

SOCI 202: Research Principles and Practices

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Class time
Wednesdays, 9:45-11:00
Fridays, 8:15-9:30

Office hours
Tuesdays, 2:15-4:30
Thursdays, 2:15-4:30
Wednesdays, 11:15-12:30
or by appointment

Course Description

This course addresses how various philosophic assumptions shape the aims and practices of research in Sociology. It provides students with empirical research design principles and an introduction to methods of collecting and recording data, assessing reliability and validity, and conducting data analysis. Different research strategies are introduced and ethical implications of research will be discussed. 3 credits

Textbook

Jackson, Winston and Norine Verberg. 2007. *Methods: Doing Social Research*, 4th ed. Toronto: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Evaluation

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| ❖ Participation | 10% | |
| ❖ Midterm | 20% | Friday, October 11 (Chapters 1-5 & 12,14,18) |
| ❖ Assignments | 30% | The instructions will be outline in class and in a handout |
| ❖ Final exam | 40% | TBA (all chapters but emphasis on Chapters 6-8, 10-13, 15) |

Class Attendance and Participation

You are encouraged to participate in class by asking questions and contributing to class discussion. Class attendance will be taken; multiple unexplained class absences will be reported to the Dean. Missing many classes is likely to impact your performance on the exams and the assignment. If you miss class, you are responsible to find out what you missed (e.g., lectures, announcements, etc.) but not by email. Expect to be tested on material done as 'homework' and taken up in class.

Communication and Office Hours

You are encouraged to see me during office hours to discuss any aspect of the course. If my office hours don't work, schedule an appointment. For email, please use proper email etiquette, including a proper salutation and sign your name, student ID #, and course #.

The Tramble Rooms – Centre for Accessible Learning

Students who have documented disabilities can access student-centred support at the Tramble Rooms, Centre for Accessible Learning. http://sites.stfx.ca/accessible_learning/

Academic Integrity

Please familiarize yourself with the Academic Integrity Policy spelled out in the university calendar. <http://www.stfx.ca/services/registrar/academic-integrity-document.pdf> Learn how to avoid plagiarism and the academic perils of having an electronic device with you during an exam.

Schedule of Readings and Topics*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Topic</u>
September 4/6	1 & 2	Course Introduction
September 11/13	2 & 12	Assignment introduction; Explaining: variables and models
September 18/20	3 & 18	RefWorks and literature review in research
September 25/27	3	Experimental design
<i>September 29</i>		<i>Submit group project topic proposal on Moodle</i>
October 2/4/9	4, 5 & 14	Survey design, content analysis, questionnaire development
Friday, Oct 11	midterm	Covers 1-5, 12, 14, 18 ~ lectures and readings
October 16/18	-----	Fall term break: no classes or office hours
October 23/25	6	Qualitative methods
<i>October 25, beginning of class</i>		<i>Literature Search and Summary Table due</i>
Oct. 30/Nov. 1	7	Critical approaches
November 6/8	13	Measurement approaches
<i>November 8, beginning of class</i>		<i>Research Proposal (Intro, Lit Review, Study proposed) due</i>
November 13/15	15 & 8	Sampling, descriptive methods
November 20/22	10 & 11	Bias and research ethics
<i>November 22, beginning of class</i>		<i>Final Research Proposal (includes Methods/Ethics) due</i>
November 27/29	-----	Presentations

* The professor reserves the right to make minor alterations to the dates material will be covered or to bring in other significant material, such as class exercises or tutorial sessions.

Learning Objectives

At the end of this course, you will have grounding in the following research areas:

- Different philosophic approaches to studying the social world
- How research informs theory development and developing causal models
- Quantitative approaches
- Qualitative approaches
- Critical approaches
- Measurement and Sampling
- Research ethics policy and practices
- Strategies for avoiding and recognizing research bias
- Strategies for describing data and drawing inference
- Research proposal and report writing