

**SOCIOLOGY 200H1F
LOGIC OF SOCIAL INQUIRY
SUMMER 2012 SESSION**

**Instructor: Dr. Loretta Ho
Department of Sociology
University of Toronto, St. George Campus**

Time and Location: Tuesdays and Thursdays 3-5. Rm. SS 2117

Office Hours (by appointment only): Tuesdays 2-3 (Loretta); Thursdays 1-2 (Emily)
Rm. 225 at 725 Spadina Avenue

Instructor Email: lsloretta.ho@utoronto.ca

Course Website: portal.utoronto.ca

Teaching Assistants: Emily Laxer; Jing Shen; Tony Zhang

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DESCRIPTION

This course reviews the issues concerning data collection methods used in the social sciences. Through lectures and a large-scale project, students will gain first-hand understanding of the logic behind research design, from theory development to testing to analysis. We begin by learning how to develop a theoretical argument. Having accomplished that skill, we explore the logic behind data collection and analysis that helps us to test our theories. A large portion of the course is devoted to introducing a variety quantitative and qualitative research methods, with a focus on how to select the most suitable method(s) for particular types of research questions and on how to analyze the types of data that result from the use of these various methods. Some of the methods introduced include experiments, surveys, interviews, content analysis, historical comparative research, unobtrusive research and ethnography. The goal of the course is to teach students how to think critically about empirical research presented in everyday life and to prepare them for more advanced research courses.

IMPORTANT NOTE

The prerequisite to take this course is SOC101Y or both SOC102H1&SOC103H1. Students without this prerequisite will be removed at any time they are discovered.

COURSE READINGS

The majority of the course readings will be from *Fundamentals of Social Research* (Second Canadian Edition) by Earl Babbie and Lucia Benaquisto, available from the campus bookstore and the library system. Time permitting, supplementary research articles may be assigned to illustrate concepts highlighted in the textbook. These additional articles will be posted on the course website.

EVALUATION

1. Pop Quizzes: 10%
2. Test 1: 25%

**IN CLASS, TBA
IN CLASS, MAY 31**

3. Research Proposal Part 1: 15% **BEGINNING OF CLASS, JUNE 5**
10-15 pages
Must include: a clearly defined topic and research question (including conceptualization and operationalization); a literature review of at least 10 academic sources; data collection plan (sampling issues); significance of your proposed research; citation list (ASA/APA format only)
4. Research Proposal Part II: 25% **BEGINNING OF CLASS, JUNE 21**
20-25 pages
Must include: **revisions** from Part I in accordance to TA comments
AND include: a proposed method of observation; a proposed plan of analysis; ethical issues; limitations of your study
SUBMIT YOUR MARKED COPY OF PART I WITH THIS ASSIGNMENT
5. Test 2: 25% **IN CLASS, JUNE 21**

Pop Quiz: In the last 10 minutes of some lectures, you will write a quiz consisting of five questions that covers material from *both* the preceding class and the current class. For instance, if a quiz were to occur at the end of lecture on May 17, it will cover lecture and reading material from both May 15 and May 17. The quizzes are designed to keep you attentive during lectures and up-to-date on the readings. There will be five quizzes, each worth 2% of your grade. There are no make-ups for missed quizzes; you will receive a 0 for any missed quiz.

Midterm and Exam: Both the midterm and final exam will cover material from lectures and all readings. The tests will consist mainly of written questions. The final exam is not cumulative.

Missed Tests:

Students who miss tests will be assigned a mark of 0 unless they provide appropriate documentation. Medical documentation must include the University of Toronto's Student Medical Certificate. The certificate is available on the University of Toronto's web site and may be completed by a Health Services physician or by your own physician:
<http://www.utoronto.ca/health/forms/forms.htm#medcert> . No other medical certification will be accepted. Students with excused absences for a test will write a make-up **on a date determined by me (i.e. you may not request a date)**. There is only ONE opportunity to make-up a test.

Research Proposal: You will write a research proposal, submitted in two parts (Part 1: 10-15 pages due on June 5; Part II: 20-25 pages due on June 21) framing some topic of research. Although you will not be expected to conduct the actual research, your proposal must explicitly contain all the elements required for you to feasibly do so within a six month period. Your research proposal will be submitted in two parts. The components required for each part are listed on the first page of this syllabus and reviewed in the first lecture.

It is imperative that you begin early. Emily and I are available during office hours for consultations on your topic. Consultations will not be given over email.

Again, the first portion of the research proposal is *due at the beginning of class on June 5*, and the final product is *due at beginning of class on June 21*. Late assignments are not accepted

unless accompanied with documentation. Without valid explanation of delay, late assignments will be penalized 15% per day, including weekends.

Turnitin.com: To deter and detect plagiarism, this course will make use of the turnitin.com system. In addition to submitting a hard copy of the research proposal in class on the due date, each student must upload the proposal to Turnitin.com. Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to textual similarity review to detect plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance and Participation

Attendance is required. Those who miss class are responsible for arranging with classmates for missed notes. Accessing notes for missed classes is not the responsibility of the instructor or the TAs, and we will not be facilitating note exchanges.

In addition to attendance, I expect active participation from all students during class discussion. Therefore, it is imperative that all students read the assigned material before each class.

Email Policy

We will only read email from utoronto.ca email accounts. Please include SOC200 in the email subject title. Expect a reply within two business days. This means that you may not expect a reply to emails regarding the assignment sent the night before the deadline.

Academic offenses

Plagiarism is an academic offense that occurs when one person presents as one's own the words or ideas of another. This includes quoting sources, paraphrasing, or summarizing source materials without indicating through the use of proper citation methods that the specific material in question was quoted, paraphrased, or summarized from that source. Submitting the same work for two different courses, even though you may be the sole author of the work in question, is also an academic offense. All suspected instances of academic offenses, without exception, will be reported to the university for investigation and appropriate handling.

Writing Support at the University of Toronto

1. The college writing centres maintain some access in the summer. Their teaching approach is described at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/learning>. Students make appointments online through the link on that page: <https://awc2.wdw.utoronto.ca/awc-login/>.

2. More than 60 Advice files on all aspects of academic writing are available from www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice. Printable PDF versions are listed at www.writing.utoronto.ca/about-this-site/pdf-links.

3. Please also see the "How Not to Plagiarize" and other documentation advice pages at www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources.

4. Information about the English Language Learning program (ELL) is available at <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/undergraduate/ell>. The non-credit August course ELL010H will take enrolment via ROSI starting in mid to late July. For more information, please contact the ELL Coordinator Leora Freedman at leora.freedman@utoronto.ca

SCHEDULE & READINGS

Part I: Principles of Social Research

15 May, Tuesday

What is social research? A quick overview.

No readings assigned

Overview of the course and assignment

17 May, Thursday

Ways of understanding the social world

Babbie and Benaquisto, Chapters 1 and 2

22 May, Tuesday

Structuring Inquiry: Designing a research project

Babbie and Benaquisto, Chapter 4

24 May, Thursday

Measurement 1: Conceptualization, Operationalization and Measurement

Babbie and Benaquisto, Chapters 5-6

29 May, Tuesday

Measurement 2: Sampling

Babbie and Benaquisto, Chapter 7

31 May, Thursday

Test 1

No readings assigned

Part II: Methods of Observation

5 June, Tuesday [Research Proposal Part I due at the beginning of class]

Experimental Research

Babbie and Benaquisto, Chapter 8

7 June, Thursday

Survey Research

Babbie and Benaquisto, Chapter 9

12 June, Tuesday

Field Research and Qualitative Interviewing

Babbie and Benaquisto, Chapters 11-12

14 June, Thursday

Content Analysis and Historical Comparative Research

Babbie and Benaquisto, Chapter 10

19 June, Tuesday

Analysing Quantitative and Qualitative Data and Research Ethics

Babbie and Benaquisto, Chapters 14-15; Chapter 3

21 June, Thursday [Research Proposal Part II due at the beginning of class]

Test 2

No readings assigned