

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Sociology 2911 WA/WDE
Social Research Traditions

Winter 2024
Jianye Liu

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Office Hours: Monday & Thursday, 10:30-11:30 AM. or by appointment via Zoom

Classes: AT 3006, Monday & Wednesday: 04:00AM-05:30PM

Texts:

Required:

Lori Wilkinson, Bouma, G. D., and Bouma, S. 2019. *The Research Process (4th Canadian Edition)*. Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press.

On reserve:

Chapter 2 and 3 of Babbie, Earl and Lucia Benaquisto. 2002. *Fundamentals of Social Research (First Canadian Edition)*. Scarborough, Ontario: Thomson Nelson.

Chapter 3 of 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. 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 are online quizzes for each chapter. The quiz is about the chapter we are going to talk in

that class. EACH QUIZ ACCOUNTS FOR 1% (IN TOTAL 15%) OF THE FINAL GRADE. Make sure you read the chapter before each class according to the class schedule.

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. The requirement and instruction for the assignment will be posted on D2L in the fourth week of the term. **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), double-spaced, and submitted to the assignment folder on D2L on the due date.

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. Short tests:

There will be 3 short tests throughout the term (15% each). They will contain multiple choice and short answer questions. These tests will be held in the regular class time slot. The material covered between tests will be the major focus of each test, although the exact details will be specified clearly in class well before each test. **THREE TESTS WILL BE WORTH 45% OF YOUR FINAL GRADE.**

THERE IS NO PROVISION 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.

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
January 8	Course logistics/ introduction
January 10	Chapter 1 “How we know what we know and how we know we know”
January 15	Chapter 2 “Research as a way of knowing”
January 17	“The idea of causation in social research” (Ch 3: Babbie and Benaquisto)
January 22	continuous
January 24	“The logic of scientific reasoning” (chapter 2 of Babbie and Ch 3 of Singleton and et al.)
January 29	continuous
January 31	Probability
February 5	Chapter 3 “Selecting a problem”
February 7	Chapter 4 “Qualitative or quantitative research? where do I begin?”
February 12	Chapter 5 “Selecting variables”
February 14	<i>Test # 1</i>
February 19-23	Reading Week
February 26	Chapter 6 “Finding a variables’ measurements”
February 28	Chapter 7 “Selecting a research design”
March 4	Chapter 8 “Selecting a sample”
March 6	Chapter 9 “Ethics in human research”
March 11	Chapter 10 “Making notes, organizing data, and constructing bibliographies”
March 13	<i>Test # 2</i>
March 18	Chapter 11 “Summarizing and presenting data in quantitative research”
March 20	Standardization
March 25	Chapter 12 “Presenting data using qualitative research”
March 27	Chapter 13 “Drawing conclusions”
April 1	Chapter 14 “Reporting your research”
April 3	<i>Test # 3</i>
April 10	<i>Assignment Due</i>

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