

**Sociology 217: Research Methods** (3.0 Credits)  
Department of Sociology, University of British Columbia  
Winter Term II, January 5 – April 10, 2015

**Location:** ANSO 207  
**Instructor:** Andrew C. Patterson  
**Office Location:** ANSO 158

**Time:** 2:00 – 3:00 am M/W/F  
**Email:** andrew.patterson@alumni.ubc.ca  
**Office Hours:** 8:00 – 8:45 am W  
5:15 – 6:15 pm W  
(and by appointment)

**Assistant:** Edward Akhmetshin  
**Office Location:** ANSO 3108

**Email:** eakhmets@mail.ubc.ca  
**Office Hours:** 3:30 – 4:30 pm F  
(and by appointment)

**Course Description and Objectives:**

This course provides students with essential training in empirical research, particularly from a sociological frame of thinking. Qualitative and quantitative approaches are both discussed, but undergirding all forms of research is a common logic and rationale as well as some important epistemological assumptions. This course trains students in the basic tactical considerations involved in research but also in developing their capacities as conscientious scholars who are able to contribute to knowledge about the social world. Emphasized throughout are the assets that are unique to sociology as a discipline. Although the study of individual behaviours is discussed, the theoretical methodology and logic of studying group behaviour are given special consideration.

**Grading Summary:**

Participation	10%	
Assignment 1: Logic & reasoning	7%	Due <b>Jan 23</b> (at start of class)
Assignment 2: Article summary	8%	Due <b>Feb 11</b> (at start of class)
Midterm exam	20%	<b>Mar 4</b> (during classtime)
Assignment 3: Methodological theory paper	20%	Due <b>Mar 26</b> , 4:00 pm
Final exam	35%	Date and time <b>TBA</b>

**Reading and Materials:**

Babbie, E., & Benaquisto, L. (2014). *Fundamentals of Social Research: 3rd Canadian edition*. Toronto: Nelson Education.

Durkheim, E. (1982). *Rules of the Sociological Method* (W. D. Halls Trans). S. Lukes (Ed.). New York: The Free Press. (Original work published in 1895) (*Available online*)

Link, B. G., & Phelan, J. (1995). Social conditions as fundamental causes of disease. *Journal of Health and Social Behaviour*, 35(Special Issue), 80-94.

Rose, G. (1985). Sick individuals and sick populations. *International Journal of Epidemiology*, 14(1), 32-38.

Sampson, R., Morenoff, J., & Gannon-Rowley, T. (2002). Assessing “neighbourhood effects:” Social processes and new directions in research. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 28, 443-478.

### **Course Rules and Procedures:**

*Ettiquette and Decorum.* In every way students must use a professional and respectful demeanour during class discussions, verbal exchanges, and written communications. This includes any and all communication with with the instructor, teacher assistants, and fellow students before, after, and during class sessions. Students are also expected to be give their respectful attention during lectures and to eliminate any disruption of the attention of their classmates. The use of cell phones and internet during class is distracting to your fellow students and – importantly – yourselves! Students who choose to use their laptops for pursonal reasons during the lectures may do so provided that they sit at the back of the classroom. Otherwise, please turn these off and stow them away upon entering the classroom.

*Academic Dishonesty, Cheating, and Plagiarism.* It is the responsibility of all students to acquaint themselves with the University’s policies pertaining to academic honesty as well as conduct during examinations. **Instances of plagiarism, cheating, claiming credit for other people’s work or for work submitted for another course, and other cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the University for disciplinary action and will result in a grade of zero.** Additional consequences may apply, such as a grade of zero for the course as a whole, suspension, or expulsion from the University. Students may be asked to submit a copy of their work electronically so that it can be used against professional services that check for plagiarism. Please view the University’s policies on academic misconduct and conduct during exams here:

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959>

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,41,90,0#199>

*Written Assignments.* You must retain an electronic copy of all written assignments. You must also properly cite all published work and all ideas other than your own since failure to do so is **plagiarism!** You may not use work submitted to another course or work created in part or in whole by anyone other than yourself. In addition, the following guidelines are required:

- Times New Roman font.
- Double-space
- 12-point font
- Page numbers at the bottom right of each page.

Deposit the article critique and lab assignment in the dropbox across from the Anthropology departmental office in the ANSO building (room 150, just across the hall from my office). **You must timestamp your paper** using the timestamp machine located on the counter of the dropbox. As an alternative to using the dropbox, you may also bring

the paper to the class that occurs prior to the due date and submit it there instead. Soft copies are not acceptable.

*Late assignments.* The article critique is due at 4:00 PM on the date specified in this syllabus. Those that are timestamped after 4:45 PM, but submitted on the same date, will receive a penalty of 5 percentage points. For each additional day late there will be a further penalty of 5 percentage points, with Saturdays and Sundays together counting as a single day along with any contiguous statutory holidays. Exceptions to this rule may be made only with a letter from the Arts Advising Office (Buchanan D111; 604-822-4028) and will not otherwise be considered.

*Missed and Rescheduled Exams.* Exam times begin for everyone at the dates and times specified in this syllabus and will not be extended for those arriving late. Missed exams will receive a mark of zero. Exceptions for missed exams may be made only with a letter from the Arts Advising Office (Buchanan D111; 604-822-4028). Requests for a rescheduled exam in cases of medical emergencies must be made in advance and must include a detailed doctor's note or other legal documentation that validates the student's reasons for making the request. Makeup exams may have a different format and may contain different content covering the course material than the original exam.

### **Course Requirements:**

*Exams.* The midterm exam will occur during the regular class session on the date specified in this syllabus. The date, time, and location for the final exam will be determined by the University. All exams will consist of a combination of multiple-choice and short-answer questions.

*Assignments.* Assignments 1 – 3 are meant to assist with each student's development of a research skill set in sociology. Assignment 1 (*Logic & Reasoning*) acquaints students with the distinction between fallacious and sound reasoning. Assignment 2 (*Article Summary*) acquaints students with the basics of assessing professional research articles in the social science. Assignment 3 requires students to draw arguments from Durkheim's piece, *Rules of the Sociological Method*, to illustrate what is special about the sociological perspective that could bear influence on some of the most impactful contemporary social research. Further detail will be provided during the second week of class.

## **Course Schedule and Required Readings**

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Jan 5: Course goals, expectations, and overview.

Jan 7: Opening remarks.

Jan 9: Introduction to inquiry in the social sciences.

**Required reading:** Babbie & Benaquisto, Chapter 1.

Jan 12: Introduction, cont'd.

Jan 14: On social theory.

**Required reading:** Babbie & Benaquisto, Chapter 2.

Jan 16: Social theory, cont'd.

**Required reading:** Durkheim, Introduction (Editor's introduction by Steven Lukes).

Jan 19: Ethical issues for social researchers.

**Required reading:** Babbie & Benaquisto, Chapter 3.

Jan 21: Ethical issues, cont'd.

**Required reading:** Durkheim, Preface 1, Preface 2, and (original) Introduction.

Jan 23: Research design and the logic of causation.

**Required reading:** Babbie & Benaquisto, Chapter 4.

*Assignment 1 (Logic & Reasoning) due at the start of classtime.*

Jan 26: Research design and causation, cont'd.

**Required reading:** Durkheim, Chapter 1.

Jan 28: From research concept to measurement.

**Required reading:** Babbie & Benaquisto, Chapter 5.

Jan 30: Measurement, cont'd.

**Required reading:** Durkheim, Chapter 2.

Feb 2: The logic of sampling.

**Required reading:** Babbie & Benaquisto, Chapter 6.

Feb 4: Sampling, cont'd.

**Required reading:** Durkheim, Chapter 3.

Feb 6: Experiments.

**Required reading:** Babbie & Benaquisto, Chapter 7.

Feb 9: Family day. No class.

Feb 11: Experiments, cont'd.

**Required reading:** Durkheim, Chapter 4.

*Assignment 2 (Article Summary) due at the start of classtime.*

Feb 13: Survey research.

**Required reading:** Babbie & Benaquisto, Chapter 8.

Feb 16 – 20: Spring break. No class.

Feb 23: Survey research, cont'd.

**Required reading:** Durkheim, Chapter 5.

Feb 25: Unobtrusive research.

**Required reading:** Babbie & Benaquisto, Chapter 9.

Feb 27: Unobtrusive research, cont'd.

**Required reading:** Durkheim, Chapter 6.

Mar 2: Midterm review.

Mar 4: *Midterm (to be held during class).*

Mar 6: Field research.

**Required reading:** Babbie & Benaquisto, Chapter 10.

Mar 9: Field research, cont'd.

**Required reading:** Durkheim, Proof & Conclusion.

Mar 11: Qualitative interviewing.

**Required reading:** Babbie & Benaquisto, Chapter 11.

Mar 13: Qualitative interviewing, cont'd.

**Required reading:** Link & Phelan (1995); Rose (1985).

Mar 16: Evaluation research.

**Required reading:** Babbie & Benaquisto, Chapter 12.

Mar 18: Evaluation research, cont'd.

**Required reading:** Sampson, Morenoff, & Gannon-Rowley (2002).

Mar 20: Qualitative data analysis.

**Required reading:** Babbie & Benaquisto, Chapter 13.

Mar 23: Qualitative data analysis, cont'd.

Mar 25: Quantitative data analysis.

**Required reading:** Babbie & Benaquisto, Chapter 14.

Mar 26: *Assignment 3 (Methodological Perspective) due at 4:00 pm, timestamped and placed in the ANSO dropbox.*

Mar 27: Quantitative data analysis, cont'd.

Mar 30: The logic of multivariate analysis.

**Required reading:** Babbie & Benaquisto, Chapter 15.

Apr 1: Multivariate analysis, cont'd.

Apr 3: Good Friday. No class.

Apr 6: Easter Monday. No class.

Apr 8: Social statistics.

**Required reading:** Babbie & Benaquisto, Chapter 16

Apr 10: Conclusion and Review.

**Final exam: Date, time, and location TBA.** The exam is scheduled to occur sometime between Apr 14-29.