LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Sociology 3310: Foundations of Social Research
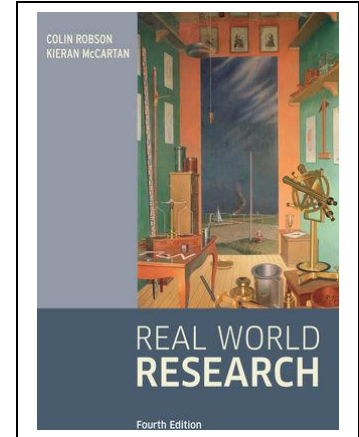
January 9, 2017 to April 7, 2017

Course Instructor: **Dr. Kevin Willison**, M.A., Ph.D.
Instructor's e-mail address: kdwillis@lakeheadu.ca
Credit Weight: 0.5
Room: OA 2008 (500 University Av. – Simcoe Hall)
Class Time: **Wednesdays and Fridays: 10 AM until 11:30 AM**

Instructor's Office Hours: by appointment (mutually arranged in class and/or by e-mail). Note: it is best not to wait until the end of term to visit your course instructor.
- Refer to the Instructor's e-mail address above and Dr. Willison's 2016-2017 teaching schedule as posted in D2L for this course.

Course Description (from calendar):
A focus on the skills and knowledge required to carry out social research including the meaning of methodology, research design, measurement, sampling procedures, survey design, and field research/ethics.

Learning Objectives / Targeted Competencies:

By the end of this course students should know how to:

(i) **Compare and contrast** research designs, methods of data collection, and data analysis procedures;
(ii) **Explain** aspects of the TCPS-2 and other relevant documents, plus ethical considerations that often impact social science and other types of research;
(iii) **Articulate** benefits of doing research and challenges associated carrying out projects and dealing with data;
(iv) **Discuss** in detail such topics as: the need for creativity, the research process, abstract development, and benefits and challenges pertaining to both publishing and disseminating research findings.

Required Text:
Colin Robson and Kierman McCartan. Real World Research. Fourth Edition. Wiley Publishers. ISBN: 978-111-8745-236 (pbk).
- See picture of the required text on top of this page.
- This text is available at the Orillia campus bookstore (near the cafeteria).
- Be sure to obtain the **4th** edition.

Required Text – Wiley Publisher's Description
"*Real World Research* provides a clear route-map of the various steps needed to carry out a piece of applied research to a high professional standard. It is accessible to those without a social science background while providing rigorous and fully up-to-date coverage of contemporary issues and debates. It brings together materials and approaches from different social science disciplines, seeing value in both quantitative and qualitative approaches, as well as their combination in mixed-method designs."
(See: http://ca.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-111874523X.htmll).

Sociology 3310 - Evaluation Strategy:

(January to April 2017)	Value:	Completed:
Test One	20 %	Mon Jan 30
Test Two (coverage - since Jan 9)	20 %	Wed Feb 15
Test Three (coverage - since Jan 9)	20 %	Wed March 8
Individual – 6 minute Oral Presentation	10 %	March 13 /15
Test Four (coverage - since Jan 9)	25 %	Wed March 29
Attendance + Class Participation	5 %	///////////

 Note: There is no April 2017 exam for this course.

Academic Term - Important Dates:
- **Monday January 9th (2017) – Winter Term begins.**
- **Monday Feb. 20th – Family Day. No classes.**
- **Tuesday Feb 21st to 24th break - No classes.**
- **Monday April 3rd – April 7: Winter Review Week.**
- **Final day of classes – Friday April 7th**
- **Winter Exam Period – April 10 to 22**

Accommodations / Special Needs:
Lakehead University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) first. Register as early as possible. For more information, please visit: http://studentaccessibility.lakeheadu.ca

Your instructor - Dr. Kevin Willison - has received specialized training in AODA (the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Training Act).

Emergency? Know the Number to Call
In case of emergency Security can be reached through any phone on campus, and also through the emergency intercoms in Simcoe Hall and also in the parking lot. Their direct extension is 2009.
Paramedics, firefighters and police officers do not always know where to find certain buildings or locations on our campuses. By calling ext. 2009 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.

Parking: **There is a flat fee/day for parking in the Lakehead Orillia lot, $5/day (there is a kiosk at the entrance of the parking lot in which you would pay (by cash or a credit card) to get a day pass. Parking spaces are on a first come/first served basis, and the lot is monitored by security throughout the day (they do ticket!) Parking is free in the evenings (from 5 PM through to 8 AM).**

IT Issues – LU E-mail Accounts and Accessing "Desire2Learn" – D2L

IT (at Lakehead this is called TSC) can be reached through any campus phone by pushing the Helpdesk button. Should TSC related problems arise you may also contact "Help Desk" at **ext.** 7777 (on campus) – or tel. 705-330-4008 (then the extension). Only *Help Desk* can assist you with your specific TSC issues and concerns.

General E-mail and Classroom Conduct Guidelines:

[**1**] Within all e-mail correspondence (not just for this course) it is advisable to follow "the ten commandments of *e-mail netiquette*."
Please review: http://www.studygs.net/netiquette.htm
[**2**] All e-mail communication sent from students to the instructor for this class <u>must</u> originate from the student's own Lakehead University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a Lakehead University account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply.
[**3**] Please be sure to identify yourself in your e-mail (not only your name but also what course you are in, as your Instructor teaches more than one course, and has many students). This will help speed up a response. Thank you in advance.
[**4**] The course instructor may best be reached at: kdwillis@lakeheadu.ca. I will do my best to respond to your e-mail <u>within 12 hours</u> (or less) of receipt (based on e-mails received between 9am – 5 pm, Monday to Friday). Due to teaching, meetings and research related activities please do not expect your instructor to provide an instant / immediate response. * Note: Dr. Kevin Willison's course teaching schedule is posted in your course D2L.
[**5**] Please be advised that you will may *not* get a response e-mailing the Instructor the night before a test or exam. Please plan ahead.
[**6**] Please do not expect a quick e-mail response if sending an e-mail to an Instructor on a Saturday or Sunday. On weekends your Instructor may have other obligations.
[**7**] As per LU policy, your specific grades/marks will <u>not</u> be discussed over the internet / e-mail. Please talk to your instructor directly on such matters. Individual course marks (when ready) can be accessed using your unique course D2L account.
[**8**] Please refrain from sending e-mails / texting / watching movies etc. during class time. Make use of your class time and computer wisely. Not only is it best to focus on the course material during class, texting or viewing inappropriate material on your computer may bother / disturb others around you, particularly those sitting behind you and/or beside you.

[9] Unless in a group work session, please refrain from talking to others when the instructor is talking, as others around you may have difficulty hearing and/or be disturbed. **Have a question? Please raise your hand until I see you and I will try to respond quickly.**

Missed Tests and/or Exams:
Make-up examinations will only be given with written documentation from a healthcare practitioner using the official Student Health Certificate, available at: http://registrar.lakeheadu.ca/uploads/docs/F.HealthCertificate.pdf .

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.

Course Suggestions or Concerns? Students are asked to speak with their Instructor in person, should you have a suggestion, problem or concern regarding the course which you feel may benefit yourself and/or the class. Feel free of course at any time to speak to your class Instructor. Further, you are encouraged to ask questions and be engaged during each class. Doing so can help the learning process.

Weather Conditions / Class Cancellations:
Please check the Lakehead University (Orillia) website to check for any cancellations. https://www.lakeheadu.ca/about/orillia-campus/weather

** As a university-level course, <u>regular class attendance is strongly recommended</u>.

- **Within the ten modules described below, focus on key terms and their interconnections with other terms. For improved comprehension and memory, be sure to review your required text and/or assigned reading(s) regularly (prior to and after attending each class).**
- **Not all of the modules may be covered. Check with your instructor and attend class to determine which modules you need to know.**
- **The course instructor has the right to modify the course outline. If this is done, the class will be notified in advance.**
- **Classroom discussion is encouraged, as will critical thinking and problem-based learning. Review assigned readings (made known in class) in advance.**

TERM ONE Section/Module	Topic(s):
Module ONE	- **Overview of Course Outline.** - **D2L essentials.** **Chapter <u>Two</u> – Approaches to Social Research** • What is Science? • The Quantitative Paradigm • The Qualitative Paradigm • Multi-Strategy Research Designs

	• Realism and Real-World Research • The Purposes of Research
Module TWO	**Chapter Three – Developing Your Ideas** • Deciding on the Focus • Developing Your Research Question(s)
Module THREE	**Chapter Four – General Design Issues** • Frameworks for Research Design • Choosing a Research Design Strategy
Module FOUR	**Chapter Five – Desk Based Research** • Types of Desk-Based Research • Doing a Literature Review as a Desk-Based Project • Common Research Data Bases (where to find the literature) • Choosing a Research Design Strategy • Doing a Systematic Review • Realist Reviews
Module FIVE	**Chapters Six and Seven – Fixed & Flexible Designs** • General Features of Fixed Designs • General Features of Flexible Designs • True Experiments • Designs Involving Matching • Quasi-Experiments • Single-case Experiments • Non-Experimental Fixed Designs • Sample Size in Fixed Designs • Case Studies • Ethnographic Studies • Grounded Theory Studies
Module SIX	**Sampling** - Sampling Error - Types of Probability Sampling - Sample Size - Types of Non-Probability Sampling - Limits to Generalization - Qualitative Sampling - Content Analysis Sampling - Reducing Respondent Non-Responses
Module SEVEN	**Chapter Seventeen – Analysis and Interpretation of Quantitative Data** • Types of Quantitative Analysis • Parametric vs. Non-Parametric Analysis • Pearson's r vs. Spearman's r • Univariate / Bivariate / Multivariate Analysis • Measures of Dispersion (what is standard deviation) • The chi-square Test

	• Measures of Dispersion • Contingency Tables • Correlation and Statistical Significance
Module EIGHT	**Chapter Eighteen – Analysis and Interpretation of Qualitative Data** • Types of Qualitative Analysis • Analytic Induction • Grounded Theory • Coding in Grounded Theory / Thematic Coding • Outcomes of Grounded Theory • Criticisms of Grounded Theory • Basic Operations in Qualitative Data Analysis • Problems with Coding • Narrative Analysis
Module NINE	**Chapter Ten – Ethical & Political Considerations** • The Research Process • Ethical Codes and Guidelines • Ethical Issues • Researcher Safety and Risk • Working with Vulnerable Groups • General Ethical Responsibilities • Ethical Review Boards and Committees • Sexism, Racism and Social Research
Module TEN	**Chapter Sixteen – Writing a Project Proposal** • The Content of a Research Proposal. • How to recognize a Good Proposal. • Short Comings of Unsuccessful Proposals • Potential Sources of Funding • Aspects of "Project Management"

- **There is no final (April) exam for this course. Do well in the four tests scheduled throughout the term.**