

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Sociology 2911 FA
Social Research Traditions

Fall 2020
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Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Via email

Classes: Web-based

Texts:

Required:

Bouma, G. D., Ling Rod, and Lori Wilkinson. 2009. *The Research Process (4th Canadian Edition)*. Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press.

On reserve:

Babbie, Earl and Lucia Benaquisto. 2002. *Fundamentals of Social Research (First Canadian Edition)*. Scarborough, Ontario: Thomson Nelson.

Singleton, R.A. Jr., Bruce C. Straits, Margaret M. Straits, and Ronald J. McAllister. 1988. *Approaches to Social Research*. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press.

Course Description:

Sociology 2911 FA is an introduction to methods in sociological research and analysis. This course will cover basic concepts in research methods such as sociological research questions, research hypothesis, how to collect data for research (units of analysis), measurement issues (conceptual and operational definitions), logic issues, research ethic issues, and differences between qualitative and quantitative methods.

Courses requirements:

1. Multiple choice questions

You are asked to develop three multiple choices questions (with 5 choices and answers) from each chapter in the textbook and submit them via D2L right after we finish that chapter according to the ***Schedule*** at the end of this outline. **THIS ACCOUNTS FOR 15% OF THE FINAL GRADE.** The multiple choice questions should be written in Word file named by the initial of your first name and your whole last name followed by chapter numbers. For example, the file for chapter 5 by John Smith should be named as J.Smith5.

2. Online Quiz

There is an online quiz for each chapter. **EACH QUIZ ACCOUNTS FOR 1% (IN TOTAL 15%) OF THE FINAL GRADE.** Make sure you read the chapter according to the class schedule and

finish each required quiz.

3. Assignment:

To apply concepts and techniques covered in class, you are asked to analyze one published research article in the academic journal of sociology like *The American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Annual Review of Sociology*, *The Canadian Journal of Sociology*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *European Sociological Review*, and *Sociological Forum*. You have to select one research paper based on your own research interests. You can find the requirement and instruction for the assignment on D2L. **THIS ASSIGNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR 25% OF THE FINAL MARK.**

In submitting the assignment, no “faxed” copies will be accepted. It must be typed (12 cpi or maximum 300 words per page) and double-spaced. You need to submit your assignment (and the research paper used in your assignment) to the Assignment Folder on D2L by Dec. 11 (see the Schedule).

IN THE INTEREST OF FAIRNESS FOR ALL STUDENTS, ASSIGNMENT SHOULD BE DUE ON THE DUE DATES. LATE ASSIGNMENT WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PENALTY WITH APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION. ASSIGNMENTS RECEIVED AFTER THE DUE DATE (WITHIN ONE WEEK OF DUE DATE, WILL HAVE THEIR GRADE REDUCED BY A RATE OF 10% DAILY). NO ASSIGNMENT WILL BE ACCEPTED MORE THAN ONE WEEK AFTER THE DUE DATE.

ONLY MAJOR ILLNESS AND EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES (WITH APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION) ARE ACCEPTABLE REASONS FOR HANDING IN AN ASSIGNMENT AFTER THE DUE DATE. IF A STUDENT CANNOT HAND IN AN ASSIGNMENT, THAT STUDENT MUST CONTACT THE PROFESSOR BEFORE THE DUE DATE (IN PERSON OR BY EMAIL) AND PROVIDE APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THIS POLICY WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED AND NO EXCEPTION WILL BE MADE.

4. Online tests:

There will be 3 online tests throughout the term. They will contain multiple choice (30 MCQs, 60%) and short answer questions (4 questions, 40%). You can find the timing and contents of each test in the *Schedule*. **THE THREE TESTS WILL BE WORTH 45% OF YOUR FINAL GRADE.**

THERE IS NO PROVISION OF MAKE-UP FOR THE TESTS. FOR AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM A TEST, A ZERO WILL BE RECORDED. IN CASES OF MAJOR ILLNESS OR EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES, THE FINAL GRADE CAN BE REWEIGHTED TO MAKE UP FOR THE MISSING MARKS BUT ONLY IF I AM INFORMED BEFORE THE TEST AND WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION IS PROVIDED. IN THE INTEREST OF FAIRNESS TO ALL STUDENTS, AND IN PARTICULAR, TO THOSE THAT ADHER TO THESE GUIDELINES, NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.

5. Specific issues with online activities

(1) Copyright Compliance:

I understand and agree that all instructional, reference, and administrative materials to which I am given access in this course (the "course materials"), whether they consist of text, still or kinetic images, or sound, whether they are in digital or hard copy formats, and in whatever media they are offered, are protected in their entirety by copyright, and that to comply with this copyright and the law.

(1) I may access and download the course materials only for my own personal and non-commercial use for this course; and

(2) I am not permitted to download, copy, store (in any medium), forward or share, transmit, broadcast, show, post or play in public, adapt, or change in any way any text, image, or sound component of the course materials for any other purpose whatsoever except as expressly authorized, and only to the extent authorized, in writing, by the course instructor.

I further understand and agree that, if I infringe the copyright of the course materials in any way, I may be prosecuted under the Lakehead University Student Code of Conduct – Academic Integrity, which requires students to act ethically and with integrity in academic matters and to demonstrate behaviours that support the University’s academic values.

(2) Exam/Assignment Integrity:

I understand and agree that:

(1) Unless otherwise allowed by the course instructor, I must complete the assignments in this course without the assistance of anyone else.

(2) Unless otherwise allowed by the course instructor, I must not access any sources or materials (in print, online, or in any other way) to complete any course exam.

I further understand and agree that, if I violate either of these two rules, or if I provide any false or misleading information about my completion of course assignments or exams, I may be prosecuted under the Lakehead University Student Code of Conduct – Academic Integrity, which requires students to act ethically and with integrity in academic matters and to demonstrate behaviours that support the University’s academic values.

Distribution of Grades:

Multiple choice questions	15%
Random quiz	15%
1 assignment	25%
3 tests	45%

Outline and schedule (the following schedule may be modified slightly throughout the term)

DATE

TOPIC

Week one (Sep. 8 – 12)

Chapter 1 & 2

Week two (Sep. 13 – 19)

Ch 3: Babbie and Benaquisto

Week three (Sep. 20 – 26)

Chapter 2 of Babbie and Ch 3 of Singleton

Week four (Sep. 27 – Oct. 3)

Probability & Chapter 3

Week five (Oct. 4 – 10)

Chapter 4 & Chapter 5

October 9

Test # 1 (chapter 1 to 4, causality, and logic)

October 11 – 17

Reading Week

Week six (Oct. 18 – 24)	Chapter 6
Week seven (Oct. 25 – 31)	Chapter 7 & 8
Week eight (Nov. 1 – 7)	Chapter 8 & 9
Week nine (Nov. 8 – 14)	Chapter 10
November 13	Test # 2 (chapter 5 to 9)
Week ten (Nov. 15 – 21)	Chapter 11 & Standardization
Week eleven (Nov. 22 – 28)	Chapter 12 & 13
Week twelve (Nov. 29 – Dec. 7)	Chapter 14
December 7	Test # 3 (chapter 10 to 14 and Standardization)
December 11	<i>Assignment Due</i>

NB . The dates for class coverage of topics are only best approximations.