Course Description

This course is designed to introduce you to the methodological tools deployed by sociologists to conduct empirically grounded and theoretically engaged research. The course will cover the basic elements of research design, the role of theory in empirical research, the construction of sociological arguments, the ethics for social scientific research, and the analysis, interpretation, and presentation of data and results. Methodologically, this course will introduce you to the use of surveys, experiments, ethnography, interviews, comparative/historical methods, and social network analysis.

Prerequisite(s): You must have completed one of the following in order to take this course:

- 1.0 units of Sociology courses at the 1000 level
- Indigenous Studies 1020E
- Women’s Studies 1020E
- Enrolment in the Honors Specialization in Human Resource Management, Honors Specialization in Public Administration, or Specialization in Public Administration.

Note: This course is mandatory for students registered in Year 2 of an Honors Specialization offered through the Department of Sociology.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Antirequisites: Social Work 2206A/B, Health Sciences 2801A/B, or Political Science 3324F/G.

Technical Requirement:

- Stable internet connection
- Laptop or computer
Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:
1. understand what sociological research is and how sociological questions can be answered;
2. formulate sociologically relevant research questions and evaluate research designs;
3. know the basic elements of different of methodological approaches and understand their merits and limitations;
4. appreciate the challenges and complexity of sociological research;
5. understand the ethical considerations involved in doing human subjects research; and
6. develop skills for reading and critically thinking about empirical research.

Method of Evaluation (Dates and formats are tentative, and will be finalized in the full draft of the outline)

There are four types of assignments and exams that consist of your final mark for the course.

1. Weekly quizzes: 10%
2. Research exercise: 10%
3. Midterm exam: 35%
4. Final exam: 45%

Evaluation Breakdown

1. 10 quizzes: A short quizzes on the course material will be administered on a weekly basis (a few exceptions exist for weeks of Introduction and exams). It is designed to help you keep up with the key concepts introduced in each lecture. In total, there will be 10 quizzes, of which your top 8 scores will be included to the final grade. A (set of) quiz question(s) will be posted on the OWL at the same time as the weekly lecture material (on Wednesdays), and you can respond to them within 7 days. The deadline is set at 11:59pm on the following Tuesday. The dates and deadlines for the quizzes are indicated in the section “Overview of Course Schedule”.

2. Research exercise: The exciting part of doing sociology is to conduct a research. Among others, survey and interview based research are most popular modes of research. To experience what researchers do, you will be asked to form a group of 4 or 5 (randomly assigned) and work on project based exercises. These exercises are designed to give you the experience of a “researcher” by applying the concepts to practice. The detailed description for each assignment, including questions, grouping, as well as the specific format of the reports, will be posted on OWL.

Schedules for this assignments will be finalized later

3. Midterm exam: The exam will be an open book exam with mixed format, including multiple choice, short answer, and longer answers. This exam will be completed online during a three-hour period between February 8 (Mon) at 9:00 am and February 12 (Friday) at 11:59 pm.

You may start the exam anytime during the period and once you start, you will have 3 hours to complete the exam. The exam is written to be easily completed within 1.5 hours. The flexibility
in timing is designed so that you can take it at a time that works for you. The time period of 3 hours is designed to accommodate all students with special needs for extra time.

This will cover all the material that are covered by that point.

4. **Final Exam:** The final exam will be an open book exam with mixed format, including multiple choice, short answer, and longer answers. This will take place online during the exam period at the end of the term (The final deadline to be announced).

You may start the exam anytime during the specified period and once you start, you will have 3 hours to complete the exam. The exam is written to be easily completed within 1.5 hours. The time period of 3 hours is designed to accommodate all students with special needs for extra time.

This will be cumulative, covering all the material from the whole semester.

How to Contact Me

- **FORUMS on OWL:** Please post questions about the course logistics or course contents on the “FORUMS” on the OWL’s course website. Emails, which address questions on the course logistics/contents, will not be responded.
- **Email:** Email should be used to communicate highly personal and confidential matters: yoko.yoshida@uwo.ca

How to get important course information:

For information about the course, please read the course outline carefully. Also, check the course website on OWL for announcements and instructions.

Required Texts

There is one required book for this course:

The book is published by Norton and the website is here: [https://wwnorton.com/books/9780393911589](https://wwnorton.com/books/9780393911589)

You can buy a hard copy of the book there or you can buy the e-book for much less money ($45 USD). Feel free to acquire the book through other sites or bookstores if you wish.

We will refer to some example articles discussed in class, and those will be posted on OWL under RESOURCES as we go along.