COURSE SYLLABUS

SOC 232 (02) – Methods of Social Research
CRN 20310
Term 2 2017-2018

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:30 am – 11:20 am
Arts 100

Instructor: Yiyan Li
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Office: Thorvaldson 123
Email: yiyan.li@usask.ca
Class time: MWF 10:30 – 11:20 am
Start Data: January 3, 2018
Office hours: by appointment
End Data: April 6, 2018

Course Description
Sociology is a journey, and methods of social research is to help us to find destinations. This course provides an introduction to sociological research methods. The course will explore the important relationship between social theory and research, as well as various features of both quantitative and qualitative research. Topics include ethical issues, techniques, and tasks associated with research design, data collection, data analysis and evaluation.

Prerequisites 6 credit units of 100-level SOC

Land Acknowledgement
As we gather here today, we acknowledge we are on Treaty Six Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nation and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another. We recognize that in the course of your studies you will spend time learning in other traditional territories and Métis homelands. We wish you safe, productive and respectful encounters in these places.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of this course, and having completed the assignments, readings, and attending to labs, students will be able to:

1. Describe the relationships between sociological theories and research.
2. Choose research methods based on research questions.
3. Comprehend the research process and the key elements of carrying out a research study through the development of an original research report.
4. Explore the real research process by conducting observations.
5 Identify the different techniques involved with generating and analyzing quantitative and qualitative data.

6 Use SPSS to enter and analyze data.

**Required Resources**

**Textbooks**


A copy of the textbook is in the Library Circulation Desk.

Textbooks are available from the University of Saskatchewan Bookstore: [http://www.usask.ca/bookstore/](http://www.usask.ca/bookstore/)

**Optional Supplementary Texts:**


**Additional Readings:**

Information about additional readings and links to relevant websites will be posted on Blackboard during the semester. Students should become familiar with Blackboard and check the course Blackboard page regularly (i.e., at least once a week). All of the course materials will inform the assignments, including the final exam. Readings should be completed prior to coming to class. Lectures, discussions and films may provide an overview of the assigned chapter or focus on particular topics within the chapter. It is important that you raise any questions about the readings during class time or that you schedule an appointment to see me if you are having difficulty with the material.

**Course Overview**

**Class Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Evaluation Due Date</th>
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</table>
| Week 1   | Course overview, Introduction to Social Research Methods | **Textbook** Babbie & Roberts  
- Preface  
- Chapter 1 |                     |
| Jan 3/5  |                                                  |                               |                     |
| Week 2   | Introduction (Continued), Research and Theories, Ethical Issues | **Textbook** Babbie & Roberts  
- Chapter 1  
- Chapter 2 |                     |
<p>| Jan 8/10/12 |                                          |                               |                     |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Textbook</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Jan 15/17/19</td>
<td>Research Design</td>
<td><strong>Textbook</strong> Babbie &amp; Roberts</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Jan 22/24/26</td>
<td>Principles of Measurements</td>
<td><strong>Textbook</strong> Babbie &amp; Roberts</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Jan 29/31/ Feb 2</td>
<td>Sampling; Types of Social Research (Field Research)</td>
<td><strong>Textbook</strong> Babbie &amp; Roberts</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Feb 5/7/9</td>
<td>Types of Social Research (Field Research--Continued; Survey Research; Experiments)</td>
<td><strong>Textbook</strong> Babbie &amp; Roberts</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Feb 12/14/16</td>
<td>*Feb 16 Midterm in Class</td>
<td><strong>Textbook</strong> Babbie &amp; Roberts</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Feb 19/21/23</td>
<td>Reading Week: No Class</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Feb 26/28/ Mar 2</td>
<td>Types of Social Research</td>
<td><strong>Textbook</strong> Babbie &amp; Roberts</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Mar 5/7/9</td>
<td>Types of Social Research</td>
<td><strong>Textbook</strong> Babbie &amp; Roberts</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Mar 12/14/16</td>
<td>Data Analysis</td>
<td><strong>Textbook</strong> Babbie &amp; Roberts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Mar 19/21/23</td>
<td>Data Analysis</td>
<td><strong>Textbook</strong> Babbie &amp; Roberts</td>
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Week 13  
Mar 26/28  
Mar 30  
Good Friday  
No Class  

Social Statistics; Writing Research Paper  

Textbook: Babbie & Roberts  
- Chapter 16  
- Chapter 17  

Week 14  
Apr 2/4/6  

SPSS Program  

Apr 9-13  
TBA  

FINAL EXAM  

*Apr 11 Wednesday  
Assignment: observations and written report due date  

Midterm and Final Examination Scheduling  
Midterm exam will be on Feb.16 in class  

Final exam—— to be scheduled by the Register’s Office during the final exam period Apr. 9-23, 2017  

Grading Scheme  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Evaluation Components  

1 Participation -- 10%  
Students are expected to come to class on a regular basis and be prepared to discuss course material. This grade is based on participation in small group and class discussions, as well as completion of homework activities related to writing research questions, operationalizing concepts, writing interview questions, entering data, and analyzing data. A grading rubric with more information about the assessment of this requirement is available on Blackboard.  

2 Midterm Exam – 20%  
Date: Feb 16
Methods of Social Research

Length: 50 min
Description: An in-class midterm will be held to evaluate students’ comprehension through Chapter 1 to Chapter 6, Chapter 8, and Chapter 10 of the textbook. The exam will consist of 40 multiple choice questions.

3 Assignment: Observations and Written Report – 30%
Due Date: Apr 11
Description: In order to gain actual experience in the conduct of social research, each student will be responsible for the following exploratory research.

Using the method of field research, observe social behaviour in a public place (i.e.: elevator, library, cafeteria, bus, bar, restaurant, mall, store, club, etc.). The written report should specify the purpose of your observation and indicate the regularities or patterns of behaviour which occurred in the public place observed. The research report should be 8 to 10 pages in length (double spaced and typed) and must provide tentative conclusions. The report should include at least 2 references. Use the following headings for your report:

1. Problem/Objective
2. Method of Observation
3. Findings
4. Discussion and Tentative Conclusions

Electronic Copy Only.

4 Final Exam – 40%
Length: 3 hours
Description: The objective of the final exam is to evaluate your ability to bring together all of the course material in a demonstration of understanding of research design and research processes. The exam will consist of questions that require written responses of varying lengths (i.e., paragraph, multiple paragraphs, and multi-part answers). All questions will be related to readings, class/small group discussions, course assignments, and course activities. Along with the readings and lecture notes, the exam questions might also address guest lectures and films, if applicable. Students will have up to 3 hours to complete the exam, and must complete the exam to receive a passing grade in the course.

Important Conventions:

1 Late assignments will be penalized 10% per weekday.
Late work will NOT be accepted unless submitted with proper documentation. Medical documentation must include the University of Saskatchewan’s Student Medical Certificate. Similarly, requests for a make-up test will only be granted with proper documentation.

2 Examinations
Please plan to be present the scheduled data of the in-class midterm. Students who miss the exam must contact the instructor within 2 days (48 hours) to make arrangements for a deferred exam if there is a legitimate excuse for the absence. Students must also present the instructor with official documentation of absence (e.g., Doctor’s note).
Completion of the final exam is required to receive a passing grade in this course. The instructor is unable to choose the final exam data, and students must ensure that they are present on the scheduled data unless very exceptional circumstances arise. If you miss the final exam, please contact the instructor immediately and provide official documentation of absence. A deferred exam will then be scheduled during the Deferred Exam period in June 2018.

3 Attendance Expectations
Students are expected to come to class on a regular basis and be prepared to discuss course material. Students who are unable to attend class are responsible for obtaining information about any announcements that may have been made in class as well as notes on the material from their classmates. Since a considerable amount of the material discussed in class will not be duplicated in the assigned readings, relying on course readings alone is poor preparation for assignments and exams.

4 Copyright
Course materials are provided to you based on your registration in a class, and anything created by your professors and instructors is their intellectual property, unless materials are designated as open education resources. This includes exams, PowerPoint/PDF slides and other course notes. Additionally, other copyright-protected materials created by textbook publishers and authors may be provided to you based on license terms and educational exceptions in the Canadian Copyright Act (see http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html).

Before you copy or distribute others’ copyright-protected materials, please ensure that your use of the materials is covered under the University’s Fair Dealing Copyright Guidelines available at http://www.usask.ca/copyright/basics/copyright-policy/fair-dealing-guidelines/index.php.

For more information about copyright, please visit usask.ca/copyright where there is information for students available at http://www.usask.ca/copyright/students/rights/index.php, or contact the University’s Copyright Coordinator at copyright.coordinator@usask.ca or 306-966-8817.

5 Integrity Defined (from the Office of the University Secretary)
The University of Saskatchewan is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Student Conduct & Appeals section of the University Secretary Website and avoid any behavior that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should read and be familiar with the Regulations on Academic Student Misconduct (http://www.usask.ca/secretariat/student-conduct-appeals/StudentAcademicMisconduct.pdf) as well as the Standard of Student Conduct in Non-Academic Matters and Procedures for Resolution of Complaints and Appeals (http://www.usask.ca/secretariat/student-conduct-appeals/StudentNon-AcademicMisconduct.pdf)
For more information on what academic integrity means for students see the Student Conduct & Appeals section of the University Secretary Website at: http://www.usask.ca/secretariat/student-conduct-appeals/forms/IntegrityDefined.pdf

6 Examinations with Access and Equity Services (AES)
Students who have disabilities (learning, medical, physical, or mental health) are strongly encouraged to register with Access and Equity Services (AES) if they have not already done so. Students who suspect they may have disabilities should contact AES for advice and referrals. In order to access AES programs and supports, students must follow AES policy and procedures. For more information, check http://students.usask.ca/health/centres/disability-services-for-students.php, or contact AES at 966-7273 or AESexams@usask.ca.

Students registered with AES may request alternative arrangements for mid-term and final examinations. Students must arrange such accommodations through AES by the stated deadlines. Instructors shall provide the examinations for students who are being accommodated by the deadlines established by AES.

7 Communications via Email and BlackBoard
Important communications concerning the course will be done via email. It is the students' responsibility to check their U of S email account and BlackBoard frequently throughout the term. If you choose to email your instructor, please ensure you communicate in a courteous and professional manner (i.e., an email should include a greeting, a clear indication of your question or concern, and closing with your name, as well as the course number and section in the subject). Students can expect a response to emails within 48 hours during the week.

8 Student Supports

Student Learning Services
Student Learning Services (SLS) offers assistance to U of S undergrad and graduate students. For information on specific services, please see the SLS web site http://library.usask.ca/studentlearning/.

Student and Enrolment Services Division
The Student and Enrolment Services Division (SESD) focuses on providing developmental and support services and programs to students and the university community. For more information, see the students’ web site http://students.usask.ca.

Financial Support
Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact Student Central (https://students.usask.ca/student-central.php).

Aboriginal Students Centre
The Aboriginal Students Centre (ASC) is dedicated to supporting Aboriginal student academic and personal success. The centre offers personal, social, cultural and some academic supports to Métis, First Nations, and Inuit students. The centre is also dedicated to intercultural education, bringing Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students together to learn from, with and about one another in a respectful, inclusive and safe environment. Students are encouraged to visit the ASC’s Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/aboriginalstudentscentre/) to learn more.
International Student and Study Abroad Centre
The International Student and Study Abroad Centre (ISSAC) supports student success in their international education experiences at the U of S and abroad. ISSAC is here to assist all international undergraduate, graduate, exchange and English as a Second Language students and their families in their transition to the U of S and Saskatoon. ISSAC offers advising and support on all matters that affect international students and their families and on all matters related to studying abroad. Please visit students.usask.ca for more information.