



CURRICULUM GUIDE: OFFICIAL COURSE OUTLINE

Course Code	SOCI 200	Course Title	Research Methods in the Social Sciences			
Credit Value	3	Department	Social Sciences			
No. of weeks	14	Hrs. per week	<i>Lecture</i>	<i>Tutorial</i>	<i>Laboratory</i>	<i>Total</i>
			3	0	0	3
Course Description	How do social scientists know what they know? How do we know this information is reliable? This course offers an introduction to the design and practice of social research that provides the skills to ask and answer questions about the everyday and changing social world. Various concepts, research strategies, and techniques are surveyed that enable exploration of the pressing issues of social life. A broad range of qualitative and quantitative methods are presented that include survey research, interviewing, descriptive and inferential statistics, participant observation and ethnography. Students will consider the ethical questions that arise in doing social research, as well as the political implications of its results.					
Prerequisite(s)	ENGL 100, SOCI 100 or SOCI 103					
Initial Articulation Targets	<i>UBC</i>	<i>SFU</i>	<i>UVic</i>	<i>UNBC</i>	<i>TRU</i>	
	SOCI 217 (3)	SA 255 (3) Q	SOCI 211 (1.5)	SOSC 2XX (3)	SOCI 2720 (3)	
	For updated information on the transferability of this course, please consult the BC Transfer Guide, www.bctransferguide.ca					
Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinguish between conventional and social scientific knowledge and state the purposes of the latter. • Differentiate the basic research orientations and describe their characteristic strengths and weaknesses. • Outline the requisite elements for designing controlled experiments, conducting interview surveys, performing content analysis, engaging in ethnographic research, and undertaking comparative/historical analysis. • Compare and contrast descriptive and inferential statistics and probability-based and non-probability sampling methods. • Define key terms and concepts in the research lexicon, such as grounded theory, ecological fallacy, randomization, cluster sampling, institutional ethnography, and multivariate analysis. • Use the Internet and selective computer programs for purposes of data collection and management as well as aiding in literature reviews. • Describe the ethical dilemmas involved in social science research, and their recommended solutions and follow informed consent procedures. • Write a research proposal and research report 					



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present on a research topic 				
Content	<p>Core topics – all of the following will be covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social science research as exploration, description and explanation in order to understand, clarify, and contribute to the solution of social problems • The idea of causation • Positivist vs. constructivist research paradigms; inductive vs. deductive logic in hypothesis formulation; ideographic vs. nomothetic explanations of social phenomena • Basic research orientations – quantitative and qualitative • Quantitative data-gathering strategies: survey research (interviews, telephone, on-line); experimental research (involving use of control groups); analysis of existing statistics (official documents) • Qualitative data-gathering strategies: field research (in-depth interviews and focus group method); ethnography; participant-observation; ethnomethodology • Measurement and operationalization: transforming concepts into variables; sampling design (probability and non-probability); questionnaire and codebook construction; indexes, scales and typologies • Unobtrusive research: content analysis; archival research; non-participant observation • Crossing the quantitative/qualitative divide: mixed methods/multi-strategy approach; triangulation • Evaluation research (quasi-experimentation) for designing outcome assessments of social programmes • Ethical principles/strictures in doing social research • Avoiding research bias: personal, institutional and political influences on research • Writing a research proposal and a research report <p>Additional topics may also be covered, at the discretion of the instructor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer management of qualitative and quantitative databases 				
Methods of Instruction	Lectures, classroom discussions, audiovisual materials, guest speakers, field trips				
Required Textbook(s)	<p>The following textbook(s) is/are required, or approved equivalent(s).</p> <p>Blackstone, Amy (2018). Principles of Sociological Inquiry: Qualitative and Quantitative Methods. Retrieved from https://saylordotorg.github.io/text_principles-of-sociological-inquiry-qualitative-and-quantitative-methods/index.html</p>				
Required Equipment and Technology	<p>Students are required to have a computer with internet access.</p> <p>The following resources are provided by the College:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office 365 • Student email 				
Homework Hours	At minimum, students can expect one hour of homework for every hour of instructional time.				
Evaluation	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Component</th> <th>% Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Component	% Value		
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	Assignments or quizzes Midterm examination Course project (to include one oral and one written assignment) Final examination	5-10% each 20-25% 20-40% 20-30%	
Completion Requirements	The minimum grade to pass this course is D (50%). Unless otherwise stated, a minimum grade of C- (55%) is required for this course to fulfil a prerequisite.		
Course Designer(s)	Bob Ratner, Department of Sociology, University of British Columbia	Consultant(s), <i>if applicable</i>	
Dean's Approval	Barbara Moon, Ph.D., Dean of Arts and Sciences, Alexander College	Dean's Approval Date	September 27, 2006
Curriculum Committee Approval Date	September 27, 2006	First Term Offered	Winter 2007
Last Review Date	July 25, 2022	Next Review Date	July 25, 2027
Revision History	February 3, 2022 – English prerequisite increased from ENGL 098 to ENGL 099, effective from Spring 2022 term. September 24, 2022 – Updates to course description, methods of instruction, learning outcomes, content, text and learning resources; assessment percentages changed to ranges by Bob Ratner and Samantha May. September 1, 2024 – English prerequisite increased to ENGL 100, effective Fall 2024.		