

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**Winter 2020**  
**MA Milestone**  
**MA Sociological Research: Writing Research Papers**

**Date: Fridays: 1:30 – 4:30 (periodic)**

**Room: SSC 5406**

**Instructor:**

Prof. Kim Shuey

Email: kshuey@uwo.ca

Office: SSC 5426

Office Hours: by appointment

**Course Description**

This course is designed to teach MA students about writing sociological research papers and will facilitate the completion of MA research papers required for the one-year MA program. The class will meet 6 times and active participation is expected during class and between classes. Students are expected to provide written work on schedule. Throughout the course you will receive written feedback from me, and you will also be asked to discuss and provide feedback on other students' work. The atmosphere is one of mutual support where individual and collective efforts are all aimed at improving writing skills, writing a good research paper that makes a worthy contribution to the field (as good journal articles should), and doing so in a timely manner.

**For most of you this course will build on the work and the proposal you submitted last semester in Research Design (9003). This course operates in conjunction with the contributions of your supervisor who will supervise the substance of your research, your progress, and will ultimately grade the final version of the research paper. It is strongly advised that you meet regularly with your supervisor to update them on your progress and to seek their advice on your project.**

**Evaluation**

Pass/ Fail based on attending and participating in class and between classes and submitting acceptable assignments *as scheduled*. Students are expected to attend every class meeting. **Note that meeting the requirements of this course are not the same as meeting the requirements of your advisor or of a completed research paper.**

## **Important Policies**

### **A Note on Plagiarism**

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence. See Scholastic Offences (below) for the link to Scholastic Discipline regulations.

### **Plagiarism Checking**

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com:

*<http://www.turnitin.com>*

### **Scholastic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

*[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/appeals\\_discipline/index.html](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/appeals_discipline/index.html)*

### **Accommodation**

Only in exceptional circumstances may a student be provided special accommodation in the completion of a course requirement (i.e., exams, papers). To request a one-time accommodation (brief illness, family emergency), the student should inform the professor when they are able so accommodation can be made. Accommodation for an ongoing disability may be requested Student Accessibility Services (SAS) at Western. SAS is a confidential service, working with students and their programs, normally their graduate chair, to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged.

### **Completion of Course Requirements**

Course requirements must be completed by the end of the term in which the course is offered (Fall-December 31; Winter-April 30, Summer-August 31). Only in exceptional circumstances may a student take additional time to complete the course requirements. In such a case, the student must first meet with the Graduate Chair to request permission to carry the incomplete. Medical documentation, where required, will be kept on file in the Sociology graduate program office. More details regarding incompletes are outlined in the Graduate Handbook:

*[http://www.sociology.uwo.ca/graduate\\_handbook/course\\_information.html](http://www.sociology.uwo.ca/graduate_handbook/course_information.html)*

### **Mental Health**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness Western for a complete list of options to obtain help: *[http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/)*

### **Health and Wellness**

As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. The Wellness Education Centre (lower level UCC) assists students in finding mental health and other related resources best suited to their needs: <http://se.uwo.ca/wec.html> Western's School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies' Living Well

website provides tips for thriving at grad school and other helpful information: [http://grad.uwo.ca/current\\_students/living\\_well/index.html](http://grad.uwo.ca/current_students/living_well/index.html) Western provides several on-campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your graduate degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. Also, we encourage you to check out the Faculty of Music web page <http://www.music.uwo.ca/>, and our own McIntosh Gallery <http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/>.

**Standards of Professional Behaviour** It is the responsibility of all members of the Department of Sociology to adhere to and promote standards of professional behaviour that support an effective learning environment. These include:

- **respect for others** both in and out of the classroom through words and actions (be professional, fair, and respectful in interactions with people on-line and in-person; understand and respect differences among classmates and colleagues; avoid disrupting the learning environment; respect others' expectations of confidentiality and privacy)
- **active engagement in learning** and commitment to quality (being prepared for classes; participating and listening actively to other; using technology and social media appropriately, striving to do your best)
- **personal integrity** (following through on commitments; doing own work)

Students should also be aware of the **UWO Student Code of Conduct** found at <https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/board/code.pdf>

## **Class Meetings**

### **January 10, 2020**

*Course expectations, writing abstracts*

### **January 17, 2020**

*Writing Literature Reviews, responding to reviewer feedback, workshopping Abstracts*

### **February 7, 2020**

*Writing Methodology sections*

### **March 6, 2019**

*Writing Results sections in quantitative, qualitative and theoretical papers*

### **March 20, 2019**

*Writing Introductions, Discussions and Conclusions*

### **April 3, 2019**

*Discuss projects, summer timelines for completion, journal publication*