



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 2206-650
Research Methods in Sociology
Summer 2021
Online (Asynchronously)

Instructor: Lauren Barr

Office Hours: TBD / By Appointment
Department of Sociology, Office: SSC 5432

Email: lbarr2@uwo.ca

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:

- 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 be 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.

Antirequisite(s):

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

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 methodological approaches and understand their merits and limitations;
4. appreciate the challenges and complexity of sociological research;
4. understand the ethical considerations involved in doing human subjects research; and
5. develop skills for reading and critically thinking about empirical research.

Required Text(s):

Carr, Deborah, Elizabeth Heger Boyle, Benjamin Cornwell, Shelley Correll, Robert Crosnoe, Jeremy Freese and Mary C. Waters. *The Art and Science of Social Research*. 2nd Edition. W.W. Norton.

Textbook purchase can be made with two options, both from the UWO bookstore.

- Option 1: Purchase a license for E-book: ISBN 978-0-393-53749-9
- Option 2: Purchase a hardcopy: ISBN 978-0-393-53752-9

Note: The contents of both options are comparable. Please select the format that works best for you.

**sometimes things are happening and purchasing a text is impossible. Please do not try to do this course without a text. Reach out me and we will figure something out.*

Method of Evaluation:

This course will be run completely asynchronously. All assessments will have flexibility to allow them to fit to your diverse lives and schedules.

Assessment	Weight	Due Date
Quizzes (4 quizzes)	10 %	May 15; May 29; June 26; July 10
Midterm	35 %	June 12
Research Assignments (2 @ 10% each)	20 %	
	Assignment 1	June 6
	Assignment 2	July 17
Final Exam	35 %	July 29

Evaluation Breakdown:

Online Forums_Collaborative Knowledge Building

Knowledge development is interactive. Active and informed discussion helps students engage consistently as they learn new material. You learn from your peers and use each other to challenge your own thinking. This will be optional (unmarked), but will inform your development and understanding throughout the term and will also help guide decisions around marks and overall progress in the course.

Examinations & Quizzes:

4 Quizzes will be administered to encourage students to keep on top of material, and check for understanding. They will be *available Thursday to Saturday*. The quizzes will be averaged to be worth 10% of your mark. They will be a mix of m/c and written questions.

- Quiz 1: May 13 @ 12:00pm EST – May 15 @ 11:55pm EST
- Quiz 2: May 27 @ 12:00pm EST – May 29 @ 11:55pm EST
- Quiz 3: June 24 @ 12:00pm EST – June 26 @ 11:55pm EST
- Quiz 4: July 8 @ 12:00pm EST – July 10 @ 11:55pm EST

Midterm & Final Exams:

The exams will be open book exam with mixed format, including multiple choice, short answer, reflection, analysis and/or application questions. Each exam will be available asynchronously for three days. Once you begin the exam, they will be timed. All instructions will be provided in advance.

- The Midterm will be available June 10 @ 9am EST – June 12 @ 11:55pm EST
- The Final Exam will be available July 26 @ 9am EST – July 28 @ 11:55pm EST

Assignments:

The exciting part of doing sociology is to conduct your own research. During the course of the term, students will complete two research assignments, which utilize two research methods: survey (Week5) and content analysis (Week11). These exercises are designed to give you the experience of a “researcher” by applying the concepts to practice.

- Assignment 1: Posted Monday May 24 – Due Saturday June 6 @ 11:55pm EST
- Assignment 2: Posted Monday July 5 – Due Saturday July 17 @ 11:55pm EST

How to Contact Me:

OWL Messages – Use this as the primary way to reach me regarding our course. You will find this on the left navigation bar on our course website

Email: lbarr2@uwo.ca – for urgent communication only

Facebook Messenger – optional, but students find this to be a quick way to reach me. ProfLauren Barr

How to get important information:

Communication Guidelines & Expectations:

- Messages and email will be returned within 24-48 business hours (unless announced otherwise).
 - That means you may not receive a response during the evening or on the weekend.
- Be patient, avoid emailing multiple times.
- Make sure your tone and correspondence in all communication is professional

Our **OWL Course site** will be set up to allow you to navigate week to week in a consistent way. It will be available Wed April 28. An announcement will be sent out when it is live.

The **Homepage** will have key instructions on where to find information.

The **Announcements** will be Used for Regular Communication or Urgent Messages

The **Calendar** will be used regularly to let you know when assessments are due.

The **Assignments** will have all course assessment outlines and instructions on what to do if you have questions.

Important Policies

Policies for Assignment Deadlines:

If you know that you have a problem with a due date or an exam (conflict, sick, etc), let's talk about it as soon as possible. If you talk to me ahead of time, we can determine together whether a formal accommodation request should be filed or whether we can work out another arrangement.

*If you do not or are not able to let me know ahead of time, then you will be asked to go through the formal academic accommodation process. If you miss an exam due to illness or for any other unforeseen reason, please notify me **within 24 hours** of the missed exam. You then must provide notification and documentation to your Academic Counselor **within 48 hours**. If your problem is medical in nature, you should be seen by your doctor on the date of the exam or on the date an assignment is due. If your Academic Counselor agrees that your reasons are legitimate and are supported by your medical doctor's documentation, you will be allowed to write a make-up exam at a later date.*

If a student misses a test with legitimate reason, you will be assigned an accommodated test online. In cases where there is no approved justification for the absence, the student will receive a grade of zero on the exam.

If an assignment is late with no communication, 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.

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 (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).

Policies on Examinations

All examinations for this course will be done from home on your own time. They are not timed. You may use any electronic devices or programs you need in order to be successful. No proctor software or process will be used for this course. Instructions will be provided with each assessment. If you have questions, please ask.

Policy on Electronics/Phones for Class:

- ***Recording or Image Captures*** of lectures, tutorials, Examinations or Virtual Meetings without the explicit consent of the Professor, TA and students involved 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.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical 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: https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a *Self-Reported Absence (SRA)* 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 a self-reported absence, 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) to your Home Faculty Academic Counselling office.

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.

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf

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 Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) 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/academics/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

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:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Mental Health

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

Course Schedule and Readings:

A schedule and all content will be found in COURSE CONTENT on OWL.

Each week the Content will appear by 12:00pm EST Monday.