

**Class Room: OA 2006**  
**4:00 – 5:20 PM**  
**Tuesdays & Thursdays**

## **Social Research Traditions**

**Facilitator: Dr. Kevin D. Willison**

**Lakehead University (Orillia Campus, 500 University Avenue)**

COURSE NUMBER :

SOCI 2911 - WAO

**Office Hours: by appointment:** [kdwillis@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:kdwillis@lakeheadu.ca)

TERM/YEAR:

Winter 2013

HOURS PER WEEK:

3

LEVEL:

Undergraduate (Year 2)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** A brief introduction to doing social research. This second year university-level course covers a broad range of topics, including a look at human ethics, survey design, measurement issues, quantitative and qualitative methods, etc. A variety of learning and evaluation strategies are deployed.

**MANDATORY TEXTBOOK:** **Methods – Doing Social Research – Fourth Edition.** Pearson and Prentice Hall (publishers). Winston Jackson and Norine Verberg (Eds.). 2007. ISBN 0-13-187925-1.

### **SYLLABUS OVERVIEW - (January 2013 – April 2013) [ Most materials are posted on “Desire2Learn” ]**

- **Posted material on Desire2Learn is testable data. Exception: “supplemental material.” Lecture notes and required text readings are also testable material. Attendance to all classes is strongly recommended.**
- **For every one hour of lecture time two hours of independent study time is recommended (1:2 ratio).**

**January** 2013 – Review Chapters 6, 10 and 11 of required textbook. Notes: (a) Test one is scheduled January 24<sup>th</sup>. (b) Your CORE (ethics) assignment is due January 31 (see details in this outline).

[-] Class One – Overview of course outline, required text, and evaluation.

[-] The Research Process; [-] Why Research?; [-] The Scientific Method; [-] Indicators Development

[-] Introduction to Research Methods; [-] Quantitative and Qualitative Research (Chapter Six); [-] Types of Studies and Interviews; [-] Evaluating Quality of Studies; [-] Evaluating Use of the Internet; [-] Linking Theory to Methodology. [-] Bias (Chapter 10); [-] Ethical Issues (Chapter 11); [-] Measurement Issues.

**February** 2013 – Review Chapters 04, 05, 07, 08 and 09 of required textbook. Notes: (a) Your virtual poster topic is due Feb. 07; (b) Test two is scheduled February 14; (c) Your abstract assignment is due February 28.

[-] Survey design (Chapter 04); [-] Nonreactive and Comparative Research (Chapter 05); [-] Action and Feminist Research (Chapter 07); [-] Introduction to Community Based Participatory Research - CBPR; [-] Introduction to Ethnography; [-] Statistics Primer (Chapter 08); [-] Steps to Significance (Chapter 09). Note: the posted manual on the topic of CBPR is supplemental (non-testable) material.

**March & April** 2013 - Review Chapters 13, 15, 16 and 18 of required textbook. Notes: (a) Your virtual poster is due March 14; (b) Test 3 (of 3) is scheduled March 21; (c) A *partial* review of the course (question and answer class) to help you prepare for the final exam in April (2013) is scheduled Tuesday April 09.

[-] Measurement (Chapter 13 of required text); [-] Sampling and Sample Size (Chapter 15); [-] Data Analysis (Chapter 16); The Research Report (Chapter 18).

**April 2013 Exam:** Date: To be determined by the Registrar (and, will be announced in class when known).

## COURSE OUTLINE (continued)

### Social Research Traditions [SOC 2911]

#### *Evaluation:*

<b>Term 1 Requirements: (Jan. – April 2013)</b>	<b>Grading:</b>	<b>Due or When</b>
On-Line: Course on Research Ethics (CORE)	8 percent	Thurs. Jan 31 – see note below
Test One	13 percent	Thurs. Jan. 24
Test Two	13 percent	Thurs. Feb. 14
Test Three	14 percent	Thurs. March 21
Virtual Research Poster	12 percent	Topic by Feb 07 and poster by March 14
Research Abstract - Writing Assignment	5 percent	Due: Thursday Feb. 28
April 2013 Exam (date/time set by Registrar)	35 percent	Date to be announced when known.

\* Refer to page 04 for academic year schedule and, your Instructor's schedule.

#### **Performance Assessment - A**

### **Tutorial for the Tricouncil Policy (Value = 8 %)**

#### **Target Competency**

**Explain relevant ethical issues that affect social science research.**

#### **Directions**

COMPLETE the Tricouncil Online Tutorial - Course on Research Ethics (CORE) - with Human Participants (TCPS-2).

This consists of eight modules focusing on the guidance in TCPS 2 (Tri-Council Policy Statement) that is applicable to all research regardless of discipline or methodology.

To access, go to: <http://pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/education/tutorial-didacticiel/>

SUBMIT a copy of your completed certificate to the Instructor, by e-mail (to [kdwillis@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:kdwillis@lakeheadu.ca)) – or in class. Successful completion of CORE comprises **8 %** of your final grade.

#### **Scoring Guide**

	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Ratings</b>
1.	Submission - Course on Research Ethics (CORE) - Tricouncil Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans * <b>Submit evidence of completion to your instructor by e-mail.</b>	Present Not Present

#### **Performance Assessment - B**

### **Virtual Scientific Poster (Value = 12%)**

#### **Target Competency**

**Examine the use of the scientific method in social science research and related inquiry.**

**Explain relevant ethical issues that affect social science research.**

**Examine a qualitative and/or quantitative research design.**

**Investigate the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data.**

#### **Directions**

See guidelines and grading rubrics as posted in Desire2Learn. Students will prepare a scientific poster. Use the virtual poster template provided. Once your poster is done, it is best to convert to a PDF. Save your file using your last name, then: send to the course Instructor for grading (by the due date and time).

## COURSE OUTLINE (continued)

### Social Research Traditions [SOC 2911]

#### Performance Assessment – C

### One-Page Abstract (Value = 5 %)

#### Target Competency

Help develop critical thinking skills.

Develop a plan for dissemination.

Build research literature review and writing skills.

#### Directions

Using the posted abstract guide (found in Desire2Learn), develop an abstract on a topic related to the social sciences, but **different** from the topic you used for your virtual poster. Step 1: locate on the Internet an upcoming social science related conference that has a call for abstracts (that are peer-reviewed). Step 2: print out the guideline they provide related to their call for abstracts (include this with your submitted abstract). Step 3: develop an abstract as though you wanted to (could) attend the conference. Write your abstract as though it would be reviewed by a panel of experts. Note: in real life (at most of the credible conferences) not all abstracts are accepted for presentation.

#### Emergency? Know the Number to Call

Lakehead Security reminds everyone to **call 3911** (Orillia) if you require emergency service.

Paramedics, firefighters and police officers do not always know where to find certain buildings or locations on our campuses. By calling 3911 (Orillia), Lakehead Security will quickly dispatch a security guard to your location and contact 911 services. Lakehead Security will then meet and escort emergency services to your location to save valuable time.

#### Problems with your Lakehead E-mail or Accessing “Desire2Learn”?

Contact “Help Desk” at **ext. 7777** (on campus) – or tel. 705=330-4008 (then the extension) and they will try to assist you with you IT issues / problems.

#### Preparation and Participation

Inquiry-based learning demands participation. Students should not only show up for classes but also to be actively engaged with the subject matter. Benefits? Students who are actively engaged, and have regular attendance, often do better academically than those who do not.

Sample Learning Strategy 1: (a) be presented a problem; (b) group up; (c) each group separately discusses material; (d) each group then formulate ideas / solutions; then (e) share ideas with entire class.

Sample Learning Strategy 2: (a) form a group; (b) be provided a question followed by a list of potential answers; (c) each group writes down their choice of what the best answer is; (d) the facilitator asks each group to discuss their answer - why they (you) believe it is the best answer; (e) class is then provided the correct answer by the facilitator and reasons why it is the best answer (based on the text and/or literature).

## **COURSE OUTLINE (continued)**

### **Social Research Traditions [SOC 2911]**

#### **Computer and Electronic Devices Policy**

Please turn off your cell phones and other text/paging devices when classes are in session (particularly on test and exam days) – so as to not disturb others around you. Laptops may be used in class for course note taking (not for games nor to watch movies, etc – thank you in advance).

#### **How to Contact the Course Instructor / Facilitator?**

Dr. Kevin Willison may best be reached at [kdwillis@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:kdwillis@lakeheadu.ca). Please be sure to identify yourself and which course you taking, as your instructor teaches more than one course (in and outside of Lakehead University). **OFFICE HOURS:** by appointment only. These are to be scheduled in advance by e-mail.

**Withdrawal from the Course:** Students who wish to officially withdraw from this course with no academic penalty must do so by the due date indicated in their undergraduate calendar and/or departmental guidelines (see page 4 of this outline for further details).

**Course Delivery:** Beyond student engagement and lectures, this course also uses Desire2Learn, Lakehead's new learning management system. There, you will find such material as posted Power Points. In general, students should engage in independent study by reviewing material posted on Desire2Learn, your in-class lecture noted and your required text readings. Use this course outline as a guide. Be sure to write on a calendar course assignment due dates as well as test and exam dates.

**About Your Instructor:** Dr. Kevin Willison has 14 years (plus) research experience. Not only has he completed three exhaustive thesis documents he has also worked on funded research projects with the University of Toronto, the National Initiative for Care of the Elderly (NICE), Toronto General Hospital; and Lakehead University (Thunder Bay). His most recent funded research (2010-2012) considered best ways to define and measure elder abuse. Since September of 2007 Kevin has had the opportunity to teach at Lakehead University (Orillia campus). Collectively, he has seven years of Ontario post-secondary school teaching experience. Dr. Willison has also taught at the Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences, Ryerson University, Humber College (each based in Toronto), plus McMaster University in Hamilton and Sheridan College in Oakville (Ont.). Born and raised in Orillia, he attended Park Street Collegiate for grade nine and Twin Lakes Secondary for grade ten before moving to Windsor Ontario at the age of 15. Dr. Kevin Willison received his B.A. (Honors) from Queen's University in Kingston Ontario (Major: Sociology), his M.A. from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay (Major: Sociology), and his Ph.D. from the University of Toronto (Major: Community Health - within the Division of Social and Behavioral Health Sciences). His Ph.D. studies integrated such diverse disciplines as Public Health, Health Sociology and, Social Psychology. His interest in Sociology stems in part by his long-term focus on social justice and equity issues. He has a particular interest in the field of medical Sociology / health services research. To date, Dr. Willison has produced 11 peer-reviewed journal articles, two book chapters and one book. He has presented at over 27 conferences across Canada and is currently a Board Member of the Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition.

**Religious Observance Policy:** If you require religious accommodation(s), you must make your request to the instructor preferably within the first two weeks of class.

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**Special Needs:** Dr. Kevin Willison has received specialized training in AODA (the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Training Act). As there may be a need to provide information in accessible formats to persons with disabilities, students with special needs who require accommodations should speak with their Instructor privately at the very start of the course. Appropriate documentation must be provided to Student Services. If needed, refer to <http://policies.lakeheadu.ca/> for further information/instructions.

**Course Concerns?** Students are asked to speak with their Instructor first should there be a problem or concern you feel needs to be raised. Alternatively, please speak with the designated class Representatives (assigned at the start of each term). If this does not help to resolve your concerns feel free to contact the Chair of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies (Dr. Sreekumari Kurissery at: [skurisse@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:skurisse@lakeheadu.ca)).

**Academic Integrity:** Cheating during a test or exam is not acceptable. Doing so may lead to failure in the test, exam or course. Refer to your on-line academic calendar for specific Lakehead University rules and regulations pertaining to this. <http://policies.lakeheadu.ca/>

### **Course Management Policy:**

The following ground rules have been developed to ensure that the course runs smoothly and fairly and to create a positive classroom climate. There will be opportunities during the course (for example, during course group work) for you to reflect on your own life experiences and history. You must use your own judgment regarding the disclosure of personal information. A sense of ethical obligation to others will lead us to agree to principles of confidentiality when personal information is heard, and to respect privacy when an individual chooses not to disclose. We further agree to respect the privacy of those not present in the class by not identifying them when discussions of professional or interpersonal dilemmas are cited. Also, let's be careful not to make remarks that may be offensive to others based on race, gender, religion, beliefs, ability, appearance or sexual orientation.

## **ACADEMIC SCHEDULE 2013**

### **Winter 2013**

	Winter Term Courses
Classes Start	Mon., Jan 07
Classes End	Tues., April 09
Final Date of Registration	Fri., Jan 18
Final Date to Withdraw (without Academic Penalty)	Fri., Feb. 15
Reading Week	Feb 19 - 22
Final Exams	April 12-24
Exam Contingency Date	April 25
Final Marks Due by Noon	April 30

**The University Calendar:** <http://mycoursecalendar.lakeheadu.ca/>

- University Regulations, program & course information, academic session dates etc...

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**Lakehead University Policies:** <http://policies.lakeheadu.ca/>

- student code of conduct, test and examination policies, grades, and much more

**Orillia Student Affairs:** <http://orillia.lakeheadu.ca/student-affairs/>

**Weather:** The *Weather Network* is a good site: <http://www.theweathernetwork.com/weather/caon0506>

- Always refer to the Lakehead University (Orillia) home page website to check for class cancellations. See: <http://www.lakeheadu.ca/>

<b>INSTRUCTOR'S CURRENT COURSE SCHEDULE AT LAKEHEAD.</b>
SOCI 2911 WAO Social Research Traditions (4:00 pm – 5:30 pm) Tues./Thurs. Room OA 2006
SOCI 1100 YAO Introductory Sociology (5:30 pm – 7:00 pm) Tues./Thurs. Room OA 1033
* <b>Office Hours:</b> By appointment only (via e-mail to: <a href="mailto:kdwillis@lakeheadu.ca">kdwillis@lakeheadu.ca</a> ) – a Tuesday afternoon is suggested. * For this course, your instructor is best accessed by e-mail. Allow at least 8 hours for a response (which of course may take longer if Lakehead's e-mail web server is down). * Dr. Willison may often be away from the Orillia campus Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays. * E-mails sent to instructor a day prior to tests or exams may not be readily responded to. Please plan ahead.