Course Description:
This online course is designed to introduce students the tools which scientists use to conduct research on society and produce knowledge – in other words, how to be sociologists. Many of the fundamental issues of research will be covered in this course, including the scientific method and research process, ethical dilemmas that may arise, and some of the procedures used to collect and analyze data, i.e., quantitative and qualitative approaches to social research. During the course, students will learn how to carry out a scientific investigation from the formulation of hypotheses, to the selection of an appropriate methodology, to the implementation of a study. Enhancing students’ ability to critically examine sociological research is a key part of this course.

Prerequisites:
1.0 Sociology course at the 1000 level or Indigenous Studies 1020E or Women's Studies 1020E, or enrolment in Honors Specialization in Human Resource Management, or Honors Specialization in Public Administration, or Specialization in Public Administration.

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

Learning Outcomes:
At the end of this course, students will:

- Identify key aspects of qualitative and quantitative research and recognize the strengths and weaknesses of each.
- Distinguish between poor and well-crafted research methods in sociology
- Design a realistic research project that incorporates all elements of the research process
- Thoughtfully analyze and evaluate published research from a methodological perspective

Required Text(s):
This is an ‘open’ textbook. That means it is free!!! You can either read the text online or download a PDF. [https://open.bccampus.ca/browse-our-collection/find-open-textbooks/?uuid=be255422-6913-4e0e-bfde-f2ebec0de8a3](https://open.bccampus.ca/browse-our-collection/find-open-textbooks/?uuid=be255422-6913-4e0e-bfde-f2ebec0de8a3)

**Method of Evaluation:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method of Assessment</th>
<th>% of Mark</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Participation</td>
<td>20 %</td>
<td>Ongoing – 10 % each half</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>An early warning mark will be returned before the end of May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests</td>
<td>30 %</td>
<td>3 tests – 10 % each</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1: May 25-29</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>2: June 22-26</td>
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<td>3: July 13-July 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 1: Qualitative</td>
<td>10 %</td>
<td>June 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 2: Quantitative</td>
<td>10 %</td>
<td>July 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 3: Culminating</td>
<td>30 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposal</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>July 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
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<td>July 31</td>
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</table>

There will be no final exam for this course.

**Evaluation Breakdown:**

For each assessment, there will be an outline found on OWL with a full description of the purpose, expectations and marking breakdown.

**Participation_Being part of Our Community:**

In OUR class, participation is all-encompassing. It means being present and it means speaking up when you have something to contribute. As you process the information, you should be considering how to share your thoughts with the group. You want to constantly challenge yourself and others to think about the material and the world around us. Given that we are an online course, this means I should see consistent presence throughout the week. You are asked
as a minimum to be online posting 2-3 times each week, and you are expected to post original
thoughts as well as respond to others.  *Ideally you will begin posting not because you must, but
because you were thinking and wanted to share. This is a dialogue, so generate conversation!*

**Examinations:**

**Tests:** Once each month there will be a test to review your understanding of the information
covered to that point. Each test will be short, approximately 30 minutes and cover specific
content (not cumulative). They may be timed; you will be informed in advance if they are timed
or untimed. If they *are* timed, once you begin, you will be required to complete them.

Each test will be run asynchronously to allow for different schedule, meaning you will be given
five days to complete the tests. Each quiz may include m/c, t/f or short answer questions.

**Assignments:**

For these assignments you can choose to work in a group (2-4 people) or on your own. I can
help you work collaboratively if you choose to work together.

**Assignment 1 and 2:** Each of these assignments is designed to help you understand the ways
that sociological research is done. You will get a sense of both quantitative and qualitative
research methodology, deepening your understanding of the types of questions they are used
to answer, the various tools they may utilize, the ethical considerations that each present and
the challenges they may face.

**Culminating Assignment:** You are going to create your own research proposal. This
proposal will be focused on answering a research question that you are interested in studying.
It can relate to any topic that relates to sociology or criminology. It can use any research
method that you determine makes sense. Your entire project will be focused on demonstrating
that you understand the major themes of the course. You are recommended to choose
something that you are really interested in, it will allow you to engage in this project in a much
deeper and more meaningful way!

**Teaching the "Whole Student"**

I am *always* available to discuss life with you. I do my best to create and maintain an inclusive
environment. If you ever want to chat, schedule an appointment and let me know if there are
external factors that are influencing your success in our course or just things on your mind that
you would like to talk about.

*Also, the university offers support as well ...*
**SUPPORT SERVICES**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western [http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

**Accessibility Options:**

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar’s website: [www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html)

**How to Contact Me:**

Email:  [lbarr2@uwo.ca](mailto:lbarr2@uwo.ca)  (ensure you add the class course number in the Subject line). I will try to return a response within 48 business hours (Mon – Fri 9-5).

Facebook Messenger:  ProfLauren Barr  (can be used for virtual office hours as well) - same availability as above

OWL messages - same as above

Office:  SSC 5432

**Academic Policies:**

**Policy on Course Content, Online Behaviour and Technical Issues:**

- **All students are expected to be respectful online:** all students are expected to engage online in a professional and respectful manner. This includes all interactions with peers, as well as communication between TA’s or your Professor. Failure to do so will result in Academic discipline.

- **Recording of lectures or tutorials without the explicit consent of the Professor or TA is ground for academic discipline.**

- **Course content created by a faculty member is considered the faculty member’s intellectual property:** it should not be distributed, shared in any public domain, or sold by a student or other third party without prior written consent of the faculty member.
Academic Consideration for Missed Work

☐ Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy are met. Two important exceptions to this rule: SRAs will not be allowed for final examinations or assessments worth more than 30% of a given course.

☐ Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 1 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a **Student Medical Certificate** (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds).

☐ All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/Self_Reported_Absence.html

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness (physical or mental illness)

☐ Western’s policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

☐ Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation:
http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

Policies for Assignment Deadlines:

☐ Students must submit all work on time. **If an assignment is late, there will be a 5% late penalty per day for up to 10 days past the due date.** At that point, assignment will no longer be accepted. If a student anticipates an issue with an assignment, they are recommended to speak to their Professor and / or TA as early as possible to discuss options.
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: www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

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 (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

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 detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking 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

Policies on Assessments Completed Online

- Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.
- All assessment or examinations done online are expected to be done by the student registered in this course, following the instructions outlined by the Assignment.