

# SOCI 217A-921: RESEARCH METHODS

Summer Term 1, 2016 (3 credits)  
 Tuesday & Thursday 2:00-5:00PM  
 Woodward (Instructional Resources Centre-IRC) Room 6

Instructor: Georgia Piggot  
 Office hours: Tuesday 10:00-11:00AM  
 Office location: ANSO 153  
 Email: [gpiggot@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:gpiggot@mail.ubc.ca)

Teaching Assistant: Nicole Malette  
 Office hours: Thursday 1:00-2:00PM  
 Office location: ANSO 1315  
 Email: [n.malette@alumni.ubc.ca](mailto:n.malette@alumni.ubc.ca)

**Course Description:**

This course will provide an introduction to the practice of social research. You will learn how sociologists devise and answer questions about the social world. Classes will focus on the principles of research design, and on qualitative and quantitative methods of inquiry.

By the end of this course you should be able to: formulate meaningful research questions; design rigorous and ethical sociological research projects; appreciate the strengths and limitations of a range of qualitative and quantitative methods; and evaluate the quality of evidence presented in published sociological research.

**Course Website:**

All class materials and announcements will be posted on Connect: <http://elearning.ubc.ca/connect/>. If you have any problems accessing Connect, contact Arts ISIT support staff in Buchanan C105, or at [arts.helpdesk@ubc.ca](mailto:arts.helpdesk@ubc.ca).

**Required Textbook:**

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

**Schedule:**

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
May 10	Course Outline	Syllabus	
	Human Inquiry and Science	B & B Ch. 1	
May 12	Paradigms, Theory, and Research	B & B Ch. 2	
	Ethical Issues for Social Researchers	B & B Ch. 3	
May 17	Research Design and the Logic of Causation	B & B Ch. 4	
	Conceptualization, Operationalization, and Measurement	B & B Ch. 5	
May 19	The Logic of Sampling	B & B Ch. 6	
	Modes of Observation		
May 24	Experiments	B & B Ch. 7	Assign. 1 due
	Survey Research	B & B Ch. 8	
May 26	Unobtrusive Research	B & B Ch. 9	
	Mid-Term Review		
May 31	<i>Mid-Term Exam (held in class)</i>		
June 2	Field Research	B & B Ch. 10	
	Qualitative Interviewing	B & B Ch. 11	
June 7	Evaluation Research	B & B Ch. 12	
	Introduction to Data Analysis		
June 9	Qualitative Data Analysis	B & B Ch. 13	Assign. 2 due
	Quantitative Data Analysis	B & B Ch. 14	
June 14	The Logic of Multivariate Analysis	B & B Ch. 15	
	Introduction to Social Statistics	B & B Ch. 16	
June 16	Describing Research Findings	B & B App. A	Assign. 3 due
	Course Review		
June 20-24	<i>Final Exam Period</i>		

## Assessment:

### Grading Summary:

Assessment for this course will consist of three assignments, two exams, and in-class participation:

Assignment 1	(10%)	May 24 <sup>th</sup> (Due at 2PM in class)
Mid-term Exam	(20%)	May 31 <sup>st</sup> (Held in class)
Assignment 2	(15%)	June 9 <sup>th</sup> (Due at 2PM in class)
Assignment 3	(15%)	June 16 <sup>th</sup> (Due at 2PM in class)
Final Exam	(30%)	Date TBA (Held during exam period: June 20-24)
Participation	(10%)	

### Assignments:

You will have to complete three assignments for this class:

- *Assignment #1: Article Summary* will require you to review a published social science article, and discuss the methods that the author/s used to conduct their research.
- *Assignment #2: Research Design* will provide an opportunity for you to design your own study based on the research design principles discussed in class.
- *Assignment #3: Data Analysis* will require you to analyse qualitative and quantitative social data, and interpret your research findings.

Assignment instructions will be posted on Connect, on the *Course Content* page. Assignments should be submitted as a hard copy in class on the due date. Students should retain a copy of all submitted assignments (in case of loss) and should also retain all their marked assignments in case they wish to apply for a Review of Assigned Standing.

### Exams:

There will be two exams in this class:

- The mid-term will be held in class on May 31<sup>st</sup>, and will be one hour and thirty minutes long. The mid-term exam will cover material from the first half of the course (May 10-26).
- The final exam will be held during the exam period (June 20-24) and will be two hours long. The final exam will cover material from the entire course.

Both exams will involve multi-choice, short answer and long answer questions. We will conduct a review session in class prior to each exam.

Please bring your current UBC student I.D. card, a pencil, sharpener, and eraser to your exams. Please also familiarize yourself with UBC exam policies. These can be found at: [www.students.ubc.ca/coursesreg/exams/](http://www.students.ubc.ca/coursesreg/exams/)

### Participation:

You are expected to come to every class and reasonably participate in class discussions. You are also required to read the assigned book chapters prior to each class. I will use in-class activities to assess your participation.

### Grading Guidelines:

Grades will be allocated according to UBC guidelines (see [www.students.ubc.ca/enrolment/grades/](http://www.students.ubc.ca/enrolment/grades/)):

90-100% = A+	76-79% = B+	64-67% = C+	50-54% = D
85-89% = A	72-75% = B	60-63% = C	00-49% = F
80-84% = A-	68-71% = B-	55-59% = C-	

Please note that faculties and departments reserve the right to scale grades in order to maintain equity among sections and conform to university, faculty, department or school norms. An unofficial grade given by an instructor might be changed by the faculty, department or school. Grades are not official until they appear on a student's academic record.

## **Additional Information:**

### ***Missed Assignments and Exams:***

I expect regular attendance in all classes and exams, and all assignments to be completed on time. However, I understand that sometimes illnesses, emergencies, and other extenuating circumstances may interfere with your academic work. If you require an extension, you must contact me in advance of the deadline and explain the circumstances that require special accommodation.

If you miss an exam or assignment without an approved extension, you must get a letter from the Arts Advising Office (Buchanan D111; 604-822-4028) supporting your request for special accommodation (e.g. late submission or a rescheduled exam). Late assignments or missed exams without a letter from Arts Advising will receive a grade of zero.

### ***Disability:***

If you are living with disability or ongoing medical condition that may affect your academic success, I strongly encourage you to register with Access & Diversity. The University has a number of resources and academic accommodations available. Details can be found at: <http://students.ubc.ca/success/student-supports/academic-accommodations>.

### ***Laptop and Handheld Device Use:***

Laptops and cellphones are permitted in class, but may be used for academic work only. All devices must be set to silent mode when you are in the classroom.

### ***Academic Integrity:***

Students are expected to exhibit academic honesty in every class at UBC. Please read the “Academic regulations” section of the UBC Calendar for university policy on cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct. This policy is available at: [www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959](http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959). Any instances of academic misconduct in this course will be reported to the University for disciplinary action.

### ***Course Support and Early Alert:***

During the term, I will do my best to reach out and offer support if I am concerned about your academic performance or wellbeing. I also strongly encourage you to come and speak with me after class or during office hours if you need assistance.

In addition, I may identify my concerns using *Early Alert*. The program allows academic, financial, or mental health concerns to be identified sooner and responded to in a more coordinated way. This provides you with the earliest possible connection to resources like academic advising, financial advising, counselling, or other resources and support to help you get back on track. The information is treated confidentially and is sent because I care about your academic success and wellbeing. For more information, please visit [www.earlyalert.ubc.ca](http://www.earlyalert.ubc.ca).