Ethics in social research	
Jan 30	T	Literature reviews and hypothesis writing	Ch 4
Feb 1	Th	Quantitative and qualitative measurement	Ch 5 ⁴
LAB		Use lab time for lit review assignment	
Feb 6	T	Exam 1	Ch 1,2,3,4,5
Feb 8	Th	Reading break	
Feb 13	T	Quantitative and qualitative sampling	Ch 6
Feb 15	Th	Asking questions	Ch 7 to p.182
LAB		Intro to SPSS	
Feb 20	T	Types of surveys; QT & and QL interviewing	Ch 7, p. 182 - 199 Ch 9
Feb 22	Th	Non-reactive measurement	
LAB		Running descriptive statistics	
Feb 27	T	Quantitative analysis; Univariate, Bivariate	Ch 10 to p. 265
Mar 1	Th	Measures of association	Ch 10 to end
Mar 6	T	Interpreting QT analyses	
Mar 8	Th	Review QT concepts	
LAB		Running Inferential statistics	
Mar 13	T	Exam 2	Ch 6,7,9,10
Mar 15	Th	Writing a research report	
Mar 20	T	Field Research	Ch 11
Mar 22	Th	Field Research continued	
LAB		Review	
Mar 27	T	Historical-comparative research	Ch 12
Mar 29	Th	Qualitative analysis	Ch 13
Apr 3	T	Qualitative analysis	Lecture only
Apr 5	Th	Mixed Methods	
Apr 6	T	Mixed Methods	Lecture only
Apr 13	Th	Review	
Apr ?		FINAL EXAM	Ch 11,12,13,14

¹ Readings are to be completed BEFORE class.

² Additional readings maybe assigned at the discretion of the instructor

³ For Chapter 2, skip from the bottom of p.25 to middle of p. 29 and middle of p. 39 to middle of p. 41.

⁴ Pay special attention to the sections on reliability, validity and levels of measurement in chapter 5.

Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

EVALUATION SCHEDULE			Value	Covers
Feb 6	T	Exam 1	20%	Ch 1,2,3,4,5
Mar 13	T	Exam 2	20%	Ch 6,7,9,10
TBA	Th	Lab assignments	30%	2 @ 15% each
Apr ?		Final Exam	30%	Ch 11,12,13,14

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
95-100	A+		9
90-94	A		8
85-89	A-		7
80-84	B+		6
75-79	B		5
70-74	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D		1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy at camosun.ca or information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	<i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that are designed to have an anticipated enrollment that extends beyond one term. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course.
CW	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at camosun.ca for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

It is important that you learn to reference sources used for your research paper in the appropriate style, which is ASA (not APA or MLA or Turbian, etc). I strongly recommend that you invest in a style guide such as:

American Sociological Association. 1997. *American Sociological Association Style Guide*. 2nd ed. Washington, DC: American Sociological Association.

Becker, Howard S. 1986. *Writing for the Social Sciences*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

The Sociology Writing Group. 1998. *A Guide to Writing Sociology Papers*. 4th ed. New York: St. Martin's Press.

At the very least you should refer to the American Sociological Association style guide found at: <http://www.calstatela.edu/library/bi/rsalina/asa.styleguide.html> or at the ASA website: <http://www.asanet.org>

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services or the College web site at camosun.ca.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

****IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT E-MAIL PROTOCOL****

BEFORE e-mailing the instructor or TA: Check this syllabus, WebCT, the textbook &/or the university regulations for the answers to your questions. Keep your messages short and concise, and DO NOT ask me to explain assignment requirements over e-mail... I do that in class... so be there! If you have questions specific to your assignment, please see the TA or me during office hours or make an appointment. If you do e-mail...

ALWAYS put SSRM 280 in the SUBJECT line

Otherwise, your e-mail could be deleted as spam or directed to a junk mail file.